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THE Nigeria Standard



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

WHILE he waited to be sworn in following his victory in the gubernatorial polls of March 18, 2023, one of the seemingly intractable problems that has wreaked havoc on parts of Plateau State for decades reared its ugly head in a most bloody manner.

ON May 15, 2023 (two weeks to Barrister Mutfwang's inauguration as governor), suspected herdsmen struck his homeland - Mangu. Over 100 innocent people, mostly women and children, were murdered in cold blood as they slept in their homes.

AND almost one year and a week later, yet another tragedy occurred. It would further accentuate the kinds of obstacles that Governor Mutfwang has had to contend with in the onerous task of cleaning the state's Augean Stables he inherited from his predecessor.

ON May 22, 2024, a police officer attached to the

FRONT PAGE COMMENT

enforcement team of the Jos Metropolitan Development Board, JMDB, was accidentally struck by a stray bullet fired by his colleague. This resulted in his death. The security personnel were deployed by the state government to enforce the law against street

trading in the Jos city centre. They were trying to disperse traders that had continued to defy that order.

AT the heart of the latest incident is the fact that certain individuals and groups have constituted themselves into clogs in the wheels of the progress of the state for political, ethnic and religious reasons.

AND although these two unfortunate incidents appear to be unrelated, they share the same broader, sinister, motives of subjugating

Plateau people to the control and whims of extraneous forces and interests. However, it is to the governor's credit that he has been able to navigate these hostile waters so far.

THE Mangu massacre and the events that led to the accidental death of the policeman and many other equally unsavory situations he has had to struggle with in-between would have

ordinarily weakened and demoralized another leader.

BUT not this governor. Rather, these provocations and distractions only served as impetus to work harder and make even more sacrifices to change the terrible narrative he inherited.

FROM the beginning, he had left no one in doubt about his firm resolve to bring life to an almost prostrate state. On inauguration day, exactly one year ago today, he had declared: "I understand clearly the enormity of the task

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One year into the Governor Mutfwang era

Atiku gives Tinubu six tips

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has said that President Bola Tinubu's economic policies have created a hostile environment for businesses, both big and small, to thrive.

He added that the private sector is overwhelmed by the president's economic

policies and burdened by his failure to address the policy fallout.

"The manufacturing sector, which holds the key to higher incomes, jobs, and economic growth, has been bogged down by rising input prices, higher energy and borrowing costs, and exchange rate complexities," Atiku said on Tuesday in a statement. The former presidential

candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party recommended six economic rescue strategies for the economy under Tinubu.

He said, "First, pause and reflect. It is important that the government understands what reforms must be undertaken and in what sequence. A framework is needed with clearly stated

reform objectives and strategies.

"Second, undertake a comprehensive review of the 2024 budget within the new reform framework. The 2024 FGN Budget, the exact size of which remains a mystery, is not designed to address the structural defects of the Nigerian economy or the cost-of-living crisis. It will neither create

prosperity nor promote opportunities for our young people to lead a productive life.

"Third, undertake a comprehensive review of the Social Investment Programme (SIP) to mitigate some of the impacts of these policies on the most vulnerable households. The SIP must go beyond Conditional

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Atiku



Flashback: Gov. Mutfwang acknowledging cheers from the crowd at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos, after being sworn-in exactly one year ago today

Ododo seeks collaboration with opposition

P 7

"Why local govt polls have not been held"

P 8



HIS EXCELLENCY
BARR. CALEB MANASSEH MUTFWANG
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF PLATEAU STATE



PLATEAU STATE GOVERNMENT

GOVERNOR MUTFWANG'S ONE YEAR OF HOPE AND PROGRESSIVE GOVERNANCE

The one year of Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang's tenure in Plateau State has been marked by remarkable developmental achievements, resonating with the resounding sentiment among Plateau citizens: "He came, He saw, and He conquered," by rekindling hope and delivering effective governance to the state and its populace.

Governor Mutfwang did not just ascend to office with mere promises; rather, he brought forth a vision underpinned by servant leadership, transparency, and an unwavering dedication to the welfare of the people.

Entering office with a profound sense of duty, Governor Mutfwang's leadership ethos was defined by decisive action, prioritizing the well-being and security of Plateau State's citizens above all else.

Herein lies a compendium of the monumental strides achieved by the Governor—a revered leader who, within one year, endeared himself to his people by translating campaign pledges into tangible realities:

1. Ensuring Security of Lives and Property:

- Facilitating the visit and resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their ancestral homes;
- Engaging with key stakeholders, including President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Chief of Defence Staff, and Chief of Army State, to foster lasting peace;
- Reinforcing the state security apparatus through the revitalization of "Operation Rainbow" and the training of 600 personnel for intelligence gathering;
- Procuring 32 security vehicles for Operation Rainbow across all 17 LGAs;
- Inaugurating the Plateau State Security and Information Centre to facilitate citizen reporting of security issues.

2. Roads and Infrastructural Development:

- Undertaking extensive road construction and rehabilitation, including Farin Gada-Gada Biyu-Polo Roundabout-Police Headquarters road, Gold and Base Roundabout-Rayfield-Dadin Kowa road, JUTH- Lamingo-Legislative Quarters road;
- Plateau Hotel Roundabout -Hill Station Roundabout - Central Bank road; Maternity-Moonshine Hotel- Chorbe Junction; Liberty Boulevard -Maternity-Masallacin Jumma'a-Zololo Junction; Ahmadu Bello Way- Kashim Ibrahim-West of Mines, Dadin Kowa Road Network; Yelwa Club Junction-Rahwol Kanang-Du Junction and Sabon Barki Road;
- Attracting Federal Intervention for the Barkin-Ladi-Mangu Road rehabilitation;
- Initiating critical infrastructure projects such as the Timijaghas Culvert and Bridges and ongoing works on 5.65km Utonkon-Nunku-Keana link road with the extension to the Akila Machunga road and the construction of 9km span flyover bridge handled by PW Nig. Ltd among several others.

3. Transportation Enhancements:

- Collaborating with the Nigerian Railway Corporation to revive the dormant Jos-Bukuru rail line;
- Launching the Plateau Express Service Limited, bolstered by the procurement of 15 modern MAN-DIESEL buses;
- Procuring of 20 Toyota Sienna vehicles to enhance transportation services on the Jos-Abuja route;



Hill Station-COCIN Headquarters-CBN Road



Liberty Boulevard (Millionaires Quarters)

- Refurbishing of 20 units of 14-seater Toyota Hiace buses.
- ### 4. Agricultural Advancements:
- Spearheading agricultural initiatives, including the cultivation of 900 hectares of land in Mangu, Riyom and Barkin Ladi LGAs;
 - Distribution of N3.6 billion worth of fertilizer;
 - Training of 340 Plateau youths and equipping them with modern agricultural techniques;
 - Distribution of agricultural inputs to 500 farmers specializing in maize, rice and wheat value chain.
- ### 5. Health and Environmental Initiatives:
- Reviving monthly environmental sanitation;
 - augmenting the wages of street cleaners;
 - Completing and equipping the long-abandoned laboratory complex at Plateau Specialist Hospital with state-of-the-art equipment worth N2 billion;
 - Bolstering the healthcare workforce through the employment of 22 Consultants in Surgery (Urology, Orthopedics and Ophthalmology), paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Pathology and Psychiatry. medical consultants;
 - donation of 13 dental chairs to the College of Health Sciences, University of Jos;
 - Commissioning a Comprehensive Primary Health Care facility in Vwai (Maraban Jama'a), Jos South.

In the eyes of the people of Plateau State and beyond, Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang's one year in office has not only epitomized pragmatic leadership but has also emerged as a beacon of hope, a harbinger of change, and a true servant leader.

Signed,
Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms
Commissioner of Information and Communication

GOVERNOR MUTFWANG'S ONE YEAR OF HOPE AND PROGRESSIVE GOVERNANCE



HIS EXCELLENCY
BARR. CALEB MANASSEH MUTFWANG
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF PLATEAU STATE



Angwan Rukuba-Bauchi Road Junction



Building Materials-NOUN-Sabon Barki-Bukuru Lowcost Road Network



Modern MAN-DIESEL Buses for the Tin City Metro Bus Service



Toyota sienna Buses for the Jos-Abuja route



Gov. Mutfwang on a test drive of the Tin City Metro Bus



Coaches for the Jos-Bukuru Rail line



Part of 200 Trucks of Fertilizer Distributed to Farmers in the State

March on, our dear performing governor



Barr. Caleb Mutfwang
Governor Plateau State

Your Excellency, exactly one year ago today, you assumed the mantle of leadership as the Executive Governor of Plateau State. And, so far, you have lived up to the expectations of the people who massively voted for you.

You have profoundly changed the face of our state in terms of infrastructural development, strived to make agriculture a profitable venture, improved the security situation, revolutionized transportation and improved the capacity of the state's civil service, etc.

Your Excellency, it is this driving spirit of providing the dividends of democracy to the masses that has inspired us at the Jos South Local Government Council to undertake the construction of the ultra-modern Ngo Talatu Jang Motor Park and shops, among other projects, which have positively impacted the lives of our people.

Indeed, we are studiously following in the footsteps of our leader who has made a great mark on the landscape of our state in this very short period of time.

As we look ahead to even more extraordinary achievements in the years to come, we pledge our unalloyed support to your administration.

March on, our dear performing governor.

Signed:
Honourable Peter Vwang Dung,
Chairman, Transition Implementation Committee,
Jos South Local Government Area,
Plateau State,
Nigeria.



News

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Cash Transfers to include programmes that prioritise support to MSEs across all economic sectors, as they offer the greatest opportunities for achieving inclusive growth.



Atiku

Atiku lists six strategies for Tinubu to succeed

"In addition, a holistic programme to support medium and large-scale enterprises to navigate the stormy seas in the aftermath of the withdrawal of subsidy on PMS is also needed."

He added that Tinubu must be cautioned against any attempt to further pauperise the poor by introducing new taxes or increasing tax rates.

He said, "We are aware of the behind-the-scenes attempts to increase the VAT rate from 7.5% to 10%, reintroduce excise on telecommunication, and increase excise rates on a range of goods."

"Fifth, provide clarity on the fuel subsidy regime, including the fiscal commitments and benefits from the fuel subsidy reform and the impact of

this on the Federation Accounts. It is curious that since April 2024, fuel queues have mounted at many filling stations across Nigeria, and the infamous 'black market' has sprouted in several states. How much PMS is being imported and distributed, and at what cost? What is the implicit subsidy?"

"Tackle security headlong. President Tinubu, as a matter of priority, needs to rejig the nation's security architecture as what is currently in place is not serving the needs of the people. The state of pervasive insecurity continues to adversely impact agricultural production and the value it brings to the economy, especially in the Northern parts of the country."

The Federal Government has added the sum of N3,000 to its initial proposed N57,000 minimum wage, making it N60,000 yesterday during a meeting of the tripartite committee on minimum wage in Abuja.

Organised labour, comprising the Trade Union Congress and the Nigeria Labour Congress, also went down by N3,000 from its last proposal of N497,000 during the last minimum wage meeting.

According to a source who gave the breakdown at the Tuesday meeting, the amount proposed by the government did not go down well with labour leaders.

A member of the union who spoke to newsmen before the meeting started noted that organised labour would only go lower if the government went higher on its demands.

"This is simply a case of if

Labour rejects FG's fresh N60,000 minimum wage offer



they go higher, we will go lower. They need to propose something reasonable for us to propose something lower too. There is no two-way about it.

"Also, we have a way of meeting as members of the Labour before each

committee meeting. This will help us to take a uniform stand by the time we get to the meeting front.

"So as long as the government is ready to present something reasonable, we will meet them in the middle," the labour leader said.

Non-payment of journalists' salaries criminal -NLC president

The President of the Nigerian Labour Congress, Joe Ajaero, has called for better pay, insurance cover and pension for journalists across the country.

Ajaero made the call when he visited the President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Dr Chris Isiguzo in Abuja.

He explained that while journalists played significant roles in the fight for independence and the current democracy Nigerians are enjoying, it is unfortunate same people are begging for their salaries to be paid.

The labour leader said that journalism is getting worse by the day, though technology has enhanced the practice.

"The welfare of journalists is being underplayed. While journalists are a group of professionals fighting for everyone, nobody fights for them, they do not even fight for themselves."

"Journalists do not have

weekends, public holidays or festive season. They work and report the activities of people who are enjoying weekends, public holidays and festivities.

"Even when a journalist is sacked or not paid for one year, other journalists will not write a story on such injustice," Ajaero said.

He added, "I am advocating for a consultative machinery that we should hold every two years, to have a negotiation with all media employers in the county to fix minimum wage for journalists."

"Also, there should be a pension that all journalists should enjoy after retiring from the job. Insurance cover is another thing that journalists should enjoy to make them work better."

The labour leader stressed that non-payment of journalists' salaries should not be encouraged and should be treated as "a criminal offence."

Ajaero acknowledged that, though it has not been easy for publishers, he said

that should not warrant them not to do the needful for their employees, particularly payment of their salaries

"Most reporters spend their little salaries on transportation to do their job. This is unacceptable."

"We are in the era of social and online media. There is also the need to regulate online media practices."

"It should be regulated in such a way that they will be part of NUJ. You need to accommodate them and know what they are doing," Ajaero said.

On his part, Isiguzo said NUJ is doing a lot to address abnormalities in the country's journalism practice.

"We are currently looking at the Code of Ethics to come out with a review that will also stipulate the responsibilities and obligations of employers to media workers."

"Again, our check-off dues don't come to the NUJ. Where it goes, we don't know. That is one key issue that needs to be addressed," Isiguzo said.

(NAN)

Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State has reiterated his commitment to running a transparent, accountable and all-inclusive government aimed at providing good governance to the people of the state.

He made the commitment during an Open Government Partnership (OGP) Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable and Sensitisation Workshop held recently in Jos.

Mutfwang, who said his government was changing the narrative in the state, maintained that the citizens deserved quality service delivery and value for their money.

"The essence of OGP is that the people deserve good governance by deepening the ideals of democratic principles," the governor said.

"I have committed myself during the campaigns to provide good and quality governance to the people of Plateau and I'm still committed to that," he

Mutfwang reiterates commitment to transparency, accountability

By PETER TITLE

stressed.

"The time is now administration which I head will provide transparent, accountable and inclusive government to the people."

"We are doing a lot in opening the space for investors to come into the state, and all transactions will be done in a transparent manner," he



Mutfwang

added.

The governor explained that the move was aimed at ensuring that public assets do not end up in the hands of those who do not deserve them.

He promised to rebuild Hill Station and Jos hotels as well as the Jos Abattoir, all located in Jos, the capital of the state, adding, "All these processes, the public will get to know before reaching conclusion."

"We are also looking at how to unlock the value in our agricultural assets; we are inviting bids from several people and when they are analysed professionally, the upmost interest of the state is at stake."

The governor stated that some of the developmental partnership projects inherited by his administration had been reviewed aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability.

Mutfwang advocates state ownership of mineral deposits

By PETER TITLE

Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State has advocated for the introduction of state ownership of mineral deposits in order to improve the revenue base and enhance the development of the state.

He made his position known when leaders of the Berom Educational and Cultural

Organization (BECO), paid him a courtesy visit recently at the New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos.

The governor, who commended the Berom nation for imbibing the culture of respect for elders and hard work, cautioned against illegal mining by youth which had become a source of worry to government because of the danger it

posed.

He also frowned at the menace of substance abuse, saying it bred poverty and caused health challenges.

Earlier, the National President of the Berom Educational and Cultural Organization (BECO), Da Dalyop Dudu Gyang, applauded the governor for the role he played during this year's Nzem Berom cultural festival and

called for youth empowerment to curb restiveness.

He made a case for the distribution of fertilizers to the farming population to check rural-urban migration which, according to him, was detrimental to the people's well-being.

The visit brought various arms of the Berom nation and government appointees together.



Ajaero

EDITORIAL

One year into the Governor Mutfwang era

Continued from page 1

before me and I have no illusions that it is going to be an easy ride. The state is presently under a huge debt burden of over 200 billion naira, the healthcare sector is in need of urgent attention, our school system requires a comprehensive overhaul, our infrastructure is decayed and inadequate, and practically, every sector requires urgent redress.

"I must mention that there are no quick fix solutions to these challenges, but one thing is certain, we are prepared to take the challenges head-on and we will hit the ground running immediately."

REMINISCENT of the Governor Jonah Jang days, Plateau roads are wearing a new sparkle. In an extraordinary move, the administration has built and renovated roads in the most remote parts of the Jos/Bukuru metropolis and outlying areas. Also, the very strategic Akila Machunga flyover/ underpass to Abattoir, which was abandoned by the last administration, has almost been completed.

BECAUSE insecurity has brought so much pain, misery and underdevelopment to the state, the administration adopted the twin strategies of employing new game plans for ending the herdsmen's violence while at the same time working towards returning the tens of thousands of displaced people to their ancestral homes.

THE governor has continued to put this decades' old problem in proper perspective by declaring that the conflict is not between Plateau indigenous peoples but a deliberate attempt by outside forces bent on using terrorism to facilitate land-grabbing. He has also revealed to the world that the blood-letting on the Plateau, and indeed other parts of the Middle Belt, is not the result of a so-called farmers'/herders' conflict. This new understanding is a giant step towards finding a sustainable remedy.

He has likewise partnered with both President Bola Tinubu and the heads of the key security outfits in the country to curb these attacks. One of the positive outcomes of this engagement has been the Federal Government's decision to locate an army barracks in Bokkos, one of the epicentres of these horrendous atrocities.

The cost of transportation sky-rocketed as a result of the sudden removal of fuel subsidy. Proactive and responsive, the Mutfwang administration speedily set in motion strategies to alleviate the resultant pains in a most pragmatic and viable way. Today, the state metro bus service is fully functional. It is made up of a fleet of 15 MAN-Diesel buses which move commuters within the Jos/Bukuru metropolis and adjoining areas. The Plateau Riders Bus Service has been given a new lease of life through an injection of 20 18-seater Toyota Sienna vehicles which are plying intra and inter-state routes.

The state government's plan to revive the rail system to further ease the strains of travelling within the capital city and environs has gained a lot of traction and will soon come on stream.

Because the administration believes that only a wholistic development of all sectors can bring about the overall and sustainable development of society, it has given equal attention to education, agriculture, tourism, sports, mining and mineral development, health care delivery, water supply and financial options, among others.

On this first anniversary of this administration, it is pertinent to point out that constructive criticism should neither be discountenanced nor viewed as undue attacks on the governor, government officials and institutions. This is even more so if the criticisms come from opposition parties. Being finer attributes of the democratic process, dissenting and critical voices of groups, individuals and opposition political parties should be respected.

Without constructive criticism, the leader or government is easily lured by hangers-on and sycophants into thinking that they are doing well while in fact they may be unwittingly acting the script of a selfish few.

Political analysts say that there is a strong feeling among members of the main opposition party in the state, the All Progressives Congress, APC, that the government does not consider them as partners in progress. That they are perceived as enemies while in actual fact they should be taken as co-travelers working for the progress of the state.

Critics also say that the beautification of the Jos/Bukuru metropolis was hastily carried out and that the restriction on the movement of articulated vehicles was implemented without providing specific alternative places for them to park while waiting for the allotted time for them to enter the city centre.

However, as we have pointed out previously, government should look into genuine concerns and address those that will not jeopardize its strategic plans.

That said, on the whole, there is no doubt that the last one year of the Mutfwang administration has been full of ups and downs. But it is very clear that it has been able to adroitly surmount the odds while charting a new course for the state.

And the people look forward to the next three years with greater hope. This is because they believe that, if the governor has been able to perform incredibly well in the face of all the odds ranged against him in the first one year, he will certainly do even more in the years to come.

Well aware of the enormity of the task that lay before him and the need to have the people on his side to be able to chart a new course during this new era, he had solemnly stated on that inauguration day: "I want you to trust me to be there for you in the next four years."

On this Children's Day, we join the global community in celebrating one of our most precious resources, the world's children. Within each child lies boundless potential, an unfolding future brimming with promise to shape a better world for us all. Yet even as we rejoice in their hopeful existence, we must



global community.

violence. We call on all nations, organizations,

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Clarion call for adequate protection for Nigerian children

es that rob far too many young lives of the safety, security, and opportunities they deserve.

Children represent the seeds of humanity's progress. Their inquisitive minds, creative spirits, and unbound optimism fuel the innovations and ideas that will propel our societies forward. By nurturing their talents and providing them with quality education, we unlock dormant brilliance and empower the next generation of leaders, artists, scientists, and change-makers.

Tragically, in regions gripped by violence and insecurity, the bright futures of millions of children have been overshadowed. In these areas, playgrounds have been traded for battlegrounds, and childhoods cut brutally short by the traumas of war, conflict, and displacement. The very idea that any young person should bear witness to such atrocities is an injustice that shakes the moral foundations of our

In Nigeria, a nation blessed with immense human potential, children have become unintended victims of the country's security crisis. From the abductions of the Chibok and Dapchi schoolgirls to the frequent attacks on educational facilities, the threat of violence has disrupted learning and shattered the hopes of many Nigerian youth. Children in the northeast have been deprived of safety, separated from families, and subjected to horrific human rights violations at the hands of terrorist groups. This rampant insecurity has reverberating effects, robbing entire generations of their fundamental rights to education, health, and personal development.

No child should be drafted into the theater of conflict. No parent should live in perpetual fear of their child's wellbeing. The international community must stand united in its commitment to protect the world's young from the insidious impacts of

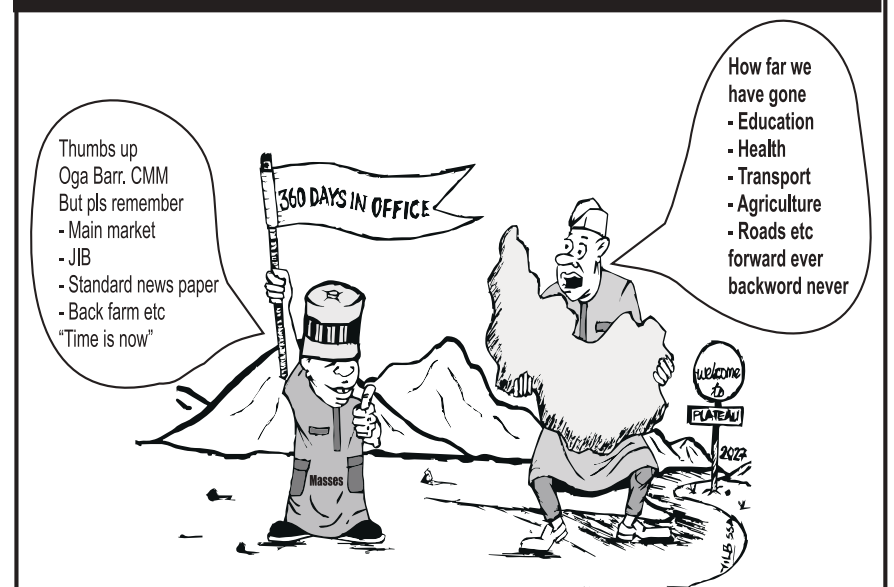
to prioritize child safety, advocate for their rights, and invest in robust peacebuilding and conflict resolution mechanisms.

On this Children's Day, we celebrate the incredible potential that resides within each child. Yet our optimism must be matched by decisive action to safeguard their futures. Together, we can create an environment where every girl and boy can thrive, learn, dream, and grow into the empowered leaders and change agents our world so desperately needs.

Let us honor the promise of our children by striving for a more peaceful, just, and secure world. Their hopes and aspirations are our guiding light, reminding us that a brighter tomorrow remains possible if we have the courage and compassion to protect their journey.

Dr. Gideon Para-Mallam, Para-Mallam Foundation, Grace and Mercy Manor Gutville, Rayfield, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria

STANDARD CARTOON



News

First Lady flags-off HPV vaccination

By JIDAUNA DARING

PLATEAU State First Lady, Mrs. Helen Mutfwang, has called on parents and guardians to avail their 9 to 14-year-old daughters the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine which is free, safe and effective against cervical cancer.

She made this call during the flagging-off of the state vaccination exercise during this year's Children's Day celebration, held at the Victoria Gowon Hall, new Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos, on Monday.

She maintained that, when administered, the vaccine would protect the girl-child from contracting cervical cancer which is caused by HPV.

The First Lady pointed out that the Plateau State Government placed great importance on the well-being and development of children as they are the bedrock of society.

She added that this year's celebration was a testament to the government's unwavering commitment towards ensuring that every child is nurtured, educated and protected at all times.

Mrs. Mutfwang commended President Tinubu, Governor Caleb Mutfwang and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency for their various contributions towards ensuring the success of the



Helen

vaccination exercise.

Earlier in her opening remarks, Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Plateau State, Mrs. Caroline Panlang Dafur, described the Mutfwang administration as a responsive one that was committed to ensuring children's growth and development in a safe and supportive environment.

She urged parents and guardians to ensure that their daughters within the age brackets of 9-14 were vaccinated.

"Let us work together to give our children a healthy and fulfilling future," she stressed.

Also in his remarks, Executive Secretary, Plateau State Primary Health Care Board, Dr. Raymond Juryit, disclosed that the HPC vaccine was aimed at preventing the girl-child from contracting the deadly disease.

He explained that they planned to achieve 100 per cent coverage in the state, adding that clinics were being upgraded from level 2-3 to improve service delivery to the people.

Our correspondent reports that the event featured inauguration of the Children's Parliament, schools debate and cultural dances, among others.

It has been observed that Plateau State can redeem its image as the 'Home of Peace and Tourism' if media and public relations professionals broadcast the truth about unfolding events to the world.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State stated this when he hosted the state leadership of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) at the old Government House, Rayfield, recently.

According to him, investors would be motivated to invest in the state if the true narratives of events were dished out by the press.

Plateau can redeem its image

By OUR CORRESPONDENT

Mutfwang said that the NIPR visit was timely as the state was dealing with a tainted image due to bad publicity on social media which had negatively impacted the state.

The governor described the spates of unprovoked attacks on citizens as genocide, stressing that he remained resolute in maintaining the

state's place as one of the best economies in the country.

State Chairman of NIPR, Baje Thomas, intimated the governor about their activities lined up for NIPR's 61 years of existence.

The chairman also commended the laudable strides recorded by the governor in his first year in office and urged him not to be detracted by the antics of enemies

Kogi House assures on HIV/AIDS anti-stigma legislation

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

KOGI State House of Assembly has assured that the bill for a law preventing HIV and AIDS-based discrimination and stigmatization will be accorded smooth and accelerated passage for full implementation.

Comfort Nwuchiola Egwaba, the Deputy Speaker, gave this assurance at a one-day capacity building and media round table on the proposed anti-stigma bill for Kogi State Assembly members.

It was also aimed at building capacity of the Kogi House members and media personalities on HIV stigma and discrimination.

She disclosed that the partnership between the House and the Initiative for Grassroots Advancement in

Nigeria (INGRA), a Civil Society Organization (CSO), with support from AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Lokoja, had led to members' support for the bill. Nwuchiola-Egwaba said: "We have done more than justice to the bill. This bill will scale through and will see the light of day. We are not leaving any stone unturned. We are doing this for our people."

Also speaking, sponsor of the bill, Bin Ebaiya Shehu-Tijjani (APC-Lokoja I), thanked his colleagues for supporting for the bill which ensured it scaled through the legislative mills and urged them to sustain the tempo until it is finally passed and assented to by the governor.

Chairman of the House Committee on Health, Ochidi Usman (APC-Idah),

decried the discrimination and stigmatization against people living with the virus, saying that they did not bargain for it.

He described Persons Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) as victims of circumstances and praised the sponsor of the bill and pledged to ensure it had accelerated passage.

Speaking earlier, Hamza Aliyu, Executive Director, INGRA, explained that the law would guard against every form of discrimination and stigmatization against affected persons.

He disclosed that available statistics showed that over 28,000 persons live with the virus in the state, adding that the number could be more as many who were not aware of their status were unwilling to get tested for fear of discrimination and stigmatization.

Aliyu said that since the bill had been passed in 16 states, it would only be fair for it to be adopted in Kogi State.

Executive Secretary, Kogi State Agency for the Control of AIDS (KOSACA), Dr. Sheidu Yunusa, who explained some of the provisions of the law, offences and punishment in the bill, said stigmatization and discrimination had the potency of destroying all the efforts being made to end the HIV scourge in the country.

He gave examples of stigmatization and discrimination against Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) to include health care professionals refusing to provide care or services to affected persons and refusing casual contact with someone living with HIV, among others.

Idris Ozovehe Muraina, Chairperson, Kogi NGOs Network, said, "We should not see this law as draconian but an attempt to squelch discrimination against our affected brothers and sisters."

Comrade Jimoh Audu, the Kogi State Coordinator of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), commended INGRA and the House for their determination to pass the bill.

Mutfwang unveils digital performance scorecard

By PETER TITLE

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State has unveiled the Digital Performance Scorecard System aimed at enhancing good governance and fostering a conducive business environment across the state.

During the unveiling ceremony on Monday, the governor revealed that the state was the second in the country to introduce that innovative initiative which was led by the federal government.

Emphasizing its

significance, Mutfwang highlighted the system's role in promoting progress, efficiency and accountability within the state's governance framework.

"The introduction of the Performance Scorecard System signifies our unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective governance. By meticulously tracking the activities of ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), this digital platform will enable us to align our policies and programmes with the overarching vision and objectives of our

administration," he remarked.

He further noted that the establishment of the Strategy and Result Delivery Office (SRDO), entrusted with overseeing the performance system, represents a tangible fulfillment of the administration's campaign promise of prioritizing the ease of doing business, adding that the move would facilitate the identification and resolution of challenges.

Governor Mutfwang urged all MDAs to support the SRDO and stressed the role of collaboration in achieving its mandate.

Engineer Moddibo Samari, head of SRDO, explained that the system would accelerate the state's Strategic Development Framework from 2023 to 2027, emphasizing its function as a comprehensive decision support mechanism geared towards delivering tangible impacts and ensuring optimal resource allocation.

Earlier, the Chief of Staff, Government House, Jeremiah Satmark, said that, from inception, the policy thrust of the government had been transparency in all spheres, hence the need for the establishment of the agency.

He urged citizens to play their part regarding the initiative so as to take the

state to the next level of development.

Our correspondent reports that the introduction of the Digital Performance Scorecard System marks a

significant milestone in Plateau State's journey towards accountable and result-driven governance for the benefit of all stakeholders.

After tribunal victory, Ododo seeks collaboration with opposition

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

KOGI State Governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo, has hailed the decision of the Kogi State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal which upheld his election as the duly elected Governor of the state with a call on the opposition to join him towards developing the state.

Ododo, in an interview with journalists shortly after the tribunal verdict, said that he had dedicated the victory to the people of the state.

He noted that the decision further affirmed his conviction that God alone gives power to whomever He wishes, adding that it was a wake-up call to the service of Kogi people.

While commending President Bola Tinubu for ensuring the independence of the judiciary, the governor stressed that the courts remained the last hope of the common man and bastions of justice, equity and fairness

that sustain democracies the world over.

Ododo was elected the fifth Executive Governor of Kogi State, having scored 446, 237 votes to defeat his closest challenger, Muritala Ajaka of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) who scored 259, 052 votes in the November 11, 2023, governorship election.

Ajaka and candidates of the Action Alliance (AA), Olayinka Braimoh, and Abdullahi Yunusa of the People's Redemption Party (PRP), subsequently challenged Governor Ododo's election in separate petitions.

After months of intense legal battle, the Kogi State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Abuja affirmed Ododo of the APC as the duly elected governor, thereby dismissing the petitions of Muritala Ajaka of the SDP, Olayinka Braimoh of the AA and Abdullahi Yunusa of PRP for lack of merit.



Mutfwang

Focus

Significance of broom making in Igbo Land

By IFEJIKI SAMUEL OSITA

IN the South Eastern Nigerian region of Igboland, broom making is more than just a craft, it's a cultural institution, an economic lifeline, and a symbol of tradition and resilience. This piece explores the significance of broom making in Igboland, its role in preserving cultural heritage, providing sustainable livelihoods, and promoting social cohesion. Through a combination of ethnographic research, oral histories, and economic analysis, we reveal the intricate web of meanings and values surrounding this ancient craft, and argue for its recognition and support as an intangible cultural heritage of the Igbo people. By shedding light on the importance of broom making in Igboland, we hope to contribute to the preservation of traditional crafts and the empowerment of local communities.

Brooms have been an integral part of human civilization since time immemorial. They serve as essential tools for cleaning and maintaining cleanliness in residential and public spaces. In Igbo land, broom making has a long-standing cultural and practical significance. This practice is deeply rooted in Igbo traditions, as brooms hold both spiritual and functional importance in daily life. Broom making is also a traditional craft that holds great significance in Igboland, (Ifejirika, Chukwunonso Okolie and Emmanuel Chukwuemeka 2014). The broom, known as "Aziza" in the Igbo language, has been used in Igbo society for centuries for various purposes.

Broom making also serves as a means of livelihood for many families in Igboland. It provides employment opportunities and income for artisans and craftsmen, who often pass down their skills and techniques through generations. The trade often involves a division of labour, with men gathering and preparing the raw materials, while women specialize in the weaving and finishing processes.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Broom making in Igbo land dates back centuries and is deeply intertwined with the cultural heritage of the people. The exact origins of this practice are difficult to ascertain, but it is believed to have been inherited from their ancestors. The Igbo people, known for their agricultural acumen and expertise, developed broom making as a functional necessity to clean and maintain their surroundings. Through generations, the art of broom making has been passed down from parents to children, preserving a sense of tradition and connection to their ancestral roots.

THE ART OF BROOM MAKING

Broom making in Igbo land involves a meticulous process that begins with the selection of appropriate materials. The main materials used for making brooms are dried plants such as sorghum stalks, palm fronds, and raffia fibers. These materials are chosen for their durability and flexibility, ensuring that the brooms can withstand repetitive use. The stalks or fibers are skillfully tied together, typically with a sturdy natural fiber, to form the bristles. The handle, known as the broomstick, is usually made from a strong, lightweight wood such as palm tree branches or bamboo.

Broom Making and Social Cohesion

Broom making in Igbo land fosters social cohesion and community participation. It is common for families or communities to come together during the broom making process, providing an opportunity for bonding and storytelling. This communal activity strengthens the sense of solidarity among the people and reinforces the importance of cleanliness and order in daily life. Additionally, the skills

required for broom making are often passed down through apprenticeships within families, promoting inter-generational connections and preserving cultural practices.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Symbol of cleanliness: Brooms are essential tools for maintaining cleanliness both in homes and public spaces. In Igbo culture, cleanliness is highly valued, and the use of brooms signifies the importance of keeping one's surroundings clean.

Traditional rituals: Brooms play a significant role in various Igbo rituals, ceremonies, and festivals. They are used to symbolically sweep away evil spirits or negative energies and achieve purity. For example, during the New Yam Festival (*Iri Ji*), brooms are used to ritually sweep the streets to ensure a prosperous and bountiful harvest.

Traditional beliefs: The practice of broom making holds immense cultural significance within the Igbo community. Brooms are not only seen as mere cleaning tools but are also considered as symbols of cleanliness, order, and spirituality. The process of making brooms is often accompanied by traditional rituals performed by skilled craftsmen. These rituals are believed to infuse positive spiritual energy into the brooms, ensuring their effectiveness in warding off evil spirits and dispelling negative energies from homes, communal spaces, and farmlands. In Igbo folklore and superstitions, brooms are believed to possess protective qualities against evil spirits, witches, and other supernatural entities. They are often hung on doorways or placed in strategic locations to ward off negative energies (Philomena N. Okeke-Ibeazue 2019).

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION: Broom making provides employment opportunities for many individuals in Igboland. It is a craft that can be passed down through generations, providing a means of livelihood for families. Additionally, the broom-making industry contributes to the local economy through trade and sales.

SKILL PRESERVATION: Broom making is an art that requires skill, precision, and expertise. By continuing this tradition, the Igbo people are able to preserve their cultural heritage and pass on valuable craftsmanship techniques from one generation to another.

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Connection to ancestors: Broom making is considered a sacred craft in Igboland. It is believed that when brooms are made, prayers are offered to ancestors, seeking their blessings and guidance. This spiritual connection underscores the significance of broom making as a link to the ancestral lineage and cultural traditions of the Igbo people.

CONCLUSION

Broom making is deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of Igbo land and holds immense significance in both practical and spiritual aspects of life. The art of broom making reflects the traditions, values, and interconnectedness of Igbo society. This practice not only provides a means for maintaining cleanliness and order but also fosters social cohesion and preserves cultural heritage across generations. In a world where traditional practices are increasingly being overshadowed by modernity, broom making in Igbo land stands as a testament to the importance of embracing and celebrating cultural legacy. Broom making also serves as a means of livelihood for many families in Igboland. It provides employment opportunities and income for artisans and craftsmen, who often pass down their skills and techniques through generations. In addition, broom making has become an important aspect of Igbo art and cultural heritage. The intricate designs and patterns woven into the brooms showcase the creativity, aesthetic sense, and artistic prowess of the Igbo people. These brooms are not only functional but also serve as decorative items, symbolizing the cultural pride and artistic expression of the Igbo community.

National Museum Igboukwu

Interview

"Why local govt polls have not been held"

In this interview the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ephraim Usman, granted PAUL JATAU, he outlines the challenges the Ministry has faced in the last one year of the Governor Mutfwang administration and the measures they took, with the ample assistance of the state government, to surmount same. He further disclosed that the state administration had never interfered with federal allocations to local governments and explained why local government polls have not yet been held, among others. Excerpts:

The Mutfwang administration is one year old in office today. How has the administration impacted on local government areas and local administrations at the local Councils?

The administration of Governor Caleb Mutfwang has impacted positively on the local government areas in the past few months of its being in power. He has helped the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs to tackle and overcome some of its teething problems that we thought were insurmountable. With the governor's support and advice, we have been able to find ways around these problems. We have achieved a lot of milestones under the governor's guidance and we hope to build on the relationship and take advantage of the mentorship of the governor.

How have you surmounted these problems?

When we came on board, the first challenge was how to pay the salaries of teachers and staff of the local government, pension for pensioners which amounted to the tune of 4.7billion Naira. With the governor's support and because of his love for the grassroots, we have been able to cleared that of teachers 100%, cleared that of local government staff, 100%, that of pensioners 80 -85%. We are trusting God that by the end of this month, we should be able to clear the outstanding.

There have been allegations that state governments have been controlling the funds of local governments. How has it been under the Mutfwang administration?

Commissioner: Yes, seriously it has been. I have never experienced it in the



Usman

last one year as Commissioner in charge of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. Sincerely, there has never been a time when the Executive Governor for once interfered with the local government funds. I cannot remember, never a time. Indeed, we were able to clear the backlog of salaries of 4.7 billion Naira with the support of the state governor. If it were not for the support we received from him, we would not have been able to do this within such a short space of time. And, because he has allowed the local governments to run their affairs with interference, there has been monumental achievements at the grassroots in the past few months.

Are there plans to hold local government elections anytime soon?

Yes, very soon. You know when we came on board, the government needed

to stabilize and I want to tell you that very soon we will have elected officials to man the affairs of the local government councils. His Excellency has been so worried about it and he is positive that very soon, offices at the local governments will be filled.

Are the elections at the local government level being held back in anyway by the case instituted by former local government chairmen?

Yes, we have some court issues even PLASIEC are in court but we are discussing. Once those gray areas are ironed out everything will be put in place so that we can have the elections.

What have been your major achievements in the last one year as Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs?

When you come to the Ministry, you will see physical changes. We have been able to renovate our various offices and furnish them. We have also been able to pay the backlog of salaries as I earlier said. I have gotten approval to automate our marriage registry within the local government area, automate our indigene forms for the 17 local government areas. We have gotten operational vehicles for Operation Rainbow which will be used by the security for the protection of life and property of our people at grassroots. **What going forward, what are we to expect at the local governments?**

At the pace we are going, this government will impact positive at the grassroots. Those at the helm of affairs at that tier are doing a marvelous job and we hope that a lot of things will change at that level. If the pace is sustained, we will certainly see a lot of changes at the grassroots which is nearest to the people.



Congratulatory Message

From

SHENDAM LGC



As democratically elected Nigerian leaders mark one year in office come 29th May, 2024, the Transition Implementation Committee Chairman of Shendam Local Government, **Hon. (Dr) Nicholas Kemi Nshe**, on behalf of his cabinet, Traditional Council, Directors, Staff and indeed the peace-loving and hospitable citizens of the Area, warmly felicitates with the President and Commander-in-Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria, **BOLA AHMED TINUBU**, GCFR, Vice President **KASHIM SHETTIMA**, GCON, our amiable Governor and captain of the *"The Time is Now Mantra"* on the Plateau, **BARR. CALEB MANASSEH MUTFWANG**, his Deputy **NGO JOSEPHINE PIYO**, on the auspicious and remarkable one year anniversary of the present administration and twenty-five (25) years of uninterrupted democratic rule in Nigeria.

We in Shendam Local Government Area note with pride the superlative achievements under the renewed hope agenda of Mr. President and the giant strides recorded by **Governor Caleb Mutfwang-led** administration, especially in the area of Agriculture, Health, Peace building as well as massive infrastructural development geared towards impacting positively on the livelihood of Plateau citizens.

As you mark this milestone event in the history of our nationhood, we pray God to grant you enormous wisdom, divine strength and good health to pilot the affairs of our state and country to an enviable pedestal.

Once more, congratulations to Mr. President and our dear Governor Mutfwang!

Hon. (Dr) Nicholas Kemi Nshe
Transition Implementation Committee
Chairman,
Shendam LGC



Hon. (Dr) Nicholas Kemi Nshe

Goodwill MESSAGE



MINISTRY OF LANDS, SURVEY AND TOWN PLANNING, JOS

The Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning, **Barr. Peter Nyam Gai**; the Permanent Secretary, **Barr. Dashe Selfa**; management and staff of the Ministry, heartily Congratulate your Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, the Deputy Governor, her Excellency, **Ngo Josephine Piyo** and the Speaker of the State house of Assembly **Rt Hon. Gabriel Dewan**, on the occasion of one-year anniversary.

The Ministry wishes to rejoice with you on the developmental strides recorded in the period under review. Your achievement has not left the good people of Plateau State in doubt as to the blueprint under "The Time is now" mantra which has changed the narrative on the Plateau for good.

Your Excellency under your amiable leadership, the Ministry has recorded significant progress in the areas of infrastructure, ranging from the creation of new board room, hall, new offices to host the Commissioner, Permanent Secretary and Director of Administration. The Ministry in the area of welfare, has made available medical facility through the provision of sick bay, and the total overhaul of the Town Planning Unit through upgrade of facilities.

The Ministry also reduced the work tools deficit by procuring computers, printers and repaired some operational vehicles. The Ministry has also through innovation, designed and integrated a platform where Demand Notices can be forwarded online to prospective applicant, including purchase of motorcycles for home delivery.

Consequently, the Ministry through M & E mechanism headed by the Commissioner has been able to reduce time line for processing of **R of O** to (2) months while that of **C of O** to (3) months. Between the period of September 2023 and March, 2024 a total of 1,450 **C of O** has been signed by the Executive Governor, a record that is unprecedented in the history of Plateau State.

The Ministry has also Succeeded in the digitization of the Governor's Signature, which has resulted in signing more than hundreds of certificates in few minutes to improve the revenue base of the State and impact positively on the ease of doing business.

Congratulations, Your Excellency! On this remarkable one year in office.

Signed
Barr. Peter Nyam Gai
Hon. Commissioner,
Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning,
Plateau State.



Barr. Peter Nyam Gai





From
**Plateau State Specialist
 Hospital, Jos**



Prof. Yilgwan



The Chief Medical Director **Prof. Christopher Sabo Yilgwan** on behalf of the Management and Staff of Plateau State Specialist Hospital, Jos heartily join the entire *peace loving people of Plateau State to felicitate with **His Excellency, Barr Caleb Manaseh Mutfwang**, the Executive Governor of Plateau State and his Deputy **Her Excellency, Ngo. Josephine Piyo*** on the auspicious milestone of clocking one year in office of the **"The Time Is Now"** Administration.

Your Excellency Sir, your one year in office has rekindled our hope that Plateau State have a better and a brighter future ahead. You have brought joy and hope to all inhabitants on the Plateau, its environs and those in the Diaspora.

Your dynamic and pragmatic style of leadership which has laid a solid foundation for healthcare delivery in the state is unquantifiable.

Among the numerous interventions of Your Excellency in the Hospital is the granting of waiver on the suspension of newly employed Health workers in the state, Approval for an improved health hazards allowance for Medical workers, payment of back log of salaries, expansion of residency training in Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Genecology, Surgery and Pediatrics, procurements of hospitals beds, Mattresses and pillows. You have also approved the award of Contract for the supply and installation of Main Laboratory equipment of the newly constructed Laboratory Complex, payment of outstanding funds for the Radio-diagnostic Centre, approval for the deployment and installation of Electronic Medical Records (EMR) project which is on-going among other achievements demonstrates the importance you attach to the healthcare sector. These have motivated us more as we pledge our unflinching support for the **"Time is Now"** Administration.

We pray that God will give you the enablement to achieve the set goals as we are ready to support you in every little and giant step of this journey. May your tenure be filled with continuous positive impact for the collective good of humanity.

Congratulations **'Sarkin Aiki' Barr Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang.**

Long live Plateau State Specialist Hospital
 Long Live Plateau State
 Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signed:

TALATU ACHAN ANGI ANIPR

Public Relations Officer

FOR: Management Plateau State Specialist Hospital.



The Executive Secretary of the Plateau State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board, **Rev. Wanson Yusufu Bagu**, on behalf of the Chairman, Board members, Management and Staff, extends heartfelt felicitations to His Excellency, **Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang** and his Deputy, Her Excellency, **Ngo Josephine Piyo** for achieving a significant milestone in their first year in office.

It is worth noting that His Excellency assumed office with a strong commitment to promote effective governance within the state and the operations of the Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board. Your declaration and emphasis that "The Time is Now", and "The Land is Green", has beyond no doubt manifest in your development strides that even the indifferent has no point to prove you wrong.

We take pride in associating with you, as your leadership has undoubtedly resulted in remarkable achievements. Your efforts to transform the state through visionary foresight, dynamic leadership, and adherence to divine will, as the mandate entrusted to you by the people of Plateau State, have led to remarkable success within a short timeframe.

Under your guidance, the Plateau State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board has achieved considerable milestones and surmounted various challenges with resilience and determination.

It is evident that you have placed a high priority on the religious pilgrimage activities to reinforce faith and inspire hope among prospective Christian pilgrims in the state through timely disbursement of funds. The Christians Pilgrims Welfare Board remains committed to supporting you in our collective pursuit of progress, development and excellence in all endeavours.

Congratulations on reaching the one year milestone in office. We wish you good health, divine wisdom and favour as you pilot the affairs of the State.

Signed:
Rev. Wanson Yusufu Bagu
 Executive Secretary,
 Plateau State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board

GOODWILL MESSAGE

From

Qua'an Pan LGC

The Chairman, Transition Implementation Committee of Qua'an Pan Local Government Council, **Hon. Christopher Manship Wallat**, wishes to on behalf of the Committee Members, Traditional Council, Staff and the Peace loving people of the area felicitate with the President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR**, the Vice President, **Kashim Shettima GCON**, the Leadership and Members of the National Assembly, our workaholic Governor and the Leader of "The Time is Now" mantra, **Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, the Deputy Governor, **Hon. Josephine Piyo**, The speaker and Member's of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Members of the Executive Council and other top government functionaries on the occasion of your eventful one year Anniversary in office.

Mr. Governor sir, your one year of stewardship in our dear Plateau has no doubt, brought a new dawn due to your charismatic and visionary style of leadership that has unarguably transformed the economic and socio-political landscape of the state.

The wisdom in your mantra of the "Time is Now" administration, has promoted visible achievements in the aspect of infrastructural developments, agricultural revolution, revitalizing the health sector as well as general administrative reforms to mention just a few, has given our dear state a pride of place in Nigeria and we will forever be grateful for your selfless and God fearing leadership.

In promoting the philosophy of your "Time is Now" initiative, we, in Qua'an Pan Local Government have undertaken community interest driven projects such as: Construction of health facilities, anti-snake bite clinic and some erosion control box culverts all spread across the eight (8) Districts of the locality.

Other projects carried out include: renovation of Council's Guest House and installation of solar powered electricity within the Secretariat and Chairman's official residence.

We have also offered scholarship to Qua'an Pan indigenes studying in higher institutions, procurement and distribution of five trucks of assorted fertilizer at subsidized rate, renovation and completion of Longpan's Palace in addition to supplying laboratory equipment to some schools.

Your Excellency Sir, as you open another page of purposeful and unequal leadership in your first tenure and beyond, we assure you of our unwavering support and pray for God's guidance, protection and sound health.
 Announcer.

Hon. Christopher Manship Wallat
 Chairman, Transition Implementation Committee,
 Qua'an Pan LGC.



Hon. Wallat

Information

A new dawn for Information Ministry



By GODWIN MOSES

THE journey began on May 29th, 2023 after a rigorous process of electioneering, the election itself and the attendant distractions that followed the declaration of Barr. Caleb Mutfwang as executive governor of Plateau State. One year after, the steps taken and the progress made so far indicate the single-mindedness of the governor and the clarity of the vision behind the successes recorded.

Guided by the Seven Focal Points of what is called the Green Cap Policy Thrust, the administration has engineered a turn-around in various sectors with concomitant improvement in services delivered. And, realizing the critical role of the civil service as the engine room of government, the Mutfwang-led administration has made this key component of government an area of priority, injecting in it a new lease of life and carrying it along as it unfolds its development agenda.

Among the organs of government driving the agenda of government is, of course, the Ministry of Information and Communication, established with the primary mandate of enlightenment, education and information. Although the ministry has over the years assumed different nomenclatures in accordance with the needs of successive administrations, it has not lost sight of its primary functions.

Made up of eight departments, the ministry also monitors and coordinates activities of its agencies namely, Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), the Plateau Radio Television Corporation (PRTVC), the Library Board and the Plateau Printing Press (PPP). Furthermore, it liaises with all media outfits and related bodies within and outside the state with a view to promoting the image of government and the state in general.

Like other organs of government in the state, however, the ministry in the past never really lived up to its billing because of dwindling fortunes. With a new administration in place, the story has no doubt begun to change.

At the head of the ministry is Mr. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, who, as Honorable Commissioner, is charting a new course, and raising the bar in terms of projecting the state and government through



Ashoms

disseminating timely and accurate information to the public, promoting transparency and accountability within the government, and enhancing communication channels with the citizens.

Under the commissioner's watch, the ministry has regained its role as a central hub for managing public relations, media relations, and government communications. Hence, there is improved co-ordination and implementation of communication strategies, campaigns, and initiatives to keep the public informed about government policies, programs, and activities. Additionally, the Ministry has ensured digital presence, fostering effective use of technology and online platforms to reach wider audience and engage with the public.

As the image maker of the state, the renewed zeal and commitment of the ministry's staff has positioned it to leverage on the magnanimity, benevolence and drive for excellence of the present leadership of the state. And this has fostered mutual understanding, trust, and participation in the governance process.

Furthermore, the ministry has continued to utilize the opportunities created by emerging trends in the ICT sector. Therefore, it has striven to keep pace with these trends. Aside positioning its staff for the new tasks that the information ministry faces in the new era, it has established a strong digital presence on the following platforms: Facebook, X, YouTube, and Instagram. This is its strategy to reach a wider audience and to also enhance communication, streaming processes and effect positive behavioral

change and good governance.

The ministry has also recorded increased collaboration with media outfits, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to amplify key messages, expand outreach, and build strong relationships that support its communication efforts.

It is worthy of note that the morale of the workforce in the ministry is at an all-time high because of the priority the present leadership of the ministry accords its staff which has impacted positively on productivity. This singular act has ensured the resolve of the staff to work harder towards increasing public awareness, engagement, building trust, and effectiveness of communication strategies in meeting the needs of both government and citizens.

Other achievements of the ministry include the resuscitation of four fully equipped public awareness vehicles, known as the Cine-Rover vans. These vehicles were previously non-operational, having been grounded for many years. However, in view of their indispensability in the whole gamut of plans for the resurgence of the ministry, they have now been refurbished and ready for disseminating information across the 17 local government areas of the state.

So also, the Ministry has continued to strengthen its collaboration with media organizations. For instance, it has entered into retainership arrangements with a number of media organizations to ensure a wide coverage of the state as well as expand the reach of the Plateau story. At the same time, it has paid a balance of retainership fees inherited from the immediate past administration.

In the same vein, milestones have also been recorded in the agencies of the ministry such as the gradual improvement in the content of *The Nigeria Standard* newspaper even as plans are underway to engender major leaps in its operations.

At the Plateau Radio Television Corporation, solar lights have been provided, and this has improved the security situation at the broadcast outfit, particularly the administrative headquarters and the Rayfield station. So also, staff welfare has been prioritized as promotion has been effected for staff due in 2021 and 2022.

Another major development at the PRTVC is that the station is now live on Radio Garden, and this has placed the corporation on a world map where it is accessed globally. Furthermore, the corporation's website is fully functional and efforts are ongoing to enable the TV live stream via its website, prtvc.ng.

For a ministry that was practically inactive before this administration came on board, there is indeed, a refreshing departure from the past. Yet, there are indications that this is just a tip of the iceberg as far as the resurgence of the state information machinery goes.

"Under the commissioner's watch, the ministry has regained its role as a central hub for managing public relations, media relations, and government communications. Hence, there is improved co-ordination and implementation of communication strategies, campaigns, and initiatives to keep the public informed about government policies, programs, and activities. Additionally, the Ministry has ensured digital presence, fostering effective use of technology and online platforms to reach wider audience and engage with the public. As the image maker of the state, the renewed zeal and commitment of the ministry's staff has positioned it to leverage on the magnanimity, benevolence and drive for excellence of the present leadership of the state. And this has fostered mutual understanding, trust, and participation in the governance process."

Infrastructure

The changing face of Plateau State



By KENNETH DAKOP

"WE want to ensure that every nook and cranny of Jos and Bukuru Metropolis is improved to make the city a welcoming place for all visitors and residents. The government has just started, and what you see is the tip of the iceberg. Despite financial constraints, we are determined to change the development narrative on the Plateau." Those were the words of the Executive Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, when he inspected some ongoing road rehabilitation and construction projects across Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

In the recent past, Plateau State was always in the news for all but the right reasons. The state gained notoriety for being a killing field of some sort. No thanks to the perennial internecine conflict that has plagued the state with the popular sobriquet "Home of Peace and Tourism" for the better part of the last two decades. This series of ethno-religious crises plunged the state deep down the abyss, almost ascribing to it a pariah status amongst its equals.

However, that negative narrative concerning the state is gradually giving way to a more positive outlook. The changing face of Plateau State may not be unconnected with the visionary drive of the incumbent government. The particular emphasis on road rehabilitation and construction is not only making the state wear a new look but also enhancing communication while boosting the socio-economic environment. Agreed that the state witnessed some relative peace and calm especially at the city centre in the last few years owing to the efforts of both state and non-state actors who have dedicated material and men to help communities build resilience; the same can hardly be said about physical infrastructural development in the period under review. Since Governor Mutfwang assumed office, the entire landscape of the Plateau is wearing a new look. A drive round the city centre of Jos and surrounding metropolis shows that the major roads within the state capital are all experiencing the Mutfwang touch. The maintenance or complete overhauling of some of these roads that were constructed many years ago is, no doubt, giving the state a sparkling look so much so that any motorist that is familiar with the city can drive with their eyes almost closed.

A community leader and retired Air Force personnel, Barr. Omale Adejoh, who resides in one of the fast growing areas within Jos South Local Government, Diye, (Zaramaganda), said: "As you can see, the major road linking Zaramaganda-Rayfield to Yakubu Gowon Way is now wearing a new look. Initially, the road was poorly constructed about a decade ago and some portions of it were completely washed off. However, the incumbent administration in Plateau State under Mutfwang has refurbished the road and now residents of our neighbourhood are excited about the development." The Plateau State Commissioner of Works, Hon. Bulus Lekshak, and the General Manager of Plateau State Roads Maintenance Agency, Engr. Luka Davou, who recently embarked on an inspection of the ongoing roads rehabilitation and construction corroborated the views expressed by Barr. Adejoh and many other residents of the Tin City when they stressed that they would not relent in ensuring that The Time is Now administration's vision of making life more meaningful for citizens of the state was actualised.

On his part, the Plateau State Commissioner for Housing and Urban Development, Joshua Laven, who went round some of the project sites to monitor compliance by contractors, reiterated that the Mutfwang administration was committed to improving the living conditions of the masses through the upgrade of slumps to urban centres to appreciate the people who "overwhelmingly voted him and stood by him during his legal battles."

He said that the Mutfwang administration was focused on providing dividends of democracy that would make positive impact in the living conditions of the people as a reward for the confidence they had reposed in the administration. Among the hitherto abandoned projects visited by the Commissioner in the metropolis were the Utonko – Nunku - Abattoir road with nine span fly-over bridge handled by P. W Nigeria Limited abandoned almost 11 years ago; the five-kilometre road



Governor's Lodge, Asokoro Abuja, wearing a new look



Railway coaches and buses introduced by the Mutfwang administration

networks in the Utan area of Jos North handled by Rick Rock Nigeria Limited, and the Sabon Gari-Tudun Wada-Kabong Satellite market road network being handled by Jolex Construction Nigeria Limited awarded in 2017 at the cost of N1.8 billion without any mobilization to the contractor. Others are the 24.1-kilometre road networks in Bukuru, Jos South LGA, the Ama Street, Mallam Kure, and Fatima road networks handled by Wakema Construction Nigeria Limited as well as the Angwan Rogo road network with a spur linking Ali Kazaure handled by Latokem Construction Limited. Some of the major streets like the popular Rwang Pam, Dogon Dutse, Yan Shanu, Diye (Zaramaganda), Abattoir, Tudun Wada to Kabong, Liberty Boulevard, just to mention but these few are all wearing brand new looks.

What is worthy of mention, of course, is that all these roads are of high quality with dressed surfaces that have a long life span. Additionally, other major intra and inter-state roads are receiving the desired attention as well. For any visitor into the city from the Akwanga or Southern Kaduna axis will notice the efforts being made by the state government and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency, FERMA, to fill up the potholes that were an eyesore and death traps for travelers and other motorists along that way.

Also not left out is the intra-state road from Heipang in Barkin Ladi LGA (where the Yakubu Gowon Airport is situated) to Mangu and other parts of the state, just to mention but these few.

Even though naysayers and traducers of the Mutfwang government appear hasty in attributing the ongoing road rehabilitations, especially the federal roads, to FERMA and not the state government, what these antagonists

of Plateau's progress and unity fail to fathom into such baseless and unfounded assertions is that it takes a focused leader and a government that knows its onions to embark on such adventurous road rehabilitation within her first year in office.

Furthermore, the government has also formulated policies and passed Executive Orders to ensure that roads within the metropolis do not become death traps to the citizens and motorists alike.

For instance, the once crowded parts of the city like Dadin Kowa, Farin Gada, Bauchi road and places where trucks and other articulated vehicles once parked indiscriminately are now wearing a new look as government directives have compelled them to find other suitable parking spaces around the outskirts. This strategic move has further decongested the city centre thereby allowing for free flow of both human and vehicular traffic.

The Commissioner for Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Joshua Laven, while inspecting some ongoing road projects captured it succinctly when he stressed that "Governor Mutfwang is not interested in who is the contractor or contractors handling these projects. He has directed that all uncompleted projects must be completed because they are people-centred projects." No doubt, the people are really excited over this positive development. Indeed, Governor Mutfwang is not only turning the Plateau landscape green but is also ensuring that all the nooks and crannies of the state are linked with standard roads that would enhance communication and make Plateau welcoming for all and sundry.

Security

A governor's commendable security initiatives



By UKANDI ODEY

On the occasion of his inauguration as the sixth civilian Executive Governor of Plateau State on May 29, 2023, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang admitted that he was not lost in thought as to the enormity and urgency of the tasks before the new government was not lost on him. Thus, he pledged his preparedness to provide leadership that will imbue him with a sense of mission and commitment to meet the aspirations of Plateau people.

However, the governor's inauguration missive was still resonating with the people when some predatory forces and blood-thirsty non-state actors struck with ferocious and bestial abandon to destabilize parts of Mangu Local Government Area in Plateau Central. The organized and well-orchestrated attacks were characterised by massive killings and arson which forced a lot of families to flee their homes. That created acute humanitarian crises that tasked official response to nip the ugly development in the bud and restore peace and harmonious relations.

For a government that was choked by an empty treasury and debt overhang, these were certainly testy and tremulous times. However, by policy, deployment and all, Governor Mutfwang rose stoutly to the occasion. Having called global attention to the unprovoked attacks that threatened to deplete Mangu into a killing field, he rallied the state's security agencies to mobilize to Mangu to not only enforce the dusk-to-dawn curfew which was inevitably in place, but to end the killings by arresting or warding off the perpetrators and restore peace and confidence in the affected areas.

In response to the governor's outcry and public condemnation of the attackers' savagery, Operation Safe Haven, Nigeria's military special task force on the crises in and around Plateau State, had to temporarily relocate its headquarters as the Commander moved himself and other officers to the frontiers of the attacks in Mangu. This was dutifully followed by a visit by the military high command, led by the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Taoreed Lagbaja, who visited the STF troops in Mangu to inspire and motivate them to stand up to the challenge with professionalism and utmost sense of patriotism. It will be recalled that following that visit which underscored the intolerance of the government of brigandage and threats to law and order, the war mongers in Mangu were neutralized and normalcy restored to this busy commercial destination in Central Plateau.

Having entered the saddle amidst crises and sectarian challenges, the need to overhaul and reposition the state-owned Operation Rainbow for intelligence gathering and response to early warning signals was self-evident. Thus, the governor had to appoint a new Commander with a verifiable trajectory in military organization, operations and counter-insurgency to take charge and direct the affairs of the state security outfit. The governor also equipped it with security vehicles and other logistics. The training of personnel and general capacity building was also carried out to facilitate ease and promptness of its security activities.

In the absence of a state police, the Operation Rainbow has been criss-crossing the state as it works to complement and provide crucial and strategic intervention that will make the state security prompt and responsive to acts and scenes



Hilux vehicles purchased for the State security outfit, Operation Rainbow by the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

of criminality in the state.

The governor also embarked on internalisation and internal checks to find a therapy for the recurrent crises that have certainly become a bad advertisement for the state and its people. It is on record that the on assumption of office, he swiftly restored the tradition of routine State Security Council meetings and briefings to enable him be on the alert and alive to any early warning signals.

Stakeholders' consultations and meetings were also held with traditional leaders, religious heads, elders and strategic socio-cultural groups in the state to trace the internal fault lines that are impinging on the prospects for internal cohesion and harmonious relations. The governor has always emphasized that if all who attend the stakeholders' meetings are sincere to themselves and committed to the general good of the state, this platform should be able to resolve the issues and re-make Plateau as Nigeria's foremost home of peace and tourism.

Just to emphasize and reinforce The Time Is Now mantra of the administration, Governor Mutfwang also took the Plateau challenge to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in Abuja, where he briefed the President on the urgency of the Plateau situation and the vulnerability of the people. That visit produced the desirable outcome of summoning the service chiefs and issuing them marching orders to fish out the masterminds of the Plateau killings and bring them to justice.

Last year's Christmas Eve attacks on parts of Bokkos, Barkin Ladi, and Mangu, as dastardly and horrendous as they were, also indicated to the governor that there was still a crack in the wall and that the push and shove were far from over. And, therefore, there was still much to be done. After a solemn state-wide broadcast in which the governor commiserated with families of victims and told the world that the bloodletting that has been happening in Plateau

State was not as a result of farmers/herders clash (as often erroneously and mischievously dubbed by certain groups and interests), the National Security Adviser, NSA, to the President, Nuhu Ribadu, immediately moved into the state on Christmas Day to investigate and determine the foundations and causatives of the recurrent attacks and killings in the state.

That visit was reinforced the next day, December 26, when the Vice President, Kashim Shettima, in company of the service chiefs, arrived Jos and proceeded to Bokkos where they interacted with refugees of the attacks and displacements who were crowded in emergency, makeshift abodes as Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs.

This was followed by a stakeholders meeting with the vice president and the service chiefs at the Yakubu Gowon International Airport, Heipang, near Jos. At the meeting, Shettima acknowledged and commended the forthrightness and commitment of the governor towards finding enduring solutions that will restore peace to Plateau State.

But Mutfwang was not yet done. Thus, he abandoned the leisure and celebrations of the Yuletide and headed to Lagos, with a heavy heart, on behalf of the families in grief and the entire grieving Plateau people. His task was to pester a holidaying President Tinubu with the responsibility to restore normalcy and security of lives and property because he was besieged, ambushed.

For obvious reasons, much of what the president promised the governor regarding the security challenges in Plateau State are better implemented than publicised. Nonetheless, the deployment of troops and improved mobilisation of the security agencies to respond to the growing audacity of the assailants and bandits seeking to unleash reign of terror on the state have been noticeable. The approval that a military barracks be established in Bokkos local government area to boost security surveillance and prompt response to distress calls is part of the laudable dividends of the interface between the governor and the Federal authorities towards finding a lasting solution to the Plateau attacks.

Managing Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, in the various camps has also been an integral part of the Mutfwang peace initiatives in the past one year. Beyond the camps, Governor Mutfwang has put a resettlement committee in place to return displaced persons to their homes where they can also return to their farms as the government is beefing up security in the rural areas as a preface to food security.

The anti-land grabbing law is being given bite in a holistic package and process which emphasis is the respect for the peoples' heritage and values system. This will enthrone equity and justice which are sine qua non for peace and mutual communality.

"Having entered the saddle amidst crises and sectarian challenges, the need to overhaul and reposition the state-owned Operation Rainbow for intelligence gathering and response to early warning signals was self-evident. Thus, the governor had to appoint a new Commander with a verifiable trajectory in military organization, operations and counter-insurgency to take charge and direct the affairs of the state security outfit. The governor also equipped it with security vehicles and other logistics. The training of personnel and general capacity building was also carried out to facilitate ease and promptness of its security activities."

Politics

Mutfwang: Riding on the waves of popularity



By **KENNETH DARENG**

IN the build up to the 2023 governorship election in Plateau State, some book makers had predicted that a dark horse was going to emerge as the Chief Executive of the State and that the occupant of Little Rayfield would be a blend of experience, panache, political sagacity with mass appeal and courage.

And as it turned out, the election became a clash of the titans and a three horse race between the ruling All Progressives Congress [APC], People's Democratic Party [PDP], and the Labour Party [LP]. Apart from being the most tension soaked election ever witnessed in the state, the intrigues and power play that accompanied it kept the gladiators, their supporters and other keen political pundits on the edge of their seats.

Because of the already charged election atmosphere across the state, all the major political parties were well positioned and had mapped out their strategies of winning the election. The stakes became much higher when the ruling APC decided to anoint Dr. Yilwada Goshwe Nentawe to take over at all costs from Governor Simon Alang whose eight-year tenure expired on May 29, 2023.

The PDP, on its part, paraded as its candidate a little known but formidable Barrister Caleb Mutfwang, who was a one-time Chairman of Mangu Local Government Area, while the Labour Party's candidate was Dr. Patrick Dakum, a former Commissioner for Health in the state.

But like the game changer and someone who is actually prepared for the onerous job of being the governor of the state, Barrister Mutfwang had campaigned from one turf to the other across the three geopolitical zones, selling his manifesto whose mantra of "The time is now to keep Plateau Green" and the solemn promise to summon the political will to initiate policies and programmes that will engender peace and progress of the entire state resonated with the young and old and became an instant movement that later culminated into the PDP's victory at the polls.

One major talking point that got the people hooked to the Mutfwang Green Movement was his promise to review some obnoxious policies implemented by the Alang administration such as land concession for grazing, the curious domestic and foreign loans obtained from some financial institutions, the agreement to sign an MoU with Jaiz Bank, creation of

new traditional stools and tampering with old and gazetted chiefdoms, districts and village areas.

These and other sensitive issues which were poorly handled by the outgoing administration coupled with the perceived plan by some oligarchs linked to some vested interests outside the state led to the polarization of the citizens along political, ethnic and religious divides which hindered development, to a large extent.

As a fallout, the popularity of the ruling party began to nose dive and sensing the implication of losing the governorship race, it adopted the 'Do or Die' and a 'Must Win' approach which did not align with sentiments of the vast majority thereby constituting a great threat to the unity, peace and stability of the state. But when the election results finally came in and Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang was declared as the winner, the entire state erupted into frenzy. For the PDP supporters and other well-wishers, it was a sweet victory at last.

Governor Mutfwang's inaugural speech at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium on May 29, 2023, was a rare moment for a party that was in the opposition for eight years to showcase an outpouring of nostalgia considering the wave of support and solidarity which also points to the fact that the will of the majority had prevailed and that the people had loudly spoken with their votes.

Mutfwang remarked: "Your spontaneous outbreak of joy in rejoicing, singing and dancing which lasted for days is a testimony of the cry and hunger in your hearts for divine visitation in the days ahead. Today is not just my inauguration, it is our inauguration as it marks the beginning of our collective quest for a new Plateau. Today I prophesy that the new Plateau by this inauguration is born. The glory of Plateau shall manifest in the coming years to God's glory and to our collective pride."

Barely weeks after his inauguration and precisely in June 2023, Governor Mutfwang announced the dissolution of all the 17 Local Government Councils in the state elected on the platform of the All Progressives Congress [APC], and replaced them with Transition Committee Chairmen drawn from his own political party, the People's Democratic Party [PDP], which raised a lot of dust from the opposition party.

The LG chairmen fought back and vowed to stay put in their offices and not to heed to the dissolution. And sensing that the new government might engage the use of forceful measures to evict them from office, they quickly went to court to seek legal protection. They argued that as elected chairmen and councilors, they would remain in office until their tenure expires in October 2024.

The state government explained that the dissolution of the councils was based on a report by a committee set up by the State House of Assembly which had alleged that the elected chairmen had embezzled money belonging to the



Hassan
councils.

Perhaps that set the stage for confusion across the entire State. And in the midst of the tension and controversies, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, called on the State Commissioner of Justice and Attorney-General to allow the elected chairmen and councilors to resume duty, the process of which should strictly be supervised by the State Police Command.

This further emboldened some of the chairmen like those of Jos-North and Jos-South LGAs who attempted to resume on September 11, 2023 while the State Government had directed the Transition Chairmen to also take over on the same date. It was however reported that the situation at those council secretariats ended up in clashes between supporters of the APC and PDP.

The Plateau State Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General, Philemon Daffi, had to approach the Federal High Court, Abuja, to urge the Court to direct the Plateau State Police Command to unseal the secretariats. The National Union of Local Government Employees [NULGE], Plateau State Chapter, resolved to proceed on strike to prevent any attempt by the elected chairmen from returning, arguing that they did not want any clash between the APC and the PDP supporters who were bent on taking over the council secretariats.

The battle for the control of the 17 local council areas of the state between the sacked elected APC chairmen and the Transition Committee Chairmen of the PDP continued with the game of hide and seek on both sides until the big distraction came when all political interests moved to the courtrooms. And as expected, it turned out to be a bang tagged: "The legal battle for the soul of Plateau."

It was at that point that all attention

shifted to the Election Petition Tribunal which was set to deliver judgments on the various cases brought before it arising from the Governorship, State and National Assembly elections.

In the case of Plateau State, three election petition tribunals sat with three judges as panelists whose judgments later turned out to be in conflict with other courts. For instance, the tribunal affirmed the victory of Governor Caleb Mutfwang, raising the hope of the PDP and their supporters that all was going well. But the same Tribunal later said the PDP in the state lacked a valid structure and had no business contesting the 2023 elections.

According to Hon. Justice Sunday Olorunhunsin, "No matter how dissatisfied another person feels on the conduct of another person's congresses or primaries, it must keep mum as it is not a member of that party. Such a person lacks the locus standi to challenge such a congress or primary election."

But all that was contradicted by the ruling of the second Tribunal delivered by Hon. Justice M. B. Tukur when he went against the ruling of the tribunal that considered that the PDP had a solid and valid structure in the state by quashing the election of all National and State Assembly members on the ground of lacking the structure to contest the election in the first instance.

The third tribunal, led by Hon. Justice Mohammed Mohammed, in its ruling had unanimously upheld and affirmed the election of Senator Simon Mwakwong and Hon. Musa Agah, both elected on the platform of the PDP. According to Justice Mohammed, "the petition was a pre-election matter which can only be entertained at the Federal High Court only."

The discordant tunes from the Plateau Election Petition Tribunal set the stage for another confusion that created a state of uncertainty in the entire state as the Appeal Court anchored its judgment on the earlier verdict delivered by Justice Tukur. To make matters worse for the PDP, the Appeal Court annulled the election of Governor Caleb Mutfwang, citing lack of valid PDP structure in the state.

However, respite came at last for Governor Mutfwang and the PDP when the Supreme Court upheld his victory and affirmed that the PDP had a solid and valid structure. It faulted the Appeal Court and the Election Tribunal for even entertaining a case that was a pre-election matter.

"The Supreme Court laid to rest a case of Plateau State whose political war ended with a collateral damage on both the APC and PDP. But like Mutfwang said at the end of it all: "We shall not rest on our oars until Plateau State becomes peaceful, united and prosperous." And from all indications, all the plots and political maneuvering are now part of history and what is uppermost in the minds of citizens of the state is for Governor Caleb Mutfwang to match those promises he made a year ago with more vigour because the TIME IS NOW to get even busier."



Goodwill MESSAGE
From
PLATEAU STATE POLYTECHNIC, BARKIN LADI

The Ag. Rector, **Dr. Clement S. Chirman**, Management, staff and students of Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi, heartily rejoice with His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Mannaseh Mutfwang**, His Deputy, **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, the State Executive Council, the Legislative Arm and Security Council on the successful attainment of one year in office of "The Time is Now" administration in Plateau State.

The Polytechnic Community notes with appreciation the numerous achievements that have so far been recorded in the institution within the last one year of your assumption of office. Worthy of note is the provision of funds to the Polytechnic which facilitated the accreditation of core courses at ND and HND levels by the National Board of Technical Education, (NBTE).

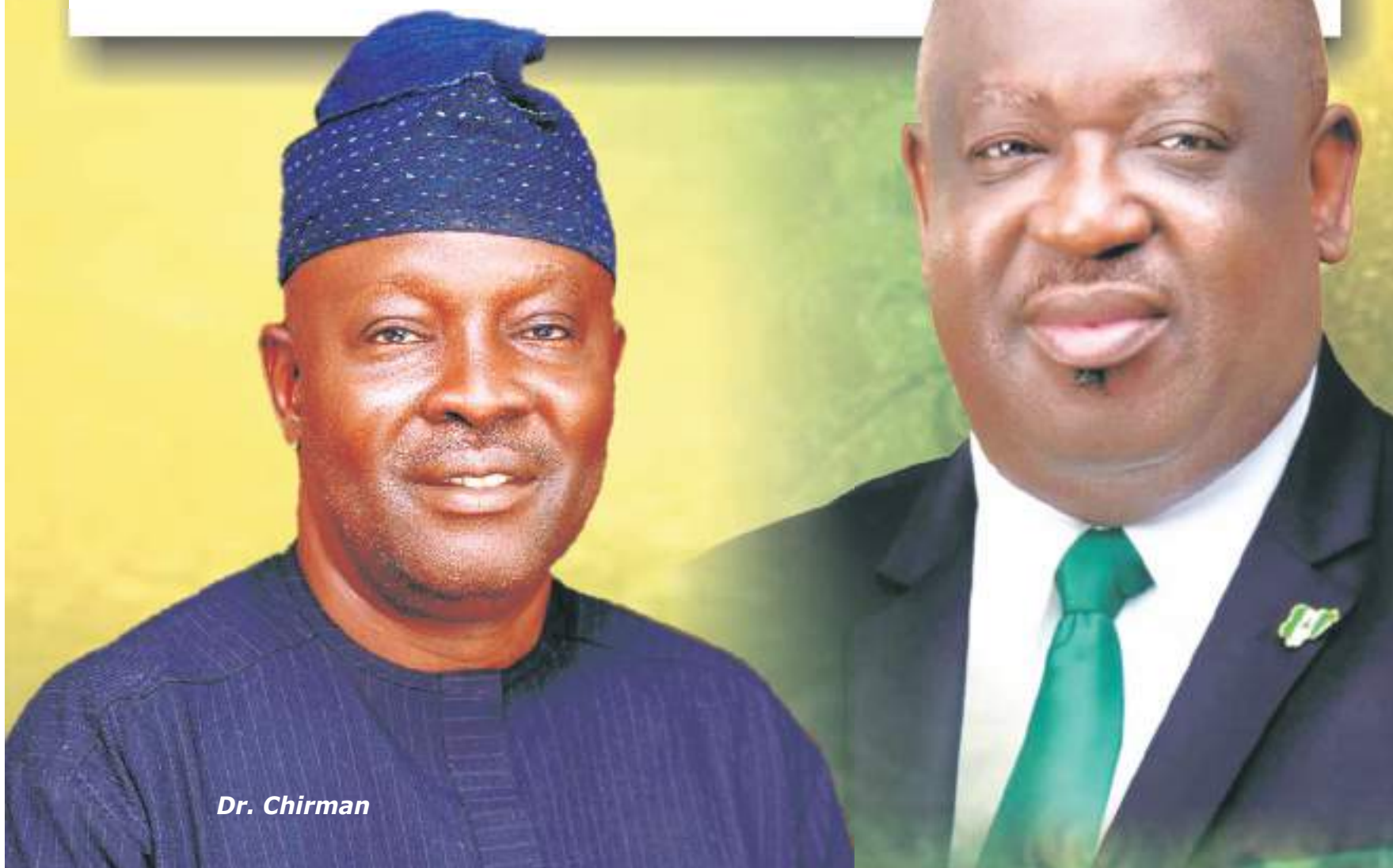
We also note with gratitude, the prevailing conducive working environment in the Polytechnic which has enhanced learning on both campuses of the Polytechnic.

As the premier tertiary institution in the state, we are committed to continuous provision of qualitative and functional technological education for the purpose of self-employment, self-actualization and wealth creation in the present competitive world of globalization.

We wish the present administration a hitch-free tenure in office and many more resounding successes ahead.

Once more, Congratulations Your Excellency!

Dr. Clement S. Chirman
 Ag. Rector



Dr. Chirman



Jos Metropolitan Development Board

THE General Manager of Jos Metropolitan Development Board, **Hon. Arc Hart Bankat**, Management and the entire staff of the Board join millions of Plateau State citizens and other well wishers to congratulate His Excellency the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, his Deputy, **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, speaker Plateau State House of Assembly, **Hon. Gabriel Dewan** and all other elected sons and daughters in both the state and the federal level on the occasion of celebration of one year in office.

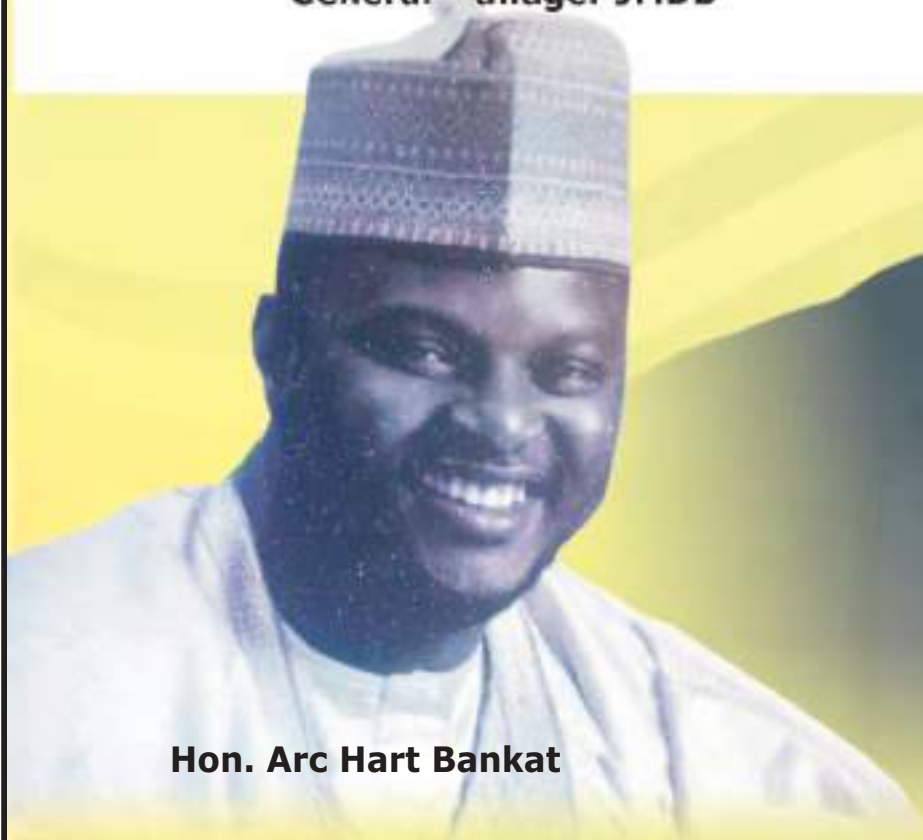
Your Exemplary leadership style has brought about remarkable achievements, transforming our beloved state for the better. Through your dedication and commitment, you have embodied the true spirit of service, sacrifice, and excellence.

We in JMDB are also appreciative of the physical development currently going on within Jos and Bukuru metropolis and recently the introduction of Metro buses for mass transport service within the state which has eased transportation hardship face by the people of Plateau State.

As you celebrate this one year in office, we pray that God Almighty will bless you with continued wisdom, courage, good health and long life as you guide our state towards greater highs of peace, progress and prosperity

Signed:

Hon. Arc Hart Bankat, AFLPMA, MDA, M.CID, KSM, JP
General Manager JMDB



Hon. Arc Hart Bankat





Felicitations

From

PLATEAU STATE AGENCY FOR ADULT & NON-FORMAL EDUCATION



The Acting Executive Director, Agency for Adult & non Formal Education, Plateau State, **Mrs. Phoebe John Clark Dabwan** and the entire staff of the Agency, heartily rejoice with the executive Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, his Deputy, **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, the Speaker PLHA; **Rt. Hon. Philemon Dewan**, the Chief Judge, **Justice David Mann** and indeed all Plateaunians on the occasion of one year in office of the present administration.

We in the Agency are glad to identify with the numerous success recorded by His Excellency, **Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, leader of "The Time Is Now" administration on the Plateau, which cuts across different strata of socio-economic and social well-being of the citizenry.

Your uncommon leadership style has emboldened the Agency to witness steady progress due to release of funds for full reopening of literacy vocational centres across the 17 LGAs, Renovation of administrative offices, purchase of office equipment, stakeholder engagement to boost all non-formal Education Programmes in the state among others.

As we celebrate your first year in office, we're optimistic that the noble ideals of providing more dividends of democracy to the people by the government across boards would be actualized in the greater interest of the people

Long live Agency for Adult & Non-Formal Education
Long live Plateau State!
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

Signed:
Mrs. Phoebe John Clark Dabwan
 Acting Executive Director.



PLATEAU UNITED IS PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH BARRISTER CALEB MUTFWANG ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE YEAR IN OFFICE

Mr. Governor sir, we join the hosts of witnesses to attest to the attainment of enviable landmarks within the months leading up to just one year under your dispensation.

We are proud to say that you have galvanized the sporting sphere since your assumption of office and our great club has not been left out.

Under your watch, we have won both the men's and women's state federations cup titles, the establishment of a formidable youth team that dominated in the 2024 NPFL youth league and a subsequent qualification to Spain as well as a contending presence in the ongoing Nigeria Premier Football League where we are currently ranked sixth on the log after 32 games but with hopes of securing a continental slot amongst other top achievements.

It is our believe that your sustained support for sports development will easily engage the youth population positively as well as affect the economy positively.

We wish you well Mr Governor and hope that your enviable level of ingenuity and governance capacity will get even better. Plateau United FC under the Auspices of General Manager, **Habila Hosea Mutla**, wish Nigeria, Plateau State and **Governor Caleb Mutfwang** greater fortunes.

FROM
 PLATEAU UNITED FC





From



On behalf of the Plateau State Internal Revenue Service (PSIRS) Management and Staff, I extend heartfelt congratulations to President, **Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, Vice President, **Kashim Shettima**, Plateau State People's **Governor Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, and Deputy Governor, **Ngo Josephine Piyo** on Democracy Day and the remarkable achievement of one year in office.

Your steadfast leadership, unwavering commitment, and vision have been instrumental in guiding our nation and state towards progress and prosperity. May this day inspire renewed dedication to the service of our people and the advancement of our great nation and state.

At PSIRS, we are inspired by your genuine love and passion for a truly prosperous and secure Plateau. We wish you continued success in your noble endeavours and look forward to witnessing the positive impact of your leadership in the days ahead.

Congratulations on your first year in office!

Signed
Jim Pam Wayas
 Executive Chairman
 Plateau State Internal Revenue Service
 (PSIRS)



Jim Pam Wayas



Congratulatory Message

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

BARRISTER CALEB MANASSEH MUTFWANG

GOVERNOR OF PLATEAU STATE ON THE MARKING OF ONE YEAR AT THE HELM OF AFFAIRS IN PLATEAU STATE.

The Chairman **Chief Simon Tangni** on behalf of Members of the Plateau State Local Government Service Commission, Permanent Secretary, Directors and Staff of the Seventeen Local Government Councils, extend heartfelt congratulations to our amiable Governor, **Barrister Caleb Mannaseh Mutfwang** on your attainment of one-year on the saddle as our esteemed governor.

Your transition to the helm of our state within this period has been marked by dedication, vision, and tireless commitment to the betterment of our communities which are appendages of Local Governments.

In this past year, you have shown purposeful and exemplary leadership, navigating challenges with grace and resilience while championing progress and inclusivity for all.

Under your guidance, we have witnessed remarkable strides in our sector traversing the appointments of qualified and eligible employees into positions, staff promotions, conversions, training and retraining tailored towards migration to E-Governance as well as prompt payment of salary and the liquidation of inherited bag logs owed employees in consonance with the whole marks of your administrations mantra of the time is now.

Despite the needless security concerns posed by detractors of peace, your good governance strategy is yielding positively on infrastructural development across sectors of human endeavor, these unwavering determination to prioritize the needs of the people has not gone unnoticed, and we are grateful for your steadfast devotion to the advancement of Plateau State.

As you reflect on this significant milestone, may you find inspiration in the progress so far achieved as we pray God to renew your vigor to tackle the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

May your leadership continue to inspire confidence and optimism amongst us, and we look forward to the continued prosperity and development of our beloved state under your stewardship.

Once again, congratulations on your one-year anniversary Mr. Governor. May your tenure be filled with continued success, fulfillment, and the realization of our shared aspirations for Plateau State.

Signed:
Aminchi K. Joshua
Information Officer
For: Chairman
Local Government Service Commission



Tangni

Happy



From

Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs



I Hon. Ephraim Usman, on behalf of the acting permanent secretary, Management and the entire Staff of the ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Plateau State, heartily felicitate with our Amiable Leader, "The captain of The Time is Now" Mantra, The Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang** and his Deputy, **Hon. Josephine Piyo** on their one year in office.

There is no doubt that your Administration within the past one year has achieved a lot, especially in massive Road Constructions, Transportation, Agriculture, Sanitation, Human Capital Development, Educational Transformation and Rural Development which has indeed endeared you to the people of the State.

The ability of your Administration to cleared **N 4.5 billion** out of **N 4.7 billion**, inherited salary arrears of primary school Teachers, Local Government workers and Pensioners, apart from the over **10 billion** back log of State Government workers Arrears which have all been cleared, has no doubt printed your name in gold as dividend of democracy personified.

As you continue with the developmental stride across the state, we pray that the Almighty God will empower you with grace, divine wisdom and sound health to pilot our state to Greater heights.

Congratulations. **Your Excellency.**

Signed:

Hon. Ephraim Usman

Commissioner, Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Plateau State.

Goodwill MESSAGE

from
Ministry of Water Resources and Energy



Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang

Noel N. Nkup

It is with great honor and pleasure that I, **Hon. Noel Na'anniap Nkup**, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, Management and Staff of the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy, extend my warmest congratulations to you on the successful completion of your first year in office as the Governor of Plateau State. This milestone is not just a testament to your dedication and leadership, but also an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable strides made in the water and energy resources sectors under the **"The Time is Now" Administration**.

Water and energy are the lifeblood of any thriving society. They are crucial for health, agriculture, industry, and overall economic development. Your administration's commitment to enhancing these vital sectors has been evident from the outset, and the impact of your initiatives is already being felt across Plateau State. The Mutfwang Administration has allocated the sum of **Fifteen Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty – Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty – Six Naira (N 15,988,944,486.00) only** for the **Water Sector** in the 2024 Approved Budget.

Under your leadership, significant progress has been made in the water sector. One of the notable achievements is the ongoing process for the expansion and rehabilitation of water supply schemes across the state. Access to clean and potable water is fundamental to public health and well-being, and your administration's efforts to ensure that more communities have reliable access to this essential resource are commendable. The rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure, alongside the development of new water projects, has alleviated the challenges faced by many residents, particularly in rural areas.

Your administration's emphasis on modernizing water infrastructure through advanced technology cannot be overlooked. The ongoing reforms in the Jos Water Services Corporation (JWSC) towards the introduction of smart water management systems and the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for mapping and monitoring water resources have revolutionized the way water is managed in Plateau State.

In the energy sector, your administration has made significant strides towards improving electricity access and reliability. The review of the Law Establishment the Plateau State Energy Corporation (PSEC) under your leadership is a landmark achievement. Also under your watch, the Plateau Rural Electrification Fund and the Plateau State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) have been established. These policies have created an enabling environment for the growth of small businesses, improved security, and enhanced the quality of life for residents.

The focus on renewable energy sources is particularly commendable. Plateau State is blessed with abundant solar energy potential, and your administration's initiatives to harness this resource through processes to install solar panels in schools, healthcare centers, and public buildings are highly praiseworthy. These initiatives are a testament to your commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship. By promoting renewable energy, you are not only providing a reliable power source but also contributing to the global efforts to combat climate change.

Your administration's collaboration with private investors and international organizations to boost the energy sector has also borne fruit. These partnerships have attracted much-needed investment into the state, leading to the development of mini-grid systems and other renewable energy projects that have further enhanced energy access in remote areas. The emphasis on training and capacity building for local engineers and technicians in the renewable energy sector is building a skilled workforce that will sustain these initiatives for years to come.

As we celebrate this one-year milestone, it is important to acknowledge that these achievements are the result of a clear vision, strategic planning, and effective implementation. Your leadership has inspired a collective effort among government officials, private sector partners, and the residents of Plateau State to work towards common goals. The participatory approach you have adopted, involving stakeholders in decision-making processes, has fostered a sense of ownership and commitment to the state's development agenda.

Looking ahead, there is no doubt that the foundation laid in your first year will pave the way for even greater accomplishments in the years to come. The continued focus on expanding water and energy infrastructure, promoting renewable energy, and ensuring sustainable management of resources will undoubtedly position Plateau State as a leader in these critical sectors.

Your Excellency, as you embark on the second year of your tenure, we are confident that your administration will continue to build on these successes and address any remaining challenges with the same vigor and determination. The progress made in the water and energy sectors is a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for all, demonstrating what can be achieved with visionary leadership and unwavering commitment.

Once again, congratulations on your one-year anniversary as Governor of Plateau State. The advancements in the water and energy sectors are a testament to your exemplary leadership, and I look forward to witnessing even more transformative developments under your administration. May your tenure continue to be marked by progress, prosperity, and the well-being of all residents of Plateau State.

Noel N. Nkup
 Honourable Commissioner



Plateau State Tourism Corporation, Jos

Felicitate

WITH THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR FOR A ONE MEMORABLE YEAR IN OFFICE

The General Manager, Management and entire Staff of the Plateau State Tourism Corporation heartily felicitate with His Excellency **BARR. CALEB MANASSEH MUTFWANG** and his Deputy, **NGO JOSEPHINE PIYO** on the occasion of a purposeful one year in Office. Your administration has no doubt redefined leadership and service delivery within one year since your assumption of office as Executive Governor of Plateau State.

You have shown commitment and patriotic zeal in providing quality service and dividend of democracy to the good People of Plateau State as witness in the massive rehabilitation of Road Network within the Greater Jos Master Plan area, the modernization of transportation and related services in the state, strategic intervention in security and the transformations going on in agriculture are just but a few of the transformative interventions achieved within the year.

This are enabling environment put together by your administration which have no doubt boost investor confidence for the development and promotion of Tourism in Plateau State. In deed "The Time is Now" to tap into the State's huge comparative advantage in Tourism by strategically positioning Tourism to take its rightful place in generating wealth for government and the People.

Your Excellency Sir, as we celebrate one year in office of a purposeful leadership to the People of Plateau State. It is our sincere prayer that the Almighty God continue to guide and protect you as you pilot the affairs of Plateau State leading to greater development that makes Plateau a destination of choice for visitors and Tourists alike.

Signed:
PWAJOK CHUWANG NYAM
General Manager/Chief Executive



Goodwill MESSAGE

**TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF PLATEAU STATE
BARR. CALEB MANASSEH MUTFWANG
ON HIS ONE YEAR IN OFFICE**



Hon. Musa Sule Haruna

THE Honorable Commissioner Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **Hon. Sule Musa**, Permanent Secretary, management, entire staff of the ministry and the good people of Plateau State, heartily felicitate with the Executive Governor, Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, Deputy Governor, **Ngo Josephine Piyo** and members of the Executive Council, on the occasion of your one-year anniversary as the Executive Governor of Plateau State. Your leadership under the mantra, "**The Time is now**", has brought about commendable progress and positive changes to the state.

We are highly impressed by your commitment to promoting the welfare of Plateau State workers and infrastructural development witnessed during your one year as Governor, Your efforts to prioritize the needs and elevate the status of Plateau citizens is appreciated and this reflects your dedication to good governance, as seen in the commissioning of the Duncan Fertilizer blending plant, the planned establishment of the International Market around Police Staff College Jos, Potato Blending Plant at Gakop Kuru and Permanent Trade Fair Centre among others.

As you mark this significant milestone in your tenure, we wish you continued success, wisdom, and strength in leading our State towards greater height of prosperity and development. May your tenure be characterized by more Remarkable achievement and enduring legacies that will positively impact generations to come.

Once again, Congratulations!

Signed:
Hon. Musa Sule Haruna
Commissioner Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Health

One year after: Transforming the health sector



By FWENGJI GOAR

IN the annals of Plateau State, Monday, May 29, 2023, stands as a pivotal moment marked by the ascension of Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang to the esteemed position of governor. With his inauguration, a new dawn of governance illuminated the horizon, promising a revitalized era of leadership and renewed hope for the citizens of the state.

As the first year in office unfolds under his stewardship, the winds of change sweep across the landscape, carrying with them the anticipation of transformative progress and the prospect of a brighter future for all.

In the immediate aftermath of assuming office, Governor Mutfwang swiftly turned his attention to the intricate workings of governance. Outlining a comprehensive policy agenda known as the "Seven Focal Points of The Green Cap Policy Thrust," his administration embarked on a journey marked by strategic priorities:

1. Good Governance and Citizen Engagement in Sustainable Development: Championing transparency, accountability, and active citizen participation to foster sustainable progress.

2. Peace, Security, and Social Justice: Committing to the preservation of peace, promotion of security, and advancement of social justice for all residents of Plateau State.

3. Revitalizing Agriculture and Rural Transformation: Spearheading initiatives aimed at revitalizing the agricultural sector and driving rural development.

4. Education and Human Capital Development: Prioritizing investments in education and human capital to nurture the state's intellectual and creative potential.

5. Public Health, Environmental Preservation, Tourism, and Mineral Development: Ensuring the well-being of citizens through robust healthcare systems while harnessing the state's natural resources for sustainable development and promoting tourism.

6. Infrastructure Development and Industrialization: Undertaking ambitious projects to enhance infrastructure and stimulate



PSSH Server Room (EMR)

industrial growth, thus bolstering economic prosperity.

7. Taxation, Resource Mobilization, and Investment: Implementing prudent fiscal policies to optimize revenue generation, attract investments, and ensure the efficient allocation of resources for sustainable development.

Aligned with these focal points, Governor Mutfwang's administration embarked on a mission to catalyze positive change, foster inclusive development, and usher in an era of prosperity for all Plateau State residents.

Focusing on the fifth pillar of Governor Mutfwang's administration - public health, environmental preservation, tourism and mineral development - significant strides have been made in healthcare delivery over the past year. Under his visionary leadership, the healthcare sector is undergoing a remarkable transformation, characterized by a commitment to excellence and accessibility for all citizens.

Through strategic investments and innovative initiatives, the Mutfwang administration is bolstering healthcare infrastructure, equipping medical facilities, and enhancing the capacity of healthcare professionals. This concerted effort is not only improving the quality of healthcare services but is also expanding their reach to remote and underserved communities across Plateau State.

Moreover, the administration's proactive approach to public

health challenges is yielding commendable results in disease prevention, control, and management. Governor Mutfwang's administration has demonstrated a steadfast dedication to safeguarding the well-being of the populace.

Furthermore, the administration's emphasis on environmental preservation has synergistically contributed to public health efforts. By addressing environmental factors that impact health, such as pollution and sanitation, the administration has created a conducive environment for healthy living and sustainable development.

The health sector in Plateau State has long been faced with challenges ranging from inadequate infrastructure to low healthcare access and poor health outcomes. However, with the inauguration of Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang as governor, there emerged a renewed commitment to revitalize the healthcare system and prioritize the well-being of the state's residents.

Prior to Mutfwang's assumption of office, Plateau State's healthcare system grappled with issues such as limited healthcare facilities, insufficient healthcare personnel, and maternal and child mortality. Key health indicators painted a concerning picture of the state's health landscape, highlighting the urgent need for reform.

The impact of these initiatives was palpable within the first year. Maternal and child mortality rates saw a noticeable

decline, and access to essential healthcare services improved significantly. While challenges persisted, such as lingering infrastructure deficits and resource constraints, the progress made underscored the effectiveness of Governor Mutfwang's leadership in prioritizing the health sector.

The administration actively engaged with communities and stakeholders to ensure their voices were heard in shaping healthcare policies and programs. Community health workers were mobilized to deliver essential healthcare services to remote areas, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment among local populations.

Partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental organizations played a crucial role in augmenting the state's healthcare efforts. Collaborations with international agencies and donor organizations provided much-needed resources and technical expertise, enabling the implementation of innovative healthcare solutions.

Recently, the Plateau State Ministry for Health gave its scorecard, highlighting accomplishments for the period under review. The Commissioner, Dr. Cletus Bako Shurkuk, enthused that in the ever-evolving landscape of public health, the Ministry of Health has spearheaded a multitude of initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of citizens. This is being done through a holistic approach encompassing staff welfare, infrastructure development, capacity building, and strategic partnerships, through which

significant strides have been made in elevating the quality and accessibility of healthcare services across the state.

One of the pivotal achievements during this period was the prioritization of staff welfare, as evidenced by the timely payment of arrears and salary enhancements for medical professionals. This not only boosted morale but also underscored the government's commitment to recognizing and valuing the contributions of healthcare workers.

Additionally, the establishment of new healthcare facilities such as the National Orthopaedic Hospital in Jos and the Federal Medical Centre in Wase further expanded the healthcare infrastructure, ensuring broader coverage and improved access to specialized services.

Infrastructure development emerged as a cornerstone of the healthcare agenda, with significant investments directed towards renovating existing facilities and establishing modern healthcare hubs.

The renovation of units within the old Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) and the conversion of Cottage Hospital Wase into a temporary site for the Federal Medical Centre exemplify this commitment to upgrading healthcare infrastructure. Furthermore, the allocation of

Continued on page 26

Health

One year after: Transforming the health sector



Continued from page 25

land for permanent sites underscores a forward-looking approach towards sustainable healthcare development.

Innovative strategies for effective healthcare delivery have been implemented, notably the introduction of the Plateau State Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance System (PLASEMSAS). This initiative, coupled with the procurement of oxygen equipment and the establishment of a modern drugs and commodities warehouse, reflects a proactive stance towards addressing emergent healthcare needs and ensuring adequate supply chains for essential medical supplies.

The issue of drugs, products and medical commodities being out of stock is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The imminent full take-off of the Plateau State Drugs and Medical Commodities Management Agency (PS-DMCMA) heralds a new era. With its services, drugs and medical commodities will be reliably accessible, primarily for all state-owned primary, secondary and tertiary health facilities in Plateau State.

Also, the soon-to-be-commissioned pharma grade warehouse of the agency, coupled with the release of take-off grant and other necessary funding promises to be the icing on the cake. This will ensure that healthcare delivery in Plateau State becomes not only accessible, but also affordable and efficient.

Strategic partnerships with international organizations and agencies have been instrumental in augmenting healthcare initiatives. Collaborative efforts with entities such as the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Global Fund, and the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative have facilitated the



Partnership with TASTE

procurement of vital resources, including insecticide-treated nets and medical assistance for vulnerable populations. These partnerships not only leverage external expertise and resources but also foster knowledge exchange and capacity-building opportunities.

The advent of "The Time is Now" administration heralded a new era of progress within the healthcare sector, marked by significant achievements across various fronts. The revitalization of health outlets, procurement of essential medical equipment, and implementation of electronic health management systems underscore a commitment to modernizing healthcare delivery and enhancing efficiency.

Moreover, initiatives such as the Plateau State Humanitarian Emergency Operation Centre demonstrate a proactive stance towards addressing emerging health challenges, ensuring a robust emergency response mechanism.

At the grassroots level, the Primary Health Care Board has been instrumental in extending essential services to communities, with a focus on maternal and child health interventions. From the installation of solar panels to ensure round-the-clock

healthcare services to the distribution of therapeutic food for malnourished children, the board's efforts have yielded tangible improvements in health outcomes at the community level. Renovation of primary healthcare facilities further underscores a commitment to enhancing access to quality healthcare services in underserved areas.

The Ministry of Health's multifaceted approach to healthcare governance has yielded commendable outcomes, ranging from infrastructure development to innovative service delivery models. By prioritizing staff welfare, forging strategic partnerships, and embracing technological innovations, the region has witnessed a transformative shift towards a more resilient and inclusive healthcare system. As the journey towards universal health coverage continues, these achievements serve as a testament to the collective commitment towards ensuring the health and well-being of all citizens of Plateau State.

Recently, Governor Caleb Mutfwang allocated a sum of N327 million to bolster the Plateau State Contributory Health Care Management Agency (PLASCHEMA). This

initiative aims to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage for vulnerable and underprivileged residents.

The current coverage stands at about 5%, and the agency aims to reach at least 90% by the year 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The agency has enrolled about 277,862 people into the scheme so far.

The governor has emphasized his administration's commitment to prioritizing the well-being of the civil service, ensuring timely payment of salaries, providing training, and releasing overheads regularly to enhance productivity. He also approved the payment of 90% Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) and 75% Hazard Allowance to health workers, the Joint Health Workers Union (JOHESU), and the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) in the state.

Looking ahead, the administration remains committed to building upon the progress achieved in the first year. Plans are underway to further strengthen healthcare infrastructure, enhance healthcare delivery systems, and expand access to specialized healthcare services. The administration recognizes that sustained investment and collaboration will be essential in realizing its vision of a healthier Plateau State.

No doubt, the first year of Barr Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang's governorship marked a pivotal moment in the transformation of Plateau State's health sector.

Through decisive leadership, strategic investments, and meaningful community engagement, significant strides were made towards improving health outcomes and ensuring the well-being of all residents.

While challenges remain, the

foundation has been laid for a healthier and more resilient healthcare system that will serve the people of Plateau State for years to come.

To further advance the health sector's transformation, it is recommended that the government continue to prioritize investment in healthcare infrastructure, strengthen partnerships with local and international stakeholders, and prioritize preventive healthcare measures to address underlying health determinants.

The vision of the Ministry for Health is to provide quality accessible and affordable health care services to all people living within Plateau State.

The significance of this vision lies in its commitment to addressing key healthcare challenges within Plateau State. This signals a commitment to improving the overall health and well-being of citizens, and as well suggests a focus on inclusivity, ensuring that healthcare services are available to all individuals regardless of their socio-economic status or geographic location within Plateau State.

It serves as a guiding light for healthcare planning and implementation, aiming to achieve better health outcomes and ultimately improve the quality of life for the people.

Little wonder, Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang captures it most succinctly thus: "The health sector, being of utmost importance, warrants a focused and critical approach."

"The impact of these initiatives was palpable within the first year. Maternal and child mortality rates saw a noticeable decline, and access to essential healthcare services improved significantly. While challenges persisted, such as lingering infrastructure deficits and resource constraints, the progress made underscored the effectiveness of Governor Mutfwang's leadership in prioritizing the health sector."

Sports

A sports score card



By ANDRE BISYIT

THE Plateau State Ministry of Youths and Sports Development was created in 1999 out of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The Lalong administration split the Ministry into two – the Ministry of Youths Development and that of Sports Development. However, immediately the present administration came on board it reverted the ministry to its 1999 status of Ministry of Youths and Sports Development. The ministry is saddled with the vision and mission of harnessing the full potential of the youths for national development and also to ensure good leadership and economic self-reliance for sustainable development.

Briefing journalists on the Ministry's score card in the last one year, Bashir Lawandi Datti, Commissioner for Youths and Sports Development, highlighted the functions of the ministry thus: "to implement youths policies in line with the National Youths Policy, planning, organizing and coordinating the activities of the youths in the state, supervising and monitoring the activities of the National Youths Service Corps, providing work opportunities and Technical Entrepreneurial Training for the youths in the area of youth empowerment programmes, development and promotion of sports potential of the youth to empower them to be engaged productively, among others."

The Commissioner informed journalists that his Ministry has some parastatals like Plateau State Sports Council, Plateau United Football Club and Mighty Jets International Football Club.

He said that in the past one year the Ministry has faced a lot of challenges as a result of negligence by the past administration. However, with the matching order by the governor for the need to create a conducive working environment, the Ministry swung into action by purchasing office equipment, furniture and a new brand power generator, E65KWH 7000W, to cope with the issue of incessant power outages.

With the recent attacks in some parts of the state, including Mangu LGA, where the National Youths Service Corps Orientation Camp is located, it became expedient to relocate the Camp elsewhere to ensure the safety of corps members. A lot of workshops have been organized on peace and security for the teeming youth who are the ones mostly hired during crises.

According to Datti, the ministry's parastatals have achieved a lot in the past one year. The Sports Council has ensured that the state contingents performed creditably in many tournaments they featured. The state won five gold, thirteen Silver and seven bronze medals at the National Para Games held in Abuja last year to place the state on eleventh position in the overall ranking. The state also won numerous laurels in badminton, karate, handball and hockey. He added that, during the last National Youths Games held in Asaba, Delta State, the athletes clinched five gold, four silver and fifteen bronze medals to better the state's previous record - all due to the motivational factor instilled by the present administration of Governor Mutfwang.

The commissioner said that in respect of Plateau United Football Club and Mighty Jets International Football Club, government made funds available for the preparation of the Nigerian Professional Football League, NPFL, and the Nigerian National League, NNL, 2023/2024 season, with signing of capable players and payment of 50% sign-on fees. To fortify the clubs, pre-season matches were played in preparation for the commencement of the league and the teams are doing well in the leagues and also football academies. Female teams were formed for both clubs and

a thirty - seater coaster bus was procured for Mighty Jets FC to ease their transportation challenges.

In an exclusive interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD, Professor Ezra Gunen, Director of Sports, Plateau State Sports Council, pointed out that he had met the council in a slumber, as it was not given the required attention by the past administration. Now, the atmosphere has changed for the better as athletes and staff are beginning to understand and put their trust in the new administration. He said immediately he was appointed, the state participated in the National Youths Youth Games in Delta State and performed excellently by emerging tenth, while in the Para Games the state emerged seventh on the medals table. The female hockey team emerged the winners of the just concluded Five Aside Hockey National Championship, which was far above the previous performance.

He appreciated Governor Mutfwang for providing support to the council to thrive: "I want to sincerely appreciate His Excellency, the governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, for supporting the cause of sports by sponsoring a lot of competition. We have participated in many championships and performed well. At present, our handball female team has qualified for an international championship in Cameroon, billed for October this year and funds have been released to that effect."

"We have established academies all over the state to enable our athletes perform well and recently two of our athletes won the Enugu Marathon." He further lamented on the level of decay of their facilities, but expressed optimism that they would soon be upgraded.

Mbum Ferdinand, General Manager, Mighty Jets International Football Club of Jos, thanked Governor Mutfwang for giving them the opportunity to play their own part in the development of the club and sports in general. He stressed that when they came in as management of the club last year, there was ownership tussle between the government and the founders of the club, but it was resolved amicably and the government now has 70% ownership of the club. He stated that though the ownership tussle affected the performance of the team in the league this season, a lot of experience to perform better in the next season had been gained.

"By the grace of God next season we are going for promotion to the Nigeria Professional Football League, NPFL. We maintained our position in the NNL and we are happy about that. It really thought us a lot of lessons. It was like a learning process and the experience has been wonderful. We've learned from our mistakes and next season we'll be different."

The General Manager revealed that the management of the club faced a lot of challenges but they were able to change the narrative, adding that the club didn't have a bus for conveying players and officials to match venues, but they were able to purchase a thirty-seater Coaster bus through their savings. He also said that some players' monthly salaries have been enhanced by the government and the gesture has motivated them a lot. He further pointed out that another challenge faced was traveling allowances and match bonuses of the players which have been enhanced.

In addition, the club management has ensured that during away games the best accommodation is given to the players.

Ferdinand further disclosed that they have plans on ground that would yield resources for the club so as to make it self-reliant. "We promised that we'll not be a liability and we're working assiduously towards achieving that. Our marketing department is working hard, as they have made a couple of trips in respect of some sporting directors of clubs beyond the shores of Nigeria who visited here to pick some of our players, as four of them are travelling to Malaga FC of Spain."

He further explained, "We also met with some clubs in the United Kingdom during the International Sports Convention, such as Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton, with the aim of spreading our tentacles thereby



Datti



Mutla



Mutfwang presenting Governor's Cup to winners



Ferdinand

luring a lot of clubs which we would want to partner with. This type of collaboration has never happened in the history of Nigerian football. The aim is to raise resources in order to support the government coffers and the team."

The General Manager maintained that there had not been any government in the history of Plateau State that had supported the club like the present administration with enough resources to tinker with the club and to even establish a female team that will feature in the female league. To him football, and even sports generally, has never had it this good!

Plateau united FC boss counts blessings

Immediately Habila Hosea Mutla was appointed General Manager of Plateau United Football Club of Jos, he realised the need for changes to be put in place to fortify the technical crew. This led to the appointment of Mbus Mangut as Technical Adviser, Patrick Mancha, as Chief Coach and Sani Adamus Assistant Chief Coach, among others.

He revealed that the other reason for the changes was to maintain the life-long philosophy of the club - to win the Nigerian biggest league.

He said said that before the league started, they had set a target of lifting the trophy, thus scoring sixty goals. And with six more games to the end of the season, their target is achievable.

The club's youth team, which wasn't vibrant before the advent of the current government, emerged second during the just concluded Youths League of the Nigerian

Premier League. Also, the female team, known as the Plateau Queens, participated in the Challenge Cup. Next year, they will compete in the female version of the national league.

He enthused, "As you can see, we've really pushed hard to ensure that the main team wins the league. If we miss the league, we'll not miss the Challenge Cup. That's our target."

"Above all, the governor has proved to us that he loves sports. He has always made sure that we attend our games by releasing funds and no player is owing the club. There were players I met on loan but I said we should either keep them or let them go because the philosophy of the team is not to gather players on loan. But anyone who wears our jersey should be our product and we'll ensure that some of our youth players are absorbed into the main team."

Mutla further explained that although the tem is presently in the sixth position in the league, they were pushing harder in order to win the league so as to represent the country at the CAF Champions League.

According to him, that they had ensured that the Jos Township Stadium remained crisis free and without hooliganism even if they lose a home game. In addition, the reduction of the gate fees to N100 has given spectators a sense of belonging as they troop to watch matches with the revenue generated paid into government coffers.

Water

Prioritizing water supply

By ISRAEL NANJUL LAR

THE significance of water in human existence or its role in the sustenance of life generally cannot be over-emphasised. Indeed, virtually everything that has life cannot do without water. That is why it is often said that water is life.

Adequate supply of water is central to life and civilization. As a matter of fact, water is one of the five basic human needs. The other four are food, healthcare, education and peace. However, a common factor or denominator to the five is water. Therefore, other socio-economic activities depend on the availability of water.

According to a report by the United Nations (UN) presented on the 2024 World Water Day, it was noted that more than 3 billion people worldwide depend on water that crosses national borders. Unfortunately, the findings revealed that only 24 countries have water corporation agreements for all their shared water systems.

Needless to say that water can create peace or spark conflict. When water is scarce or polluted or when people seem to have unequal or no access to clean water, this may result to tensions and can even cause conflicts between communities or countries. No wonder, because of the global impact of water, the UN has set aside March 22 each year for humanity to celebrate as World Water Day (WWD).

In Nigeria, due to the importance of water resources to the citizens, the Federal Government, through its strategic approach to good governance, came up with the National Water Policy (NWP) aimed at recognising the need to balance water uses, water allocation and water protection carefully through a regulatory system of river basins.

Furthermore, a proactive-based management principle and a participatory approach mechanism have been put in place. More so, the strategic approach represents a radical paradigm shift in the way that the water sector will be managed in the country.

In the same vein, the Nigeria Water Policy Framework is a deliberate



attempt towards rejecting the top-bottom approach. In addition, the water policy seeks and is looking towards implementing an integrated approach and effective water management of resources.

Similarly, the National Water Policy sees water as an economic good. This is because water is supplied at a cost, and the service may not be sustained if the real cost of supplying it is not covered.

The Managing Director of the Jos Water Services Corporation, Engineer

Apollos Simon Samchi, told **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** that he concurred with the above assertion, noting that tapping water resources had become a business-driven venture.

He stated that in Plateau State, there was an on-going Metering Strategic Plan to cater for households and business premises, affirming that by so doing the Corporation would be able to keep track of the quantity of water going out and the quantity of water used by customers.



Engineer Samchi expressed the strong view that water was a legitimate need of people to be met by any responsive government for the benefit of its citizens. On the other hand, he noted that the major challenge of delivering quality water to the citizens was finance.

According to the Managing Director, on assumption of office he was faced with a lot of problems including payment of salaries to 1,040 ad-hoc staff as well as 2023 end of year bonuses. In addition, the outstanding promotion of staff who were due was a herculean task and hurdle to cross.

Another challenge confronting the Corporation is replacing burst or rusted asbestos pipes with plastic ones in line with international best practices prescribed by the United Nations which has warned that asbestos pipes are cancerous to human beings.

On water reticulation, Engineer Samchi explained that the Corporation was embarking on repairs and replacement of other obsolete machines and equipment to pave way for provision of quality and affordable water to the good people of Plateau State like never before.

In view of the above, he asserted that the state government would, in collaboration with World Bank, ensure the successful implementation of the UN Charter on Water Resource Management. He called on the citizens of Plateau State to rally round the new breed governor, who was determined to make the difference in the state by paying their water rates promptly.

Needless to say that Nigeria is considered to be abundantly blessed with resources. However, there are temporal and spatial variations in water availability across the country as well as its regions. In addition to being blessed with abundant water resources, the desire to improve access to these resources is becoming more and more elusive because of the rapidly increasing demand for water against the backdrop of high population growth coupled with increasing urbanisation and rising living conditions due to economic growth. These have resulted to shortages of water in urban and rural areas, competing water usages, lower level of irrigation potentials and degrading water sheds, to mention but a few.

As climate change impact increases and population grows, there is an urgent need within and between countries to unite to protect and conserve our most precious resources. This is more so that public health and strategic food and energy systems, economic productivity and environmental integrity all rely on a well-managed water cycle.

"Therefore, if the Plateau State Government, through the relevant MDAs, provides not just water but clean water to our state, LGAs and other rural communities, this will go a long way in having a positive ripple effect on the quality of the lives of the people of the state. It will also foster harmony by generating prosperity and building resilience to shared challenges that are associated with water shortages in our state and the nation at large."

Goodwill MESSAGE

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR OF PLATEAU STATE,
BARR. CALEB MANASSEH MUTFWANG
ON HIS ONE YEAR IN OFFICE



The Hon. Commissioner, Management and Staff of the Ministry of information and Communication commemorate with his Excellency the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb M. Mutfwang** and the peace loving people of Plateau State on the occasion of one year in office of his administration.

Your **Excellency Sir**, you have justified the mandate given to you by God and the vast majority of the good people of Plateau State. Indeed this is seen in your mantra **"The Time is Now"** which provides the inspiration for the human capital development, agricultural rebirth, improved health-care delivery system, educational growth and enhanced workers welfare, among others. There is tremendous improvement in all sectors of Political, Social, Economic life especially in the Information sector.

Furthermore, you have employed an effective mechanism for sustained peace in the State, by initiating programmes, policies and project with direct bearing on the lives of the citizens. Indeed Plateau State is on the path of sustained growth and development with the people's mandate at the helm of affairs.

The people of Plateau State are very grateful for your recent approval for employment into civil service, as well as the recently launched metro buses to cushion transportation difficulties in the state. We also commend the recent youth tailored agricultural programme undertaken by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture among others. Indeed the Land is Green.

We congratulate you on this one year impactful journey and look forward to more promising and fruitful years ahead as we continue to superintend the affairs of our dear State. Be assured of our continued prayers, support and loyalty at all times, Sir. Once again, congratulations and best wishes to the people's Governor.

"The Time Is Now"

Signed:
Musa Ibrahim Ashoms
Honourable Commissioner



Musa Ibrahim Ashoms

Congratulatory Message

From

P L A M W A S S A



The General Manager, PLAMWASSA, **Engr. Julius Nda Akawu**, the dedicated management team, the entire staff of PLAMWASSA, and the peace-loving people of Plateau State, heartily felicitate with His Excellency, Executive Governor, Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Mutfwang**, your deputy, **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, and the esteemed members of the Executive Council on the occasion of your one-year anniversary in office.

Your dynamic leadership style has been a beacon of hope and progress, particularly in your resolute efforts to tackle the pressing issue of insecurity within our beloved state. Your decisive actions and strategic initiatives have brought about a tangible sense of safety and tranquility, instilling confidence and trust in the hearts of every Plateau citizen.

Furthermore, we applaud your unwavering commitment to infrastructural development, which has transformed the landscape of Plateau State and laid a solid foundation for future growth and prosperity. Your visionary projects have not only enhanced our physical infrastructure but have also created countless opportunities for economic advancement and social development.

Moreover, your dedication to restructuring and revitalizing the civil service, as well as rejuvenating economic and social aspects within the state, has been truly commendable. Your innovative policies and reforms have ushered in a new era of efficiency, transparency, and accountability, setting a benchmark for governance excellence.

Additionally, we are inspired by your zeal in attracting both human and natural development to Plateau State. Your initiatives aimed at uplifting our state to an enviable position reflect your profound commitment to the well-being and advancement of every Plateau citizen.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement.

Signed:
Engr. Julius Nda Akawu
General Manager
PLAMWASSA



Engr. Nda Akawu

PLATEAU EXPRESS SERVICES GROUP



On the occasion of one year in office

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**,

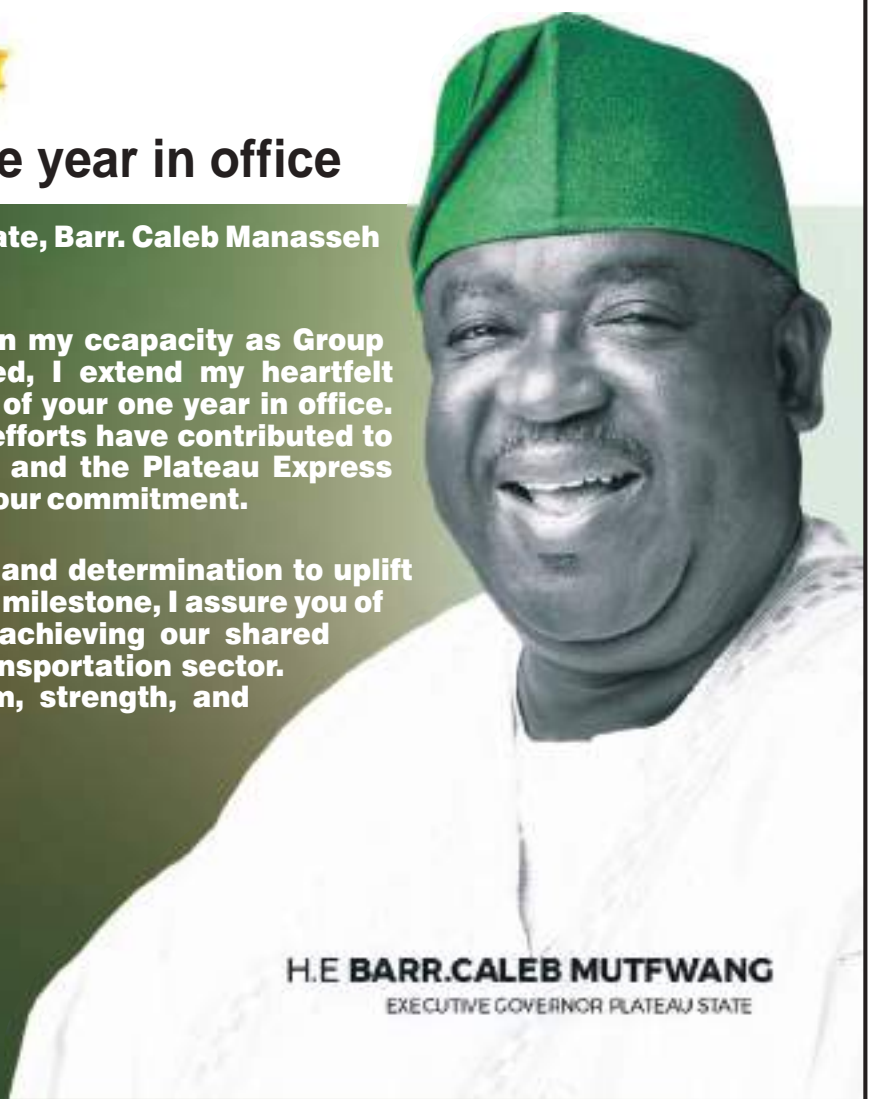
On behalf of the good people of Plateau State and in my capacity as Group Managing Director, Plateau Express Service Limited, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on the remarkable milestone of your one year in office. Your exemplary leadership, dedication, and tireless efforts have contributed to the development and progress of our beloved state and the Plateau Express Group that we all have grown to admire as a result of your commitment.

The strides made in the past year reflect your vision and determination to uplift Plateau State to greater heights. As we celebrate this milestone, I assure you of my continued support and to labouration towards achieving our shared goals of prosperity and total transformation in the transportation sector. May your tenure continue to be marked by wisdom, strength, and enduring success.

Congratulations once again, your Excellency.



Hon. Samuel Jok Gwott
Group Managing Director,
Plateau Express Services Group



H.E. BARR. CALEB MUTFWANG
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR PLATEAU STATE

Congratulatory Message From



Jos Water Service Corporation

on the occasion of one year anniversary of the
Executive Governor of Plateau State,
HIS BARR. CALEB MANASEH MUTFWANG.

The Managing Director Jos Water Services Corporation, **Engr. Apollos Simon Samchi**, Management and the entire Staff of the Corporation join millions of Plateau State Citizens and other Nigerians to Congratulate, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **BARR CALEB MANASSEH MUTFWANG**, his Deputy, **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly, **Hon Gabriel Dewan** and all our elected sons and daughters in the State and Federal Parliament for their celebration of one year in Office.

The entire water sector in the state is solidly behind the Governor's laudable programs and policies for the development of the State.

Within the one year, we, in the water sector had witnessed the reform that had brought about the on going rehabilitation of the long abandoned Yelwa - Bukuru Water treatment Plant, the reconstruction of the Bukuru overhead water tank, building of new offices within the water treatment plant and also the expansion of pipeline network to Gyel, Sot, Fwagul and Kwata Communities of Jos South LGA.

Other achievements include the procurement of assorted water treatment chemicals to ensure clean and sustained water supply through payments of electricity bills of all the water works to mention a few.

We are also appreciative of the physical development currently going on within Jos and Bukuru Metropolis and recently the introduction of Metro buses and train for Mass transport service within the state which has eased transportation to the people and the civil servants.

Furthermore, we note the gradual return of peace to the state as very commendable efforts to ensure food security with the setting in of the farming season.

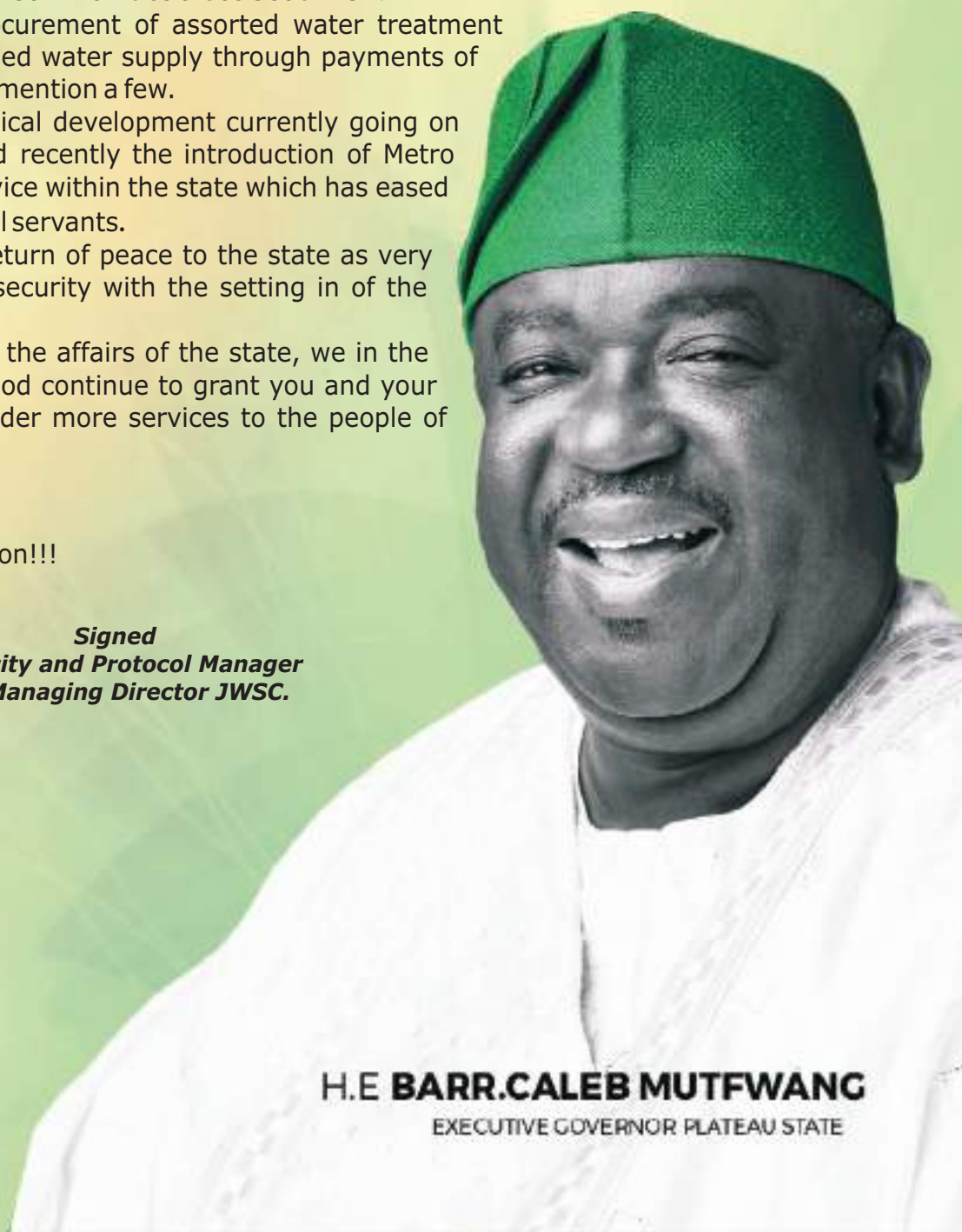
As Your Excellency continues to pilot the affairs of the state, we in the water sector pray that the Almighty God continue to grant you and your team wisdom and good health to render more services to the people of Plateau State.

Long live Plateau State!!
Long live Jos Water Services Corporation!!!



Engr. Apollos Samchi
Managing Director

Signed
Publicity and Protocol Manager
For Managing Director JWSC.



H.E BARR.CALEB MUTFWANG
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR PLATEAU STATE

Celebrating

Congratulations

on One Year of
Exemplary Leadership
An Encomium to His Excellency,
GOVERNOR CALEB MUTFWANG

IN OFFICE

PLATEAU STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SANITATION AGENCY

Congratulations to His Excellency, **Governor Caleb Mutfwang**, on completing one year of exemplary leadership as the Governor of Plateau State. Your steadfast commitment to the advancement of Plateau State and your endeavors to instill hope and confidence in governance have been truly remarkable. Your intentional efforts in providing the young people the platform to be mentored under your leadership has been impactful and highly appreciated.

The achievements in improving physical infrastructure, agriculture, human capital development, transportation, environmental initiatives, and the economy throughout the past year reflect your unwavering dedication to enhancing the prosperity and well-being of Plateau State. Additionally, your administration's focus on enhancing healthcare services, fostering positive relations with neighboring states and international partners, and attracting investors to Plateau State is commendable. Your proactive initiatives to broaden investment opportunities and elevate the state's standing on the global stage demonstrate a firm commitment to fostering economic growth and development.

As you commemorate this significant milestone, I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead. May your leadership continue to bring prosperity and positive transformation to Plateau State. There is no better time to serve Plateau people than now.

God bless you, Your Excellency, and may God continue to bless Plateau State.

Signed:
Samuel Nathaniel Dapiya,
Director General,
Plateau Environmental Protection
and Sanitation Agency (PEPSA)



Samuel Nathaniel Dapiya,

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
ISAAC AUTA ATAJIRI late of Plateau State, died on the 26th Jan, 2024. At Jos, Plateau State.	MARY ISAAC MAKSHWUM of no. B 39 Dachom Giring Abattior Jos South LGA. The lawful widow of the said deceased.	ZACHS UWADIA Late of Edo State, died on the 2nd Dec, 2023. At Mercy Seat Hosp. Kwata Zang Jos South LGA, Plateau State .	OKEKE JEREMAIH of Owan East Ohanmi Villiage Owan East LGA, Edo State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	BINADINYE EZEKIEL COCKEN late of Plateau State died on the 18th April, 2024. At Zabolo Bassa, LGA Plateau State.	EZEKIEL GEOFFREY BINADINYE of Zabola Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
PAM IRMIYA CHOLLOM late of Plateau, died on the 9th Nov. 2021. At BHUTH Jos, Plateau State.	JOHNSON IRIMIYA & ROSE PAM all of C/o Seven Day Adventise Laranto, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	OBADIAH SOGOTMIAL late of Plateau State, died on the 22nd April, 2023. At Bwall Nakum, Qua'anpan LGA, Plateau State.	KAGANYA BIT'AN LEO of Doemak Near COCIN Church Qua'anpan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	INSP. NUHU MAMMAN late of Plateau State, died on the 11th Nov. 2023. At Port-Harcourt, Rivers State.	MAMMAN YAKUBU NUHU & ZAINAB DANIEL of Angwan Mission, Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased.
ALLANANA AGBUJEN AFFIRU late of Nasarawa State, died on the 12th Sept, 2022. At JUTH, Plateau State.	GRACE ASHEBA AFFIRU of Keffi Nasarawa State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	ANTHONY ODOH late of Plateau State, died on the 17th Jan, 2024. At Amper, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	ANTHONY CHARITY of Amper Kanke LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	ADAMU MOHAMMED late of Plateau State, died on the 6th Nov, 2023, At Mangu, LGA Plateau State.	FIBI ADAMU of Near COCIN Church Chip Panksin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
GUMWESH JOSHUA PHILEMON, late of Plateau State, died on the 29th Oct, 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	GUMWESH PHILEMON KADUGUR of No 32 Lapap Layout BHD Mangu LGA, Secretariate . The lawful Father of the said deceased.	SALEH MOHAMMED late of Plateau State, died on the 13th Oct, 2022 At Jos, Plateau State.	ADNAN SALEH MOHAMMED of No.7 'A'Angwan Rogo Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	IBEH JAMES EZESINACHI late of Plateau State died on the 22ND Feb, 2024, at Kuka, Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	OBIAGELI AGNES IBEH of No.3 Kalong Rasd Shendam LGA PlateauState. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.
JOHN AKINADE ADEIUNJI late of Oyo State, died on the 2nd April, 2024. At Ibadan, oyo State.	AKINADE SUNDAY ADEWALE of T.14 Bauchi Ring Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	ISHAKU AZOK late of Plateau State, died on the 29th April, 2024. At Gyel, Jos South, LGA. Plateau State.	SAMSON AZOK ISHAKU of Gyel Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	EUNICE ZAITU late of Plateau State, died on the 27th Dec, 2022. At Miango. Bassa LGA Plateau State.	DUNG GRACE KIM of Kashan/Barkin Ladi LGA , Plateau State. Lawful Daughter of the said deceased.
POFI CLIFORD GARBA, late of Plateau State, died on the 6th March, 2020 at at JUTH, Plateau State.	LEYITNAAN JOSEPH POFI & EVELYN GARBA POFI of Mangu Halle, Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sister/newpew of the said deceased.	MUSA AZI, late of Plateau State, died on the 9th March, 2023 at Abattoir, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	VERONICA AGWOM MOSES of Gwafan Village Lamingo, Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	ADAMU IBRAHIM YULI, late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th November, 2023 at Kwai, Kanke LGA Plateau State.	AMINU ADAMU IBRAHIM of State Low-Cost, Wase LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
UPANCHIN BALA, late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th Dec, 2023 at Gen. Hosp. Langtang LGA, Plateau State.	FARAT DANIEL BALA & KATNAN DANIEL of No. 7 Gwarandok Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/son of the said deceased	LUCY EMMANUEL DAVID, late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th Jan, 2024 at, PSSH, Jos.	GABRIEL DAVID KAN of NO.4 Da David Mancha Street Hwolshe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NANZIP NAPDUL, late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd Jan, 2023 at Gen. Hosp. Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	NANZIP LADI GAMBO & MARBYEN NANZIP NAPDUL of Wurushalima Baptist Church Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.
MINAKA JORO DIMLONG, late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th Nov, 2022 at Gen. Hosp. Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	GONTUL KIRNAN TALSHAK of Pankshin Pada, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased	SAMUEL AVE SUMANGU, late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th Sept, 2023, at JUTH, Plateau State.	SAMUEL GIFT SUMANGU & EPHRAIM SAMUEL CHAMSAN of Kangang Near King's Sec. Sch. Jos, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	BOT HANKAKA LOGANG, late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th April, 2024 at Zawan, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	RAPP PIUS CHUHWAK St. Williams Catholic Church Zawan, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
DANBABA YAHAYA, late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th March, 2024 at Agbor, Bauchi State.	HUSNA DANBABA (MINOR) & FATIMA UMAR of Ganye Toro LGA, Bauchi State. Lawful daughter/widow of the said deceased.	GIDEON HABILA late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st April, 2024 at Luna Hosp. Bokkos, Plateau State.	MALLO JESSY GIDEON Takai Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	ONOJA ISRAEL & BROTHERS AUTO & INTERGRETED SERVICE LTD (ALSO KNOWN AS) ONOJA JACOB ISRAEL, late of Benue State. Died on the 14th April, 2024 at Odoba Otukpa Ogbadibo, Benue State.	CHRISTOPHER PETER ONOJA of Nigeria Airforce Base Jos south LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
ISA GARBU PETER, late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th Sept, 2018 at Cottage Hosp. Kwalla, Qua'an Pan LGA, Plateau State.	JOYCE YEIPYENG GARBU of OPP. Primary Health Care Barkin Ladi, LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased	MUSA SANI AJIYA, late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th April, 2022. at PSSH, Jos.	SHADRACH MUSA AJIYA & MESHACH MUSA AJIYA of Zara Zong Jos East LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	CELINA DAYIL, late of Plateau state. Died on the 9th Jan, 2021 at Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	CHARLES DAYIL of Total Area, Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
BONIFACE DANAAN DAKAT late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd Feb, 2024 at Angwan Doki, Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State..	DAKAT JOSEPH ENSEONG of Angwan Doki No. 1 T.C.N.N Junction, Bukuru Jos South LGA, Platea State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS		RHODA AROBA JATAU late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th July, 2023 at JUTH Plateau State.	NKAMI WILLIAMS IWARA of No. 15 Lamingo Dam Road Jos North, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

Change of Name

ELISHA

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

MUHAMMAD

I, formerly known as **MUHAMMAD SULEIMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD SULEIMAN AHMAD**. Correct date of birth is 1/1/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

NWORIE

I, formerly known as **NWORIE UCHENNA PHILIP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NWORIE UCHENNA GODSMIND**. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

GABRIEL

I, formerly known as **DANIYOR RINRET GABRIEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GABRIEL RINRET VERONICA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

FATIMA

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

ZAINAB

I, formerly known as **MISS MUHAMMAD ZAKARI ZAINAB**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS ZAINAB ZAKARI UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

JATAU

I, formerly known as **IBRAHIM PLANGNAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JATAU PATIENCE AKILA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

HALIMA

I, formerly known as **HALIMA AHMAD JIBRIN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HALIMA AHMAD IMAM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

SATI

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

HARUNA

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

ABAMU

I, formerly known as **SHANGTOK PATIENCE YOHANNA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABAMU PATINECE KERAH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ABUBAKAR

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

FADIMA

I, formerly known as **FATIMA NASIR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FADIMA NASIR BALA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DEBORAH

I, formerly known as **AGBOSURIA LINDA OWAMAGBOMWAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DEBORAH ENEHIZENA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DUNG

I, formerly known as **DAMARIS PAM DUNG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DUNG DAMARIS DAT**. correct date of birth is 05/08/1983 not 15/08/1983. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SAMBO

I, formerly known as **THOMAS NEHEMIAH DUNG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMBO WISDOM YOHANNA**. correct date of birth is 27/02/2004 not 27/02/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

PHILEMON

I, formerly known as **ALEWA MERCY GEOFFREY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PHILEMON MERCY GEOFFREY**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

VICTORIA

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

GIFT

I, formerly known as **SHIBAL GIFT ISHAYA**, now wish to be known and addressed **GIFT BULUS AYUBA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MASUD

I, formerly known as **MASUD SUDAIS SHUAIBU**, now wish to be known and addressed **MASUD SUDAIS RIM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MARYAM

I, formerly known as **LAWAL MARIAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MARYAM GARBA ALIYU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

YAKUBU

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

AGADI

I, formerly known as **AGADI, REBECHA JOSHUA**, now wish to be known and addressed **AGADI REBECAH JOSHUA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MANGYO

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

TIMOTHY

I, formerly known as **TIMOTHY KHIRNAAN MAGREAT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **TIMOTHY KHIRNAAN ILIYA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NUNGYIL

I, formerly known as **NUGYIL BORN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NUNGYIL ALEXANDA DANGNAAN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

YILZAK

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

CALISTUS

I, formerly known as **KWAPNOE MIAPYIL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **CALISTUS GURUMKWAL MIAPYIL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

EZEKIEL

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

PAM

I, formerly known as **JONATHAN SIM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PAM JANET JONATHAN**. Correct date of birth is 16/09/2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

YAKUBU

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

AKAWU

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

DANGANA

I, formerly known as **SAKO ASABE JAMES**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANGANA ASABE JAMES**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

IYKE

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

ADAMU

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

FANKUR

I, formerly known as **VICTOR JONATHAN WUYEP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FANKUR VICTOR YIMBUT**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DAVOU

I, formerly known as **DAVOU BENJAMIN DAVID**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DAVOU BENJAMIN GYANG**. Correct date of birth is 01/09/1998 not 01/08/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

WATTAN

I, formerly known as **PATIENCE NANRIBET FOTSHAK**, now wish to be known and addressed as **WATTAN PATIENCE DAPIL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MAGAJI

I, formerly known as **MAGAJI ISAAC PAUL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MAGAJI ISAAC-CHARIS PAUL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MUHAMMD

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

JULIANA

I, formerly known as **JULIANA NNATNAYI AUTA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JULIANA NNATNAYI BAWA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

CHINDO

I, formerly known as **CHINDO PENDONG DAKOGOL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **CHINDO GOEFREY DASHE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MUHAMMAD

I, formerly known as **MUHAMMED ABDUSHSHAKUR GORA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD ABDULSHAKUR GORA**. correct date of birth is 07/05/1999 not 07/05/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ISTIFANUS

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

PETER

I, formerly known as **SANDRA VITALIS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PETER NANKO SANDRA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ADAMSON

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

JACOB

I, formerly known as **JOCAD JULIAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JACOB JULIANA YAH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

HARUNA

I, formerly known as **YAHAYA MUHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HARUNA YAHAYA SULAIMAN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ISHAYA

I, formerly known as **DAKWAI MARYAM ISHAYA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ISHAYA MARYAMU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

WILLIAM

I, formerly known as **WILLIAM RIFKATU SAT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **WILLIAM GRACE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ABDULLAH

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

HAMZA

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

DAYOM

I, formerly known as **RAFAN URAM JAMES**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DAYOM URAM PANSHAK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

PETER

I, formerly known as **YALUNA JOESPHINE MBEN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PETER JOESPHINE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ONUUGBU

I, formerly known as **UDOKA AMAKA ODINAKA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ONUUGBU AMAKA KINGSLEY**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

APPOLOS

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

JELLA

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

YOHANNA

I, formerly known as **PETYA NAOMI DACHI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YOHANNA NAOMI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

OBED

I, formerly known as **ISTIFANUS PATIENCE JONAH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OBED PATIENCE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DANIEL

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

Change of Name

<p>NESA</p> <p>I, formerly known as GLONGLAHAM JENIFA MARKUS, now wish to be known and addressed as NESA JENNIFER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AUNI</p> <p>I, formerly known as UMARU RABECCA AUNI, now wish to be known and addressed as AUNI RABECCA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BIBANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as FWANGAR SALOMI JAMES, now wish to be known and addressed as BIBANG SALOMI JAMES. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GAMBO</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUSA KADIJA YUSUF, now wish to be known and addressed as GAMBO KADIJA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AUTA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAGULENG ASABE, now wish to be known and addressed as AUTA ASABE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HARUNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAZADU FADILA HARUNA, now wish to be known and addressed as HARUNA FADILA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>CHETSAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHETSAN HELEN ISHAYA, now wish to be known and addressed as CHETSAN HELEN YUNANA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KURIYEM</p> <p>I, formerly known as KABANG SALOMI KURIYEM, now wish to be known and addressed as KURIYEM SALOMI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABDULRAHAMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULRAMAN RAMATU, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULRAHAMAN RAMATA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DALUK</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALUK PANAN, now wish to be known and addressed as DALUK PANAN KUMNA. Correct date of birth is 10/6/1993 not 9/10/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>TUBWOT</p> <p>I, formerly known as TOMAS MARK, now wish to be known and addressed as TUBWOT MARKROHOP THOMAS. Correct date of birth is 24/7/1991 not 8/01/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DASHOR</p> <p>I, formerly known as DASHOR JANET, now wish to be known and addressed as DASHOR JANET SIMON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>GOBET</p> <p>I, formerly known as TONG GLADYS GWOM, now wish to be known and addressed as GOBET GLADYS NENDIRMWA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LUKA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALYOP TIMOTHY, now wish to be known and addressed as LUKA TIMOTHY DALYOP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HARUNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAAZU POLLINA HARUNA, now wish to be known and addressed as HARUNA PAULINA. Correct date of birth is 8/1/1975 not 22/1/1973. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AZI</p> <p>I, formerly known as AZI AJIJI ARUM, now wish to be known and addressed as AZI AJIJI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOHN</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN TELE, now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN MWANLE TELE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NAIBI</p> <p>I, formerly known as IBUNU NAIBI, now wish to be known and addressed as NAIBI UMARU USMAN. Correct date of birth is 03/03/1993. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>LONGPIT</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS. LONG'EP TABOET, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. LONGPIT TABOET JANNIFER. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MESHAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUSA LARABA, now wish to be known and addressed as MESHAK LARABA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOHN</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMES RAYMOND, now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN RAYMOND ZUNKI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	Space for sale		

News

Mutfwang tasks African leaders on economic partnerships

By PETER TITLE



Mutfwang

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State has called for urgent sustainable economic partnerships among African nations to effectively tackle the continent's pressing challenges.

The governor made this known while speaking at a business dinner in Abuja hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia and the Tunisia Africa Business Council where he stressed the importance of fostering initiatives that would uplift both national and sub-national economies with a view to alleviate poverty.

He said that Africa's vast economic potentials played a key role in global food security and called for enhanced public-private partnerships to maximize benefits for all stakeholders.

While acknowledging the efforts of the Tunisian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mohsen Antit, Governor Mutfwang praised his dedication to promoting African unity and cooperation and expressed optimism about Africa's future role in global affairs.

Ambassador Mohsen Antit, who highlighted Tunisia's achievements across various sectors, urged African countries to leverage their resources for economic growth and

encouraged Nigerian bank shareholders, the states, sub-national governor, and other entities and private attendees aimed at expanding business collaboration opportunities with Tunisia in healthcare, agriculture, tourism and technology.

Meanwhile, Governor Mutfwang was among distinguished guests at the post Annual General Meeting (AGM) dinner of the United Bank for Africa (UBA), hosted by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tony Elumelu, at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

Our correspondent reported that the event provided a platform for fruitful discussions among

A political analyst, Dr. Salisu Usman, has called on President Bola Tinubu to accede to the demands of the organised labour on minimum wage without further delay.

Usman said this in an interview with our correspondent on the sidelines of the activities to mark Tinubu's one year in office.

He said that one of the most effective ways to cushion the hardships facing Nigerians was to comply with the demands of labour for a minimum wage that can meet their basic needs.

Furthermore, he urged the government to ensure the quick realisation of an acceptable and sustainable living wage for Nigerian workers to reduce the hardships caused by the fuel

Accede to labour demands - Analyst

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

subsidy removal.

"Once an acceptable and sustainable living wage is implemented, the people will be relieved of the current economic hardships and it will reduce poverty rate in the land. Tinubu should without further delay accede to the demands of the organised labour and stop the front and back movement on the minimum wage negotiation, because it is long overdue. Doing that will be counted for him as part of his welfare package for Nigerians and the labour force. I believe Tinubu is a strategist and he has the

capacity to do that," Usman said.

He emphasised the need to ensure the implementation of a living wage that would reduce poverty.

He disclosed that the removal of fuel subsidy was a miscalculated action that had brought untold hardships to Nigerians.

"I consider that pronouncement as an avoidable step that should have been better managed to reduce hardships on Nigerians," he noted.

Mutfwang tasks African leaders on economic partnerships

50 million Nigerians to benefit from health insurance-FC

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Professor Muhammad Pate, has disclosed that plans have reached advanced stage by the Federal Government to increase the number of Nigerians on health insurance from 17 to 50 million to ensure more Nigerians have access to affordable healthcare services.

Speaking at a Doctors Ministerial Press Briefing to mark the first anniversary of President Bola Tinubu in office, he said that the administration was trying to ramp up the work not done in the last 25 years by providing more

insurance cover for Nigerians, including retirees.

According to him, the reforms, which were about to be finalized, included retirees, civil servants and others.

He disclosed that N260 billion had been earmarked for the revitalization of primary health care centres, PHCs, across the country, adding that plans were also underway to expand the PHCs from 8,300 to 17,000 through the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) to deliver essential healthcare services.

The minister disclosed that all the states of the federation had been



Pate

mobilised for the revitalisation of primary healthcare.

According to him, a lot of the efforts that had been made in the last few months geared towards mobilising resources to states for that purpose.

From the Director of Press

Governor Mutfwang's one year in the saddle (I)



BY GYANG BERE

GOVERNOR Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang has already spent a year in the saddle as he was sworn-in on May 29, 2023.

His journey to the Plateau State Government House in Little Rayfield, Jos, was tortuous, considering the legal battle that came in the wake of his victory in the gubernatorial election held on March 18, 2023.

Most Nigerians know that the legal fireworks from the tribunals up to the Supreme Court tested the unity of the people of Plateau State in no small measure. What's more, it almost brought the state to its knees, no thanks to the sharp divisions along political, ethnic and even religious fault lines.

The challenges that accompanied his ascendancy to power are enough to break the spirit of the chief executive of any state. However, Governor Mutfwang had come well prepared to lead and to govern.

The fact that he started addressing crucial matters of state which had long been abandoned from day one in office was signposted positive things to come for the people of the state. Doubting Thomases who had not given him any chance of performance were soon proved wrong.

In just one year, no one can deny that an incredible change has already taken place in the state. Barrister Caleb Mutfwang's wonderful imprint can be seen in all sectors and nooks and crannies of the state. Indeed, this one year has been as fruitful as it has been positively eventful for both the governor and the good people of the state. Some of these extraordinary imprints are discussed below.

Security

Considering the brutal attacks that the people of Bokkos, Mangu, Barkin Ladi, Riyom and Bassa had been subjected to, there is no doubt that the governor inherited a huge problem even before being sworn in.

That was why he undertook working visits to the various headquarters of the country's defence establishment in Abuja. He was well aware that the state would gain from every interaction he had with security chiefs. As a result, most of them came to the state and visited the theatres of war at Mangu, Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Riyom to assess the situation for themselves.

Governor Mutfwang was aware of the horrendous impacts the deadly activities of bandits, armed herdsmen and sundry criminals have had on overall development of the state, especially the local government areas mentioned above. That was why, even before he was sworn in, he started putting in place measures to ensure that peace returned to the affected communities in order to bring back sustainable development.

And as a result of his several visits to the Presidency and the Army headquarters, he was able to extract a commitment from the Federal Government that a military barracks would be built in Bokkos to curb the activities of the outlaws that had continued to launch attacks on Bokkos, Mangu, Barkin Ladi and Riyom local government areas.

Resilience, perseverance and excellence have been the policy thrusts of the administration. Populist as they may be, God has repeatedly been at the head and directing what the governor has so far done to the satisfaction of citizens.

Except for the sake of fault finding, in less than ten months, his imprint was established in the minds of the people of the state. Today, one full year later, the citizens, particularly those who hardly believed in his capacity to deliver, are singing a song of acceptance even as his

supporters are more vociferous of his accomplishments while praying for more.

The state government further boosted the security architecture of the state by revitalizing the moribund state-owned security outfit—Operation Rainbow. In this regard, 600 young men and women have been trained as operatives for their services to be utilized for intelligence gathering.

Having been duly approved and licenced by the Federal Government, the nation's relevant security agencies would be fully involved in retraining its personnel and general overhaul to make it very responsive and proactive to the security challenges at the community level.

The governor has likewise bolstered his security agenda by appointing an experienced and renowned expert on Security and Homeland Safety, Brigadier-General Gakji Shipi (retired), as Special Adviser on Security to guide him appropriately in that very sensitive area.

Information and governance

In order get people properly informed and make them appreciate government policies, the place of information dissemination cannot be over-emphasised. And this is more so in democracy because the people, to whom power ultimately belongs, need to be carried along by always keeping them abreast of what their leaders are doing with the mandate they gave them. Which is why the Mutfwang administration has given very high priority to this sector.

Over the years, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** and **Plateau Radio Television Corporation (PRTVC)** have not received the needed attention and patronage from the state government, their chief financier. As a result, these media organs, which have produced some of the best journalists in the country, have been under-utilized in the propagation of the activities of government. It is worth saying that, truly, they have given their best.

Unfortunately, since 2015, no state chief executive has visited to ascertain the activities and operations of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** and PRTVC. Therefore, it was something of a novelty when Governor Mutfwang visited the Plateau Publishing Corporation, PPC, publishers of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** newspaper, on March 4, 2024. Jonah David Jang was the last governor to visit PPC in 2014. Therefore, Mutfwang's inspection of the almost comatose organisation underscores the administration's commitment towards revitalizing both the **PPC** and **PRTVC**.

The governor shares the ideals of the founding father of the PPC and PRTVC, the late visionary leader, Joseph Dechi Gomwalk. He founded these media platforms in order to give not only Plateau people but various minorities in the Middle Belt and other parts of the country a voice in the overall national discourse. It is in order to keep Gomwalk's great legacy alive that the governor has vowed to resuscitate these media organs - most especially the PPC which is in an extremely bad shape.

As a staunch believer in the pivotal role in the democratic process, the governor has had a very robust relationship with the large number of other independent media houses and the correspondents of those headquartered in other parts of the country. Plateau State has always been a thriving hub for both local and international journalists. The Mutfwang administration has made tremendous efforts to make their work easier and less cumbersome in order to maintain the situation. The Ministry of Information and Communication, which is headed by a young and vibrant commissioner, has been one of the driving forces of the government's information dissemination strategy which has so far progressed efficiently.

Housing, urban development and metropolitan roads

Both the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development are vigorously implementing the government's drive towards changing the face of the state in the area of infrastructural development.

Currently, work on the 6.9km road network from the Rukuba Satellite Market, Tudun Wada, Sabon Gari with spur to Mado, Wild Life Park, is being handled by Jolex Construction Company. It was first awarded in 2017 but



Bere

work stopped along the way. But today, work has reached advanced stage as asphalt is being laid.

Rehabilitation work has also resumed on the 5.65km Utonkon, Nunku and Keana Link road, including four slip roads with the extension of Akila Machunga road and the construction of a 9km flyover bridge. It is being handled by P.W Nig. Ltd. and is also at asphaltic wearing course level. It is due to be completed soon.

More contractors are being remobilized to their project sites in the Jos/Bukuru metropolis which were abandoned since 2014 so that work can resume. The remaining 5km road projects in areas such as Utan, in Jos North, Angware (Jos-East) and another one in Mikang LGA are going on.

Other projects that are receiving prompt attention include the construction of 7.14km road network at Chwelnyp, in Jos North LGA. It links these parts of the city: Yan Trailer, Main Market, Sarkin Arab Street, St. Michael Street, Dutse Uku and St. Michael's Loop, behind Baptist Church, Nasarawa Gwong.

Also, the rehabilitation of 24.10km road networks within Jos South LGA and the rehabilitation and upgrading of slums within Raku Belleng, Ramun Gyel, Rohol Kanang and Gyel, totaling 13.5km, also in Jos South LGA have been completed. The construction of a 6.5km road network at Angwan Rogo along with a bridge linking Hawan Idi/Ali Kazaure are in progress.

12.1km road networks have been constructed at Amma Street, Mallam Kure, Fatima Church, Gangare, Yan Shanu, Dilimi, Rikkos and Apata. A Fire Service headquarters has been constructed at Bukuru, Jos South LGA. Rehabilitation and renovation of the Old Tati Hotel to provide offices for MDAs is in progress. The state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with a private firm, Goye Associates, to construct three truck/bus terminals at the three major entry points into the state that will create 5,000 jobs at Mararaban Jema'a (Jos South), Mista Ali (Bassa) and Babale (Jos North).

The deplorable nature of roads in the Jos metropolis and outlying towns further compounded the state's overall sordidness and made commuting a very uncomfortable and often dangerous undertaking. Citizens still remember the road accidents caused by pothole-infested roads that led to several losses of lives. It was in order to curb this trend that the state government embarked on maintenance work on the roads in the

Jos/Bukuru metropolitan area through the Road Maintenance Agency.

Other roads that have been fixed and new ones constructed include those of JUTH-Laminga-Tina Junction-Legislative quarters; Plateau Hospital Roundabout-Hill-Station Roundabout-Central Bank; Maternity-Moonshine Hotel-Chorbe Junction; and Liberty Boulevard-Gold & Based road.

Others are Maternity-Masallacin Juma'a-Zolo Junction; Ahmadu Bello way; Kashim Ibrahim-West of Mines; Dadin Kowa road network; Yelwa Club Junction- Rahol Kanang -Du Junction road; Rwang Pam Street; Ahmad Bello- Area Command-West of Mines; and Angwan Rukuba-St. Michael Catholic Church-Nasarawa Gwong road; among several others.

Rebirth of efficient transportation

Those who recall what the transport system used to be in Plateau State will weep at what the Mutfwang administration inherited in that sector.

The state-owned Plateau Express Services Limited had almost ground to a halt. Those who still remember its birth and the lack of performance over the years will be happy about the current restructuring and comprehensive overhaul it is going through, courtesy the Mutfwang administration. Because staff morale has been boosted, they are now more committed to work which has greatly enhanced productivity. And the commuters and businesses that use their services are the better for it.

But, above all, the state government has introduced the Tin City Metro Urban Transportation Initiative which will further boost the transport sector in the state. It is an ambitious project aimed at addressing the transportation needs of Plateau urban centers. It has in its fleet 15 modern MAN-Diesel buses. These will also alleviate the high cost of intra-city transportation and make the ride a pleasant experience through their cutting-edge gadgets.

In addition, the new management has refurbished 20 14-seater Toyota Hiace buses. These are fully equipped with enhanced security features like tracking devices with audio-enabled devices. In addition to 15 MAN-Diesel buses, the Mutfwang administration procured 20 Toyota Sienna vehicles, also fully equipped with security features. New drivers have been trained and will ply the Jos-Abuja route. It must be pointed out that the Tin City Metro initiative represents a bold new future in transportation that will foster prosperity and transition Plateau into the digital age.



Goodwill MESSAGE

from

Langtang South LGC

I, **Hon. Manji Dangfa Ponga**, the Transition Implementation Committee Chairman of Langtang South Local Government Council, on behalf of the Management, Traditional Rulers, Staff, the peace and hospitable people of Langtang South Local Government Council extend my warm felicitations to his Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang** on the occasion of his one year in office. Sir, your one year anniversary is witnessing unprecedented development built on hope and progress for our dear state.

Your unwavering commitment, vision, and dedication to the welfare and advancement of the people of the state has endeared you to many due to the provisions of tangible improvements in the various sectors of the economy, thereby giving citizens a better future.

We in Langtang South are grateful to his Excellency for the stead-fastness, support and advocacy for our people which is truly remarkable in their lives and livelihoods as well as your immense guidance on the need to inculcate the "The Time Is Now" mantra of Leadership meant to bring succor to the people.

As we reflect on this significant milestone, we are filled with optimism that the future that lies ahead under your stewardship is bright.

Your exemplary leadership qualities serve as an inspiration to us all, and we are honoured to have you as our amiable Governor.

May your one year anniversary in office serve as beacon of hope to Plateau citizens through the provision of developmental projects that are impactful within a short span of time.

As we look forward to many more years of progress, prosperity, and collaboration under your esteemed leadership, we in Langtang South assure you of our unflinching support to enable you succeed in changing the narrative in Langtang South and Plateau State.

Once again, congratulations, Your Excellency, on this momentous occasion.

May your tenure continue to be marked by success and fulfilment.

Signed:

Hon. Manji Dangfa Ponga,
Transition Implementation Committee Chairman,
Langtang South Local Government Council.



Barr. Caleb Mutfwang
Governor Plateau State

Hon. Manji Dangfa Ponga

Goodwill
MESSAGE
From

PLATEAU STATE COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE, GARKAWA



Barr. Caleb Mutfwang
Governor Plateau State

The Ag. Provost, **Rev. Nathan Akila Loks** on behalf of the Management, Academic Board, staff and students of the Plateau State College of Agriculture, Garkawa, heartily felicitate with the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, his Deputy, **Hon. Mrs. Josephine Piyo** and the entire cabinet of the "The Time is now" mantra on the occasion of their one year anniversary in office.

We identify with his Excellence for his outstanding commitment, extraordinary performance and high sense of accountability which has brought about numerous achievements in the administration of Plateau State within your one (1) year in office. Worthy of mention is your support for the educational sector especially at the College through the released of funds for accreditation of programmes, NBTE visitation and ACRoSAL counterpart for the College.

While congratulating you on this anniversary, we pray God to give you more wisdom and the courage to continue to render services for the progress of Plateau State, Nigeria and humanity as a whole.

Signed:
Rev. N. A. Loks
Ag. Provost



Rev. Nathan Akila Loks

Congratulatory
from Message

**Local Government
Staff Pension Board.**

Hurray! Hurray! Hurray!
It's one year so soon, of impactful leadership on the Plateau, under the People's Governor, His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**. Plateau people have seen and tested that your leadership is good. You are always leading from the front while looking for the best for your constituents, including our senior citizens. We pray that the Good Lord continue to bless you with wisdom and courage like the Caleb of old, to lead us to the promised land.

Congratulations, your Excellency, the People's Governor.

Signed:
Mrs. Helen E. Dabup, mni
Executive Secretary,
Plateau State Local Government Staff
Pension Board.



Barr. Caleb Mutfwang
Governor Plateau State



Mrs. Helen E. Dabup, mni

Congratulatory
Message
from **Third Tier movement, Plateau State**



Barr. Caleb Mutfwang
Governor Plateau State



Theophilus Dakas Shan,
Chairman



Hon. Nanmua Kumzhi,
Secretary

The Third Tier movement heartily felicitates with the Executive Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Mutfwang**, and his Deputy, **Ngo Josephine Piyo** on the occasion of their one year in office.

Your Excellency, during the period under review, you have demonstrated exceptional capacity for leadership, unwavering commitment to peace efforts, and applying experience, skills, connection, in serving the people which led to massive delivery of life enhancing infrastructure, human capital development, and attitudinal re-orientation in plateau state.

As a third tier movement, we roll out the drums to celebrate your superlative performance within just one year in all critical sectors which include, peace building and security, welfare of civil servants and retirees, Road constructions, Heath care, Agriculture, among others in line with the manifesto and policy thrust of the PDP.

While we basked in this euphoria, we urged all stakeholders in the state to key into the time is now mantra, which is anchored on restoring the lost glory of plateau state and placing her on the trajectory of socio-economic development.

Once again, accept the hearty felicitation of the Third Tier movement on your one year in office your Excellency!

Signed:
Theophilus Dakas Shan, Chairman,
Hon Nanmua Kumzhi, Secretary,
Third Tier movement, Plateau State.

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CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY ONE-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY TO
THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR



On this special occasion commemorating His Excellency, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang One Year in office as dully elected Executive Governor of Plateau State. On behalf of peace loving people of Plateau State wish to register our hearty congratulations.



HIS EXCELLENCY
BARR. CALEB MUTFWANG
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR PLATEAU STATE

HER EXCELLENCY
HON. NGO JOSEPHINE PIYO
DEPUTY GOVERNOR PLATEAU STATE

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Women

Place of women in the Mutfwang administration



By **JENNIFER YARIMA & PALANG KASMI**

ON assumption of office, Governor Caleb Mutfwang gave women appointments into various positions. Their role in governance is key to the development of the state. Contrary to cultural and patriarchal stereotypes, more women are needed in decision making. The Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), firmly believes that the equitable participation of women in politics is essential for strong democracy and sustainable development. As insinuated in many quarters, women shy away from the press. Are they afraid of public speaking or introverts and non-performers?

In the following interviews with the Plateau State Deputy Governor, Head of Service, and other female political appointees playing strategic roles in governance in Plateau State, they spoke on how they are running their various offices and what they have been doing to ensure the development of the state, including some challenges of women.

Ngo Josephine Chundung Piyo, Deputy Governor, Plateau State

She is a seasoned politician and she assumed office in May, 2023. Hon. Piyo previously served as a member of the Plateau State House of Assembly from 1999. She worked as a nurse and teacher before joining politics. In 1999, she was elected to the Plateau State House of Assembly. Piyo then took the role of Special Adviser to the Governor of Plateau State from 2008 to 2011 and in 2018, became the Chairman of Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Mrs. Piyo views her emergence as a motivation to other women desiring to participate in politics. "My position as the Deputy Governor has inspired many Plateau women", adding that by picking her as his deputy, the governor has demonstrated his love and readiness to support women, particularly young girls to achieve their full potentials in life. "You can see that young girls in the state have started picking the challenge to become something in life. As further demonstration, the governor has appointed more women as commissioners and heads of agencies and parastatals. This has motivated more women to

be bolder and confident in aspiring to vie for leadership positions in Plateau State."

She rates the performances of women in governance in the state high, stating, "The women in this administration have been doing excellently well. They have proven that women can deliver like our male counterparts. We have so many women in different positions in the state. You can attest that they are doing very well.

"So far, so good, the government, led by our leader, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, is on track. You all know that we took over a state where workers were on strike, because they were owed salaries and pensions. The state was heavily indebted. But with doggedness, commitment and determination of the governor, coupled with my support and that of other appointees, we are gradually succeeding. We also came in the heat of insecurity in some parts of the state, but as you can see, we are also winning in that direction. Thank God we are on track and Plateau is moving forward. There are many other gains this government has been able to achieve in the last one year. Now Plateau citizens are speaking with one voice devoid of religious or ethnic affiliation.

"Secondly, it is visible that this government is gradually regaining the lost glory of Plateau and placing it on the path of sustainable growth and development. We have also boosted the intra and inter-state transport system. The rail mass transit will soon come up, majority of roads within Jos and environs are being rehabilitated and some are completely reconstructed. We are in talks with relevant authorities to improve flight operations from different parts of the country. We have provided fertilizers and other farming inputs to farmers in the state. We are currently training over 300 youths in agricultural ventures. In the area of security, you will recall that we have trained some of our youths as operatives of the Operation Rainbow who will serve as informants for the conventional security outfits in the state. We have also provided vehicles to security agencies, all with the aim to end insecurity in our state.

"Today, Jos and environs is gradually wearing a new look, because of our determination to make it truly a home of peace, tourism and hospitality. I can go on and on, because we are determined to change the fortunes of our people," the Deputy Governor enthused.

She described her relationship with the Governor as "amazing". "He is someone who carries everyone along, and has a listening ear. On my part, I have been a loyal assistant to my principal, giving him the needed support so that together we can



Piyo

take Plateau State to enviable heights," Piyo reiterated.

Barrister (Mrs.) Rauta Dakok, Head of Service (HoS), Plateau State, is a seasoned lawyer, civil servant and activist.

She was Vice Chairman of Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Plateau State, an active member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and was once chairperson of FIDA, Plateau State Chapter. Barr. Dakok was until her appointment the Permanent Secretary, General Administration, in the office of the Head of Service. A graduate of Law from the University of Jos (1988), Barr. Rauta Dakok started work with the Plateau State Government in 1990 as State Counsel and rose steadily, holding various positions, to reach the peak of the civil service where she served as Permanent Secretary in various Ministries. She also served in several committees and boards and was involved in many crucial assignments at the state and national levels.

Barr. Rauta Dakok said women are doing well in the Governor Caleb Mutfwang's administration. "This government is an inclusive government. You will find out that both men and women are involved. You will find out that there are female commissioners, special advisers, and senior advisers, Permanent Secretaries, that are women.

"During the recent ministerial briefing where each ministry gave its score card, women in the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) were

does not discriminate in terms of employments or promotions as civil servants are promoted based on their capacity and performances.

She further elaborated the role her office has played in this administration: "We were able to recall civil servants who were on strike, tertiary institutions, both academic and non-academic staff. Years past, promotions were suspended, but now promotions are being worked out and issued to those that are found suitable to be promoted in the service. Currently, there are monthly releases of pension arrears, death benefits, and gratuities, from 1986. We have screened people of the first batch which covered the period of 1986-2009. About 892 people have benefitted so far. You don't need to beg people in the Pensions Board for your name to be included. As you are being screened, they are following it year by year, and when there is any release being made, it continues from where it stopped.

"Another achievement we have made is approval of hazard allowance for the medical and health workers. We are already paying them. We have reviewed upward the burial expenses for civil servants, and the reparation allowance which used to be meagre. Today it is a different figure, depending on your grade level. You are paid the allowance as you retire from service, to enable you transport yourself home.

"We had problem of check-off dues and third party deductions being made to various unions, and in various ministries we have CTLS and other things. Currently, once they are deducted, they are sent to various organizations, and the unions to enable them use the funds to run their own associations. In addition, civil servants are allowed to go for in-service training. Some have applied and approvals have been granted to them. It is a milestone because if one keeps working without acquiring more skills and knowledge, it means one will not grow. What we do in my office is to approve training services for those that applied. For the housing department, there are civil servants that applied to occupy government accommodation and we allocate it to them."

On Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the workplace, the HoS said no such case has been reported so far. She however

involved and they did well. Their performances in governance is rated very high. They are occupying key positions. For instance, the positions of Commissioner, Permanent Secretary and Accountant General of the Ministry of Finance are all occupied by women and what they are doing there is great. Before now, MDAs were not getting overhead costs to run their offices, but today I can tell you that overhead costs are being paid to ministries and agencies. From my office too, we are organising the agencies very well by coordinating the staff we post to work in various MDAs. Our scorecard is good in terms of the capacity we are building."

Barr. Dakok said some of the common problems confronting Plateau women are non-availability of funds for self-reliance and over-dependence on their men. They are not economically strong like their male counterparts. She explained that "government is trying, through PLASMEDA, to empower plateau youths including women. Ministry of Agriculture has made available fertilizers which are being distributed without gender discrimination."

The HoS said that her office

Continued on page iii

"During the recent ministerial briefing where each ministry gave its score card, women in the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) were involved and they did well. Their performances in governance is rated very high."

Women

Place of women in the Mutfwang administration



Dakok

Continued from page iii

called on civil servants to report any form of GBV in the workplace immediately. "In the event that any of our workers has been violated in that way and is keeping quiet, I urge him or her to come and report to us or the Gender Commission for appropriate action," she reiterated.

Caroline Panglang Dafur, Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Plateau State

She is a well-tested grassroots politician and gender equality advocate. On the issue of women's acceptance in governance, Dafur rated the government high: "It's obvious that this administration has placed so much value on women inclusiveness and participation in governance. This is reflective in the key and strategic positions and appointments occupied by women in the state," Like Oliver Twist, Dafur said, "But, of course, we are still pressing and yearning for more to achieve the minimum 35% affirmative action on women participation." She rates the performance of women in Governor Caleb Mutfwang's administration in the midst of their male counterparts as creative and said they are adding great value in governance. "So far so good, it's not so surprising, knowing how innovative and creative women are in handling responsibilities and they're natural multipliers," adding that she is proud of what they're doing. "I'm optimistic, together we will raise the bar to an enviable height."

Dafur, however, identified some common problems Plateau women face, which include Gender Based Violence (GBV). "It's a sad reality that women still suffer gender-based and



Panglang

domestic violence of all sorts ranging from spousal abandonment, discrimination and lack of proper mainstreaming, which have kept a lot of women economically disadvantaged. However, if your ears are on ground, you will know my ministry is leaving no stone unturned in advocacy and sensitization on the implementation of the laws that criminalizes all forms of GBV and ensure adequate social protection for all. We now have a gender commission, and a special gender designated court. We intend to match words with action to cope with these vices and ensure that women have safe spaces to thrive and reach their full potentials. We also have in place a joint task force which serves as an emergency response team against GBV and trafficking in persons."

The Commissioner said since assumption of office, her ministry had recorded numerous successes: "The successful repatriation of over 100 children who are victims of trafficking at different places. We have arrested and prosecuted perpetrators and their accomplices who provided support for the victims. We have granted educational scholarships for some of the children. Some are acquiring skills and learning trades, while others have been successfully reunited with their families. We have constituted GBV clubs in at least 32 schools in efforts to sensitize and equip the young ones for proper upbringing and raising well informed Plateau children. As a ministry, we have revamped and restructured operations of orphanages and home operators on the Plateau, to ensure accountability and to eradicate practices that predispose our children.

"We have also reviewed the criteria for new operators. We have also ensured full implementation of the VAPP laws, the Child Rights Laws and the Gender and Equal Opportunity laws on the Plateau. We toured the 17 LGAs and engaged with all critical stakeholders, formed a joint taskforce for emergency response, and equally used the mass media to ensure adequate sensitisation of the populace about these laws that are now active on the Plateau.

"The Ministry marked 16 days of activism in the state with lots of advocacies, workshops, and awareness programmes against Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Same period was used for refresher training for the gender desk officers of the LGAs and social workers for effective service delivery. We have trained 102 widows for an extensive six-month vocational skills acquisition in tailoring, knitting and catering, and will give them tangible starter packs and grants for start-up."

Hon. Dafur advised women who go through spousal abuses and other forms of violence in the society to speak out. "Like I

always say, don't die in silence, once you see a red-flag, report to the ministry for counseling, mediation or intervention before it gets too late for help and justice, as this administration is responsive and will ease your burden. Don't die in silence."

Hajiya Jamila Tukur, Commissioner for Tourism, Culture and Hospitality

She is a grassroots politician, a great woman mobiliser in the politics of Qua'an Pan Local Government Area. She holds a Diploma in Public Administration, and has occupied political offices, including being a woman leader in Kurgwi Ward, and PDP Secretary.

For Hajiya Tukur, women are making waves and gaining acceptance in governance compared to the rigid practices of the past that did not even give them a chance to come out. "There are many women gaining acceptance in this administration, and many of them are in strategic positions. Apart from the Head of Service, there are four female commissioners, and others who are heading agencies like the Gender and Equal Opportunities Commission. So there is a good representation of women in this government.

"Women appointed in this present government have done so well in their respective ministries. Great achievements have been recorded. At the grassroots more women are participating in politics and governance. Things are changing compared to what was obtainable in the past". Based on her assessment, the performances of women in this administration are great. "If you find out the ministries headed by women, they are performing well. Take a look at the Higher Education Ministry, where some of the problems facing tertiary institutions are being addressed, and this is being done by a woman. She has been able to assess some challenges.

"I came on board and saw that many things had been neglected. I embarked on assessment tour of all the parastatals and agencies under the ministry to see for myself. I was able to come up with some ideas which I used to advise the government. Government looked for private investors for partnership in places like the Jos Wild Life Park, Solomon Lar Amusement Park, Plateau Hotel, Jos Hotel, among



other hospitality and tourism sites. The Rock Hotel has been abandoned for a very long time, so we are making preparations to hand it over to Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement so that government can generate more revenue.

"In some places where we are looking for the take-off of the PPP, they are set to kick-start the initiative. Past governments have been trying to execute the PPP, but it has not worked. But within the shortest period, arrangement is in top gear. In fact, we will take off any moment and hand it over for business. Some of the hotels we toured, like the Pankshin, Shendam and Plateau Hotels are in deplorable state. Because of my love for tourism and enthusiasm to turn around the fortunes of the sector, the governor has given me all the backing to see how all these tourist and hospitality sites can be revived. The Prof. Luka Bentu Indoor Theatre has been abandoned for a long time. We are working on how to revive it by bringing the contractor back to site. There is a memo to that effect."

However, she said there are some challenges: "We have security challenges. You cannot woo investors and they find out there is insecurity. People will not invest their money where there are problems and crises. We are working with government and security agencies to ensure insecurity is addressed so that tourists will be happy to visit the state and its recreational sites. Last year, we were able to organize a Christmas Carnival, so that people will know that there is peace in

Continued on page vi

"So far so good, it's not so surprising, knowing how innovative and creative women are in handling responsibilities and they're natural multipliers," adding that she is proud of what they're doing. "I'm optimistic, together we will raise the bar to an enviable height." Dafur, however, identified some common problems Plateau women face, which include Gender Based Violence (GBV). "It's a sad reality that women still suffer gender-based and domestic violence of all sorts ranging from spousal abandonment, discrimination and lack of proper mainstreaming, which have kept a lot of women economically disadvantaged."

IMAGES

COMPLETED AND ON-GOING PROJECTS

In his first year in office, Governor Caleb Mutfwang has undertaken quite a number of projects. Some have been completed while others are on-going



Governor Mutfwang inspecting off loading of fertilizer at a warehouse



The Plateau State Geographic Information System (PLAGIS) office completed by the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning, Jos



On-going work at the Baba Akila Machunga-Abattoir flyover



One of the 15 Metro Tin City buses on the Polo Roundabout to Anguldi route, Jos South LGA



Work on the water treatment plant being carried out by the ministry of Water Resources and Energy at Langtang North LGA

Congratulatory
Message
from
FROM LANGTANG NORTH LGC

We in Langtang North Local Government Area, the TIC chairman, traditional institutions, people and staff, join all enthusiasts, proud and happy citizens and people of Plateau State to congratulate a political juggernaut, the great architect of the modern green Plateau, His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, the Executive Governor of Plateau State. Today it will be rightly quoted and concluded the biblical saying that **"when the righteous is ruling, the people rejoice"** this today, is fulfilled before our very eyes and in our time.

The chants of solidarity, support, admirations and aligning that have greeted your emergence and support since your emergence as the amiable Governor of Plateau State, in 2023 gubernatorial election and after the Supreme Court judgement, attested to the long wait for a true redeemer of our most cherished legacies, Plateau State.

We are proud witnesses and a jubilant Plateau people at your aggressive infrastructural development projects and interventions spread across the state, especially in all the nook and crannies of the state capital, in just one year of your glorious assumption of office. You have not only changed the tempo of governance and engendered growth in our economy, but have re-designed and re-map what is meant by democratic dividends in our country, now you have set the bar and we know that a lot can be achieved within a short time when the will is there.

Mr. Governor sir, you took the baton of leadership at a time that there was a dire need for a rebuilding, when our state was in a critical condition. Your determination to make the 'LAND GREEN' again at the right 'TIME IS NOW' and transform it into a model state brings so much hope and a sense of direction for the state. We in Langtang North LGA are the first hopefuls, who are anxiously awaiting your bulldozers on our soils, metro buses and many more having received your subsidised fertilizer for the farming season among the many other palliatives.

Your choice of who is with you on the race tracks, your partners in progress have all since keyed into your vision and are proving themselves worthy of your calling, while you owe it to the people of Plateau State, as a coach of who aims at winning a game, you have known hitherto the players and their capabilities and are using them accordingly. Their antecedents attest to the modelling they have received.

May God enrich you more for the task ahead
 May God grant you continuously Governorship wisdom
 May God Bless Nigeria
 May God Bless Plateau State
 May God Bless Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang
 May God Bless Langtang North LGA.

Signed:
Mark D. Lekwai,
Information Officer for the TIC Chairman,
Langtang North LGC

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Goodwill MESSAGE

from

WASE LGC



Hon. Alhaji Hamisu Anani

The Transition Implementation Committee Chairman of Wase LGC, **Hon. Alhaji Hamisu Anani Mohammad**, wishes to on behalf of the Management Committee, the Emir and Wase Emirates council, the Staff and the good loving people of Wase LGA, heartily rejoice and felicitates with the President and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, GCFR, the Vice President, **Kashim Shitima**.

The Senate President, **Godswill Akpabio**, the speaker House of Representative **Tajudeen Abbas**, and members of the National Assembly. The governor of Plateau State, the captain of The Time is Now Mantra, **Barr Caleb M. Mutfwang**, the Deputy Governor, **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, the Speaker, **Rt. Hon. Gabriel Dewam** and Members Plateau State House of Assembly and indeed all Nigerians for 25 years of uninterrupted Democracy and reaching 360 days in office by this present administration.

As we join other well-meaning Nigerians at home and diaspora in marking your one year in office, We are grateful to God Almighty for leading the Nation to this level.

Let us build on our good past, remake the bad and totally discard the ugly aspect of our past to build a better future for generation yet unborn. It is in this regard we want to thank the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr Caleb M. Mutfwang** for His achievement so far on the Plateau, which include massive road constructions, transportation and human capital development among others.

In Wase LGC, it is an opportunity to enjoin all Nigerians to continue to have faith and believe in the state and country as well pray for the leadership.

Let us deepen our resolved in unity, oneness, togetherness, brotherhood and the patriotism, that will take the state and the country to greater heights
Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Long live plateau state!!
Long live Wase LGC!!!

Signed:
Daniel Mamwan,
Head of Information and Protocol
For: Chairman TIC, Wase LGC

Women

Place of women in the Mutfwang administration



Continued from page iii

the state. We also had an e-tourism conference recently, where the whole world will see that Plateau is safe. These are some of the things we are portraying and stakeholders need to do more on security.

"Another challenge has to do with land encroachment. Investors into the state are complaining of encroachment and insecurity in the area. If we do not address that, they wouldn't be able to take over. We have made arrangements therefore to make sure all the issues are addressed. We do periodic meetings with our tourism stakeholders like hoteliers, to advise and sensitise them on how things should improve in the hospitality industry. We also sensitise our local people on security and other issues."

Hon. Hajiya Tukur also identified some common problems Plateau women face these days to include social ills among youths. "Sadly, these are our children and many homes are broken as a result of this. We cannot allow our children to be used as thugs for crimes, crises, cultism, and other negative vices. Women are homemakers and all our efforts should be on families and children. Youth should be advised to avoid social ills because if a house does not stand, the woman is usually blamed. I encourage women to encourage their children, and spearhead peace in their homes.

"Inactive participation of women in politics is another challenge. Women do not like coming out. I am a politician and I got married to my husband who is also a politician that put me through on ways to gain more political experience and relevance. I am encouraging women to actively participate in politics to enable us get recognition and a place in government. I had never imagined becoming a commissioner one day, but when the politicians saw my commitment in politics, I was considered for the position. Don't be deterred by the intimidation and name-calling by men to discourage us from participating in politics. Most times, you hear them calling women prostitutes," Tukur said.

Barr. Olivia Dazyam, Acting Chairperson, Plateau State Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Commission, and Special Adviser to Plateau State Governor on Gender

She is a gender activist, former Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, former Commissioner for Information and Communication, former Commissioner for Justice, and Senior Legislative Aide to Senator Jonah David Jang, among other numerous positions she has held.

She explained that the Commission focuses on promotion and protection of the rights of Plateau people. "The GEO Commission has set out so vigorously, to create awareness concerning the existence of these rights, and also in order to give opportunities for people who have rights violations to come up to the Commission and complain. So far, the commission is receiving a lot of complaints. Under the law, there is requirement to set up a mediation centre in the office, and we are also expected to set up same structure in the different LGAs to give opportunities for settling family feuds, misunderstandings, or some rights infringements that can be settled through mediation and reconciliation.

"So far, we have been receiving a lot of complaints from both men and women. The mediation centre is giving opportunities for such complaints to be given attention. This is an opportunity that has been given to people of Plateau State not to take the laws into their hands. When you have misunderstandings, it is better to ventilate the challenges through dialogue, mediation or reconciliation, so that we can have a better society."

According to Dazyem, the Commission has achieved many feats in its one year in office. "For us as a commission, the first thing that we will celebrate is our coming on board with take-off support, to be able to set up the commission, under this administration. Immediately we came in, we set out to train staff on capacity building, partnered with an international organization, GIZ, to give opportunity for capacity building of our staff on mediation.

"Apart from that, we have partnered with different Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and had a dialogue on women's land and property rights in the state. That dialogue came up with some resolutions that are being attended to now. We had in attendance the Commissioner for Lands, Survey and Town Planning. Issues that came out from that dialogue were enriching for Plateau State, because the participants for that engagement were picked from all the 17 Local Government Areas. When we talk about land and property rights of women, you know that these are issues that you cannot talk about quickly. Cultural norms say a



Tukur



Dazyam

woman should not own property, or should not inherit from her father or her parents, or even as a widow, you cannot inherit. Inheritance rights were also richly canvassed at that engagement. Apart from that, we have also created opportunities for engagements and interactions with Civil Society Organizations in the state, and it was robust. Recently, we also engaged with heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and sought for collaboration.

"We have an expectation that issues of gender should be mainstreamed in all aspects of public and private life in the state, so that when governments are taking decisions on issues of development, they should factor in the interest of everyone. By so doing, nobody will be left out when government agencies come up with implementation. For example, if the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing programmes, it shouldn't leave men, women, young people behind, because they will also bring out their own potentials in agriculture for the development of our state. We had an engagement with Search for Common Ground (SFCG) that has been working in Plateau State in the area of peace building.

"Our main challenge in applying the rights, especially as they apply to women, is the culture of silence. Their rights are abused, sometimes violently, and they would keep quiet about it. That has been our problem. Sexual and gender-based violations perpetrated are taken back to the community, family level to be settled. We agree that there are some misunderstandings that actually can be settled on the mediation

table; like the law says we should have a mediation centre, but we shouldn't tolerate violence at any level. Once the question of violence comes up, physical or psychological, we must attend to it and treat it as a crime because the law accords it and treats it as violence.

"One other thing that is causing problems for us in the state is abandonment of spousal and parental responsibilities. The law expects the woman to play her role, while the man does his. We both must be prepared, that's why in GEO Commission, we advocate for gender equality, equity and justice. Meaning that as government or private organisations, we must give ourselves equal opportunity for everyone to acquire education, some form of skills, and give him or her the opportunity to participate in development.

"There is the annoying part that believes once a woman is at the helm of affairs, she cannot achieve. A woman is greatly endowed as the man. In fact, in most cases, she is more greatly endowed. So if given the opportunity, a woman can do far more than the man.

"Finding the opportunity to participate in leadership is cultural patriarchy, which says a woman should not be leader. Such cultural and patriarchal practices have affected us so much in the political arena. We seek leadership through political participation in most cases, and if you don't find a political platform, you may not be able to find opportunity for election or an elective or appointive position.

"Thank God for our sisters who are doing so well in government and in Civil Service, by virtue of promotions. They are likely to rise to the top, but for political

participation where you have opportunities for elections and appointments, you will hardly find women because culture has traumatised us so much to the extent that the woman who comes out to participate in politics is called a prostitute, and it is so sad to note that a woman cannot prostitute alone, so once there is a female prostitute, certainly there must be a male prostitute.

"It takes two to tango but they use this against women, to bring them down. So you see, they scare away a woman who comes out to participate in politics because she wants to bring her talent or potentials to bear in the development of her state or local government area, and sadly she gives in.

"What I would always say is this: women should not be scared by cultural inhibitions and what the men say about them. Sometimes as women, we call fellow women prostitutes. Women who really want to contribute to the development of their state and nation must shun some of these things and ignore them. They should have a focus, stay on course, and before you know it, you will find opportunity for participation. Ignore any name calling. It is the person calling you names that has a problem, just stay on course, by and by, you will find the right opportunity so that you can contribute your own quota to the development of our society."

Being a new office, which she is setting up as the pioneer chairperson, Barr. Dazyem said the process is ongoing, but not free of challenges. "Some of my challenges are staffing, need for continuous training of specialized staff to run the Commission, and funding", she recapped.

Transportation

Mutfwang's 365 days and the state transport sector



**BY
EZEKIEL DONTINNA &
JIDAUNA DARING**

IT is held in some quarters that one year in office is simply a period for planning programmes and projects to execute in the succeeding days of one's tenure in office. The story is quite different in the present day Plateau under a new astute and focused leader.

On assumption of office on May 29, 2023, Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State was immediately confronted by the challenges and macro-economic distortions caused by the abolition of the petroleum subsidy regime. One of the measures the Governor put in place immediately to cushion the effect of the subsidy removal was to intervene directly with cheaper options to ameliorate the transportation problems this caused the masses. Removal of petroleum subsidy did not only shoot up the cost of transportation, it spiralled the prices of other household items and services, and generally sparked an inflationary trend that the economy is yet to recover from.

Knowing how important the Yuletide and New Year celebrations are to his people, Governor Mutfwang, in the heat of the hardships, offered free transportation to convey citizens who wanted to travel to their respective hometowns across the State. The Governor also eased the plight of travellers by ensuring the smooth movement of goods and other essential commodities through the resuscitation of the Plateau Express Services, popularly known as 'Plateau Riders'. Above all, German-made luxury buses have been procured by the state government, which were recently commissioned, to further ease and cut down the cost of transportation within the Jos and Bukuru metropolis. branded Tin City Metro Bus Services with the slogan, 'RIDE TO THE NEW HEIGHTS', this transportation intervention has the potential of boosting the socio-economic lives of citizens who have come under severe strain through the effects of the removal of fuel subsidy. One can attest to the fact that, these metro buses are already



The Metro City buses



The 20 Toyota Sienna vehicle

plying major roads within Jos/Bukuru metropolis. This fit is still being celebrated by citizens because it has hugely eased the transportation needs of people.

Until now, successive administrations in the state tried to resuscitate the old Jos Tin City Bus Services without success. It is not out of place to say that children born in the late 80s can only remember what Tin City buses used to be only as part of their History lesson in school. Unfortunately, the Tin City Bus Service went under, possibly due to either mismanagement or negligence on the part of the authorities concerned. However,

the most recent reviewed and repositioned concept of the Plateau Express Services Limited is a fitting corollary of the development aspirations of the people.

The coming of Governor Mutfwang, the Plateau Express Services Limited is being given a new lease of life. It is interesting to know that the transport company has officially launched 2 Coaster buses - the Plateau Logistics, a mobile booking APP, and over 20 new Sienna buses that are currently plying the Jos-Abuja route.

According to the PESL General Manager, Mr. Samuel J. Gwott, the company has opened up 5 revenue channels as he noted that "these

channels have been approved and are now being registered as subsidiaries; and we are currently being repositioned to operate as a group of companies.

The General Manager said "we have: Plateau Riders Services Ltd and Tin City Metro Services Ltd is the only arm that is palliative or a social programme and a quick intervention to alleviate the sufferings of commuters within the metropolis) which has been commissioned by Governor Mutfwang on May 7, 2024; Plateau Express Logistics Ltd; Plateau Express Learning Hub Ltd, and the Plateau Express Automobile Ltd".

Meanwhile, residents of Jos and Bukuru Metropolis have continued to shower accolades on Governor Caleb Mutfwang for introducing the Metro City Bus to cushion the high cost of transportation on citizens.

Speaking separately with **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, Mr. Bamidele Emmanuel Abiodun described the initiative as a welcome development to the state economically, noting that the gesture will go a long way in improving the State's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

The duo called on "Time is Now" Captain, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang to add more Metro City Buses so that people would not be waiting for too long before getting one to board to a given destination.

Both Yitpowe and Abiodun appealed to the State Government to erect bus-stop shades for passengers waiting for the buses that ply all the routes, as they observe that doing so would not make the passengers to stay in the sun or rain while waiting for the buses.

The duo is also of the opinion that the State Government should charge N100 for short distances, while N200 is enough for long distances.

They also advised on the imperative of maintenance of the buses and other vehicles in the fleet of the State transport outfit.

The residents of Jos and environs also applauded Governor Mutfwang for his efforts towards reviving the railway transport system which has been abandoned for long in the state.

Speaking on the on-going work on the rail track, Sharsohot Nanma described the Governor's decision to bring back the railway transport as a welcome idea which needs to be supported by all and sundry.

Nanma called on the Government to ensure the full implementation of railway transport as it would help to ease the stress caused by insufficient mass transport vehicles in Plateau and beyond.

"Until now, successive administrations in the state tried to resuscitate the old Jos Tin City Bus Services without success. It is not out of place to say that children born in the late 80s can only remember what Tin City buses used to be only as part of their History lesson in school. Unfortunately, the Tin City Bus Service went under, possibly due to either mismanagement or negligence on the part of the authorities concerned. However, the most recent reviewed and repositioned concept of the Plateau Express Services Limited is a fitting corollary of the development aspirations of the people."

Agriculture

Mutfwang and The Land is Green Agricultural Revolution



By
**LUCY DANJUMA
CHINDABA**

IT is a known fact that Plateau State is a leading agricultural destination in Nigeria. It is the largest producer of potatoes, carrots, cabbage, strawberries and a host of other high profile vegetables and shrubs in Nigeria. The State is also blessed with hard working, resourceful people, fertile land, and favourable climate which affords it some comparative advantage in agriculture beyond the scale of subsistence farming.

By encouraging large-scale mechanised agriculture, the vision of the Governor is for the State to be a major player in the food production and supply for both domestic and international consumption. The economy of Plateau state is still dominated by the non-mechanized farming and

"our land is green, blessed, fertile and supportive of agriculture, coupled with the serene and clement weather condition favorable for special agricultural products. We will adopt a pragmatic approach to ensure food sufficiency, food security, expanded employment generation and higher income levels. We will give special attention to agricultural products in which the state has comparative advantage to address the scourge of poverty. Underperforming and moribund agricultural institutions such as Agricultural Service Training Company (ASTC), Plateau Agricultural Development Programme (PADP), and the re-acquired Brewery Agro Research Company (BARC) farms, among others, shall be reinvigorated."

Enunciating his vision on agriculture further, he said, "in the same vein, we shall take deliberate and immediate steps to procure fertilizer and other farming inputs for distribution to farmers at subsidized rates. 'The Time is Now' to support our small farmers through organized cooperatives. We will seek to ultimately transform small scale farming to mechanized farming and build the necessary infrastructure to enable our farmers key into dry farming practices so as to make agriculture a profitable venture for our

as well as improve the lives of farmers. Within a few months in office, the Governor visited the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Abubakar Kyari, in his Abuja office to discuss possible areas of collaboration and support. In that visit, the Governor stressed that agriculture can be identified as a pivotal sector for overcoming the State's developmental hurdles; and used the opportunity to express optimism that tapping into the State's agricultural potential could address the nation's food security and ongoing food crisis.

According to Governor Mutfwang, Plateau's favourable climate for farming is a boon, and efforts are underway to enhance production of commodities like Irish potatoes, coffee and beef for export. He has indicated also that agriculture is no longer a mere talking point on the Plateau - it's a critical endeavour, as he noted that "our future hinges on our agricultural success, and we're approaching it with renewed vigour this year."

The Minister had earlier said that the land mass in Nigeria is shrinking, as he called for assiduous collaboration with State governments and other stakeholders to resolve the challenge of food insecurity. Truly, shortly after the visit, the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development was in Plateau State

Also, in the one year of the present administration, one major success recorded in agriculture is the resuscitation of the Agricultural Services Training Company (ASTC) in the state which was hitherto abandoned. It is now operational as it has been fully mobilized to farming communities in Mangu, Barkin Ladi and Riyom Local Government Areas to assist the farmers continue with their farming activities which were abruptly interrupted and even halted by attacks on the communities. The Government has deployed 29 tractors to where about 900 hectares of land were ploughed in those communities that were affected by the recent crises. This intervention is fully complemented by the security provided by the agro-rangers of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). Reports also indicate that measures have been put in place to increase the quantum of land and extend the exercise into the dry season to enable farmers continue plying their trade even after the rainy season.

Complementing the foregoing, the Plateau Agricultural Development Project (PADP) and other related government agencies have joined in these efforts; and with the current network of arrangements, it is hoped that

State, the Government has earmarked the sum of N12bn, representing 7.89 percent of the 2024 budget, to the State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to intervene in the area of farming and procurement of equipments, among others. This, according to reports, is for the provision of capital expenditure for the Ministry, the Plateau Agricultural Development Programme (PADP), Plateau Agricultural Mechanisation Services Company, and the State College of Agriculture. The amount is higher than the sum allocated for the same Ministry in the previous fiscal year.

With the removal of fuel subsidy and the attendant hardship experienced by citizens, the Federal Government had provided relief materials and huge sums of money to the various State Governments to help cushion its effects. Due to the hindsight of Governor Mutfwang, and in line with his efforts to boost farming on the Plateau, the Plateau State Government acquired 200 trucks of fertiliser for distribution to citizens as part of palliative measures to cushion the effect of the subsidy removal. According to the Government, the primary objective of providing the fertilizer is to support and subsidize agriculture in order to ensure food security within the State and across the country. It also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the fertilizer is actually used for farming and stressed its commitment to boosting food production and supporting agriculture for the benefit of the people. He also reiterated the administration's commitment to enhancing the profitability of agriculture in the state.

In a document by the State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on its scorecard thus far, the mantra, 'the land is green and the time is now' speaks volume on the expectations on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development by the present administration to transform livelihoods, diversify the economy, create job opportunities, improve incomes and standard of living of Plateau people and the country at large.

Some landmark achievements of the State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, according to the document, is in the area of agro forestry for planting of economic trees through the Special Agricultural Processing Zones (SAP2) phase II which is to establish the SAP2 in Heipang and three collection spots in Shendam, Mangu, and Bassa, identified irrigable land to increase agricultural production in the state; and that 32,000 hectares of irrigable land has so far been identified. Smart agriculture training for youths as extension service providers in the State is part of the Ministry's programme where 1700 youths are to be trained on smart agriculture with 100 from every LGA. This would involve the use of APPs and weather admission services to improve output, and a partnership with international Skill Acquisition Center (SAC) is to provide training for youth in innovative and integrated agricultural value chain.



Plateau state governor inspects Agro processing factory and fertilizer for distribution to farmers

agricultural activities. In other words, agriculture, is still predominantly subsistence, peasant, and characterized by low and declining yield or returns to scale. About 70 percent of the farming population is engaged in agriculture and produce food and cash crops for domestic consumption and as inputs for agro-allied industries.

The present administration of Governor Caleb Mannaseh Mutfwang, who took his oath of office on May 29, 2023, came with 'The time is now' and the land is green' mantra. In other words, one of the policy thrusts of the administration is agriculture. He had, in his inaugural speech said:

populace." Having made this promise to the people of Plateau State, the Governor, to match words with action, has in the one year of being in the saddle introduced several initiatives to help boost agriculture in the State

for the commissioning of the Plateau Duncan Fertiliser Blending Plant in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area as part of efforts to increase the production and distribution of quality fertilizer in the state and country at large.

Plateau will have enough to eat and export to other states despite the attacks that drove farmers away from their ancestral lands.

Yet, it is also to the credit of the present administration that, in order to boost agriculture in the

"Enunciating his vision on agriculture further, he said "in the same vein, we shall take deliberate and immediate steps to procure fertilizer and other farming inputs for distribution to farmers at subsidized rates. 'The Time is Now' to support our small farmers through organized cooperatives. We will seek to ultimately transform small scale farming to mechanized farming and build the necessary infrastructure to enable our farmers key into dry farming practices so as to make agriculture a profitable venture for our populace."



Congratulations

GOVERNOR CALEB M. MUTFWANG

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Senator Pam



Barr. Caleb Mutfwang
Governor Plateau State

On behalf of my family, friends and the good people of Plateau North Senatorial District, I, **Senator Pam Mwadkon Dachungyang**, heartily felicitate with the workaholic Captain of "The Time is Now" philosophy and the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, and his Deputy, **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, as they mark one year in office.

Sir, your strong resolve and demonstrable capacity as exemplified by your purposeful leadership has left undeniable evidence of achievements across key sectors such as Agriculture, Education, Urban Renewal, Health, Human Capital Development, Roads Construction and the recent revolution taking place in the transport sector.

Your Excellency Sir, as you and your team work towards consolidating on the gains already achieved, you can count on my support and that of my Constituents to your administration.

It is my prayer that God will grant you good health to continue to steer the ship of our dear state for the good of the people of Plateau State and humanity.

Once more, CONGRATULATIONS Sir!

Senator Pam Mwadkon Dachungyang
Representing Plateau North Senatorial District.