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Cement price 69% higher in Nigeria than India -Reps C'ttee

The House of Representatives Joint Committee investigating the arbitrary increase in the price of cement in Nigeria has lamented the cost of the commodity, compared to what obtains in other African

countries. Recall that on March 13, 2024, the House resolved to investigate the incessant increase in the price of cement following the adoption of the motion co-sponsored by Gaza Gbefwi (SDP, Nasarawa) and Ademorin Kuye (APC, Lagos).

On February 13, the Federal Government and cement manufacturers agreed to peg the price of a 50kg bag of cement between N7, 000 and N8,000.

At the public hearing on the subject matter on yesterday organized by the House Joint

Committee in Abuja, the Chairman, House Committee on Solid Minerals, Gaza Gbefwi said there's a need to address the situation, noting that in most African countries, the price of cement is lower compared to what obtains in Nigeria.

He said, "Our findings showed that the price of cement is 69 per cent higher in Nigeria than in India, 39 per cent higher in Nigeria than in Zambia and 29 per cent higher than in Kenya given the official exchange rate."

Speaking at the event, the Speaker, Abbas Tajudeen represented by

the Deputy Speaker, Benjamin Kalu, assured the manufacturers that the public hearing was not intended to witch-hunt them but an avenue to proffer solutions to the challenges affecting the housing sector, particularly the high cost of cement across the country.



Governor Mutfwang delivering his speech during the commissioning of the Metro Tin City buses yesterday at the premises of the Government House Chapel, Rayfield. Jos
Photo: DANLADI DUK

Rainstorm destroys 200 houses, classrooms in Miango

NO fewer than 200 houses, classrooms, and a clinic were destroyed in Miango District, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State on

Monday evening, following a heavy downpour in the area.

The Publicity Secretary of Miango Youth Development Association, Nuhu Bitrus

Nga, said three persons were also injured in the incident, and were receiving treatment in a hospital.

"The heavy rainstorm blew off roofs of about

200 houses, a clinic, classrooms, shops, livestock pens. It uprooted trees, leaving many people stranded while valuables were lost.

"Currently, some affected persons have found refuge in neighbours' houses. The damage caused by the rainstorm further put the Miango people who have over the years suffered

violent attacks and displacement in a more precarious situation," Nga explained.

The community called on the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the local government council, non-governmental organizations and well-meaning individuals to as come to the aid of the affected persons.

Villagers flee as bandits terrorise 10 communities
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Plateau Attorney General vows to prosecute land grabbing reports
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News

Villagers flee as bandits terrorise 10 communities

Residents of 10 communities in Giwa LGA of Kaduna State have fled their homes due to the activities of bandits in the area.

It was learnt that many of those affected, particularly women and children, trekked long distances to seek refuge in the main town of Giwa.

Umar Auwal Bijimi, the representative of Giwa West constituency in the Kaduna State House of Assembly, told reporters Monday that the exodus began after the removal of a dedicated and effective soldier, Sergeant Usman Hamisu Bagobiri, who played a crucial role in combating the banditry plaguing the area.

He said the absence of Sergeant Bagobiri has emboldened the criminals, leading to an alarming rise in their heinous activities

and subsequent displacement of villagers.

Bijimi said the affected villages included Gogi, Angwar Bako, Marge, Tunburku, Bataro, Kayawa and Yuna.

He appealed to the state government and military authorities to reinstate Sergeant Bagobiri and deploy more committed soldiers to continue the fight against the bandits, thus ensuring the safety of innocent villagers and enabling them to resume their agricultural activities.

Korau Fatika, a resident, corroborated Bijimi's account, stating that the persistent bandit attacks have instilled fear in the villagers, prompting them to flee with their families.

He lamented the recent wave of abductions, particularly among women, which further

compelled villagers to abandon their homes.

Nuhu Lawal Umar, the District Head of Fatika, called for security in the area, emphasising the dire need for government intervention.

Samuel Aruwan, the Commissioner for Internal Security and Homes Affairs, said relevant stakeholders, including the Chairman of Giwa LGA, Alhaji Abubakar Shehu Giwa, and local leaders, have been engaged in discussions with the ministry regarding security concerns.

He affirmed that the matter has been escalated to appropriate authorities, and concerted efforts are underway to enhance intelligence gathering and bolster security measures in the affected communities.



Plateau State Governor Mutwang (assisted by members of the hightable) cutting the tape to officially commission the revamped Tin City metro buses yesterday at the premises of the Government House Chapel

Tin City metro buses begin operations

By PETER TITLE

The long awaited Tin City Urban Transportation Metro Buses purchased by the Plateau State Government was commissioned yesterday to begin transporting people within the Jos-Bukuru metropolis which was witnessed by well wishers from all walks of life.

Performing the function at the premises of the Chapel of Grace, Government House,

Rayfield, Governor Mutwang explained that the initiative was the product of the unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the people.

According to him, the state government procured 15 state-of-the-art MAN Diesel buses, a move aimed at mitigating the costs of intra-city travel as well as providing a respite from the daily transportation challenges facing commuters.

"These buses are not mere vehicles, they are mobile hubs of innovation, equipped with latest amenities such as Near Field Communication (NFC) and Secure Card Payment System. We are ushering in an era of digitized travel, aligning with global shift towards cashless transactions for the convenience of our passengers," Mutwang stated.

He disclosed that the Tin

City Metro Urban Transportation Project Initiative was not only a transportation project but a catalyst for community development, assuring that the it was expected to generate between 500 to 1000 job opportunities that would fuel economic growth and foster development across the state.

The Plateau State Commissioner for Transport, Davou Gyang Jatau, commended the governor for providing the buses, noting that it would lessen the hardships being faced by the generality of the populace in the area of transportation.

He revealed that soon, railway services would commence transporting goods and services to complimented the bus services, adding that the state government had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) in that regard.

On his own part, the General Manager, Plateau Express Services Limited (PES), Mr. Samuel Gwot lauded the efforts of the governor as he had brought back the transportation system that had long been forgotten.

He assured that the buses would be adequately maintained so that they would last long and whoever was found wanting in the discharge of their duties would not be spared.

Good-will messages came from the former governor of the state, Senator Jonah David Jang, Chief Judge of the state, Justice David Mann, Speaker, House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Dewan, and the Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba.

Governor Mutwang later took a ride in one of the buses from Rayfield to the Terminus terminal and back.

JAMB releases additional 531 results

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has released additional 531 results from the ones it withheld, taking the total number of results released so far to 1,842,897.

The Board, in a statement signed by Dr. Fabian Benjamin, its spokesman, said in the course of the exercise, other cases of examination misconduct were also established to make a tally of 92 from the 81 initially discovered.

He said the board is proceeding with the

screening of over 64,000 withheld results.

"The Board is also looking at cases of unverified candidates and would soon come up with a position," the statement reads.

While citing the case of an unknown candidate, who did not sit the 2024 UTME but claimed to have obtained scores, Benjamin said, "This is fake, malicious and a calculated attempt to undermine the integrity of the Board. The public is urged to disregard such irresponsible publications."

"To underscore the fact that the publication is crafted by mischief makers to paint the Board in bad light, the publication, which levels such a grievous allegation, has no details of the candidate for proper verification." He added: "The examination template of the Board is designed with the highest sense of responsibility and is not an allocation platform where scores are doled out to candidates. It is most unfortunate that anybody could even believe such narration or that the story could even

gain traction given the Board's integrity.

"This again has gone to further vindicate the Board's stance that candidates should desist from disclosing their classified details to third-parties."

He said the attitude of these mischief makers would only propel the Board to further tighten the process of checking its results to make it more personalized and sure would be stringent when it should actually be a simple and straightforward exercise.

Plateau Attorney General vows to prosecute land grabbing reports

Plateau State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Barrister Philemon Audu Daffi, has vowed to implement any report brought before his table on land grabbing issues if all findings were duly registered.

He made this promise Monday while responding to questions from journalists shortly after presenting the ministry's score card at the on-going ministerial press briefing organised by the Ministry for Information and Communication, held at the conference hall of the J.D Gomwalk Secretariat, Jos.

He said: "We want to establish that the function of the Ministry of Justice is not to



Daffi

investigate. It does not have the constitutional power to investigate, but prosecute.

"Now, when investigated reports are

not brought for prosecution, there is nothing we can do about it. But I want to assure you that, we are ready to do what we must do

that is worth doing when proper steps are taken.

"So, when we are talking about land grabbing, the Anti-Land Grabbing Law is already in place and we need the investigation to prosecute. So the possession is not about the prosecution but investigation so, we are waiting to prosecute land grabbing report head long."

Daffi added that Plateau State would not allow the prosecution of its attackers to be taken to Abuja, insisting that, "this is going to be the last time any person caught in Plateau over the matter of crisis will be taken to Abuja and be tolerated. We will not take that anymore!"

"Everybody must be

prosecuted here on the Plateau because the offence was committed in Plateau State, the evidence is in Plateau State and the victims are in Plateau State.

"There is no need to take anybody anywhere. The prosecution must take place in Plateau State. That is our position and we are changing nothing about that."

Other ministries that presented their score cards included the Ministry of Health; Ministry for Water Resources and Energy; Ministry for Environment, Climate Change and Mineral Development; Ministry for Tourism, Culture and Hospitality; and the Ministry for Science and Technology.



Nothing we see in what is original to us

WITH every day that passes, it is becoming clearer that the value we place on 'made in Nigeria' goods, our uniqueness, culture is eroding at a very fast pace. Eurocentric craze has eaten deep into most of us. It is no wonder that in most average homes in Nigeria, the accepted mode of communication is English. We place high premium on communication in English that any other language comes second. It is so bad that children who speak their local dialect fluently and are not so good with spoken English, are looked down on by their peers. As a consequence, a new generation has been born which has lost its identity.

This new generation is made up of people who know little or nothing about their customs and tradition. They are not interested in their culture, infact majority of them see their culture as something diabolical. And because they lack interest, they don't care to learn their local dialect. Unfortunately, their parents think it is fashionable and even find it funny when their children look lost when relations speak their local dialect to them.

These are the same parents that pay for their children to learn French, Spanish, Chinese. Some of them pay through their noses for their children to be enrolled in schools who claim to run British or American programmes with the hope that they will speak like the British or Americans even while in Nigeria. They come out sounding funny because their teachers are ordinary Nigerians like you and I. They create an imaginary class for these children which does not exist. Is it any wonder that they don't fit into the society?

Sometime ago, I went to plait my hair in an area inhabited by low income earners. It was such an interesting day as it opened my eyes to the class struggles our children are forced into by their parents. The hairdresser's children who must have passed through their house, after school to keep their bags and freshen up before coming to their mother's shop within the same environment, came in and greeted us. Instead of the mother leaving it that way, she wanted to impress me, I guess. She called the attention of her eldest daughter who was within the age range 7-8: "Mitchell!" (she pronounced it as it is spelt instead of 'Mitsell' how it is pronounced by the white people it originated from).

The next thing I heard was, "Did your daddy come back?" My ears were offended. But it was not the end of it. "No," Mitchell answered. "My daddy did not come back," she replied as natural as breathing.

It was so sad. Borrowed name she could not pronounce and borrowed language she was not fluent in. A beautiful name like Simi would have sufficed. Giving instructions in their local dialect wouldn't have been bad.

I discovered in the 3 hours that it took for my hair to be made that Mummy Mitchell was not the only class struggler. All her neighbours were involved. Several times, there were misunderstanding between their children that led to fight. It took everything in me to keep a straight face. English was murdered as if there was no other language to communicate in. The frustrated party, in each of the fights, who couldn't communicate in English, communicated physically. The parents who mediated made my day until frustrated, they were forced to handle matters in Hausa. Surprisingly, all the kids were fluent in Hausa and it was the only common language among them.

We are all guilty of Eurocentric craze. Who made it a rule that formal dressing means dressing the white man's way? What makes it wrong when one sews gowns and skirts with Ankara, and wears them to office? We generalise African wears as traditional wears worn only once a week in formal settings (Friday). Even when it is in our power to change it, we have refused to do that. Our Ankara has limited market in other climes while we open a very big market to English wears. If we don't make our clothes attractive to the outside world, nobody will.

Nigeria has become the destination for okrika (second hand clothes, shoes, bags). A majority of us will rather buy them than patronise our Ankara. It is not about the cost because there

are very cheap Ankara. It is all about class struggles. Thank God our tailors, fashion experts have begun making beautiful Ankara baby gowns and suits for boys. We have no excuse not to patronise these clothes because they are very unique.

Lovers of Nigerian fashion have already taken it a step further. They are getting married in nicely fitted caftans. I was a guest at a wedding where the groom, his groom's men, page boys, ring bearer all wore beautifully sown caftans that were the talk of town. It was only the bride and her bridal train that wore European clothes. Who said one can't get married in Ankara? Will God frown at it?

We take eurocentric craze further by cooking foreign foods during celebrations. At weddings, one would be told that 'We have some local delicacies here'. These are foods original to us that we refer to in a demeaning manner. If there are two serving points at a wedding or event, and one was local and the other normal, check out the traffic before the 'normal' food. Men will be the ones eating our local food because they love swallow and appreciate what we term local.

A matter of great concern to me is the issue of 'made in Nigeria' goods. We look down on anything made by our local manufacturers. Is it any wonder that they have devised a means to sell their products? It could be a product made in Abba, but they will write 'Made in China or 'Made in Taiwan etc and they will sell like hot cakes. Our manufacturers may have failed us in the past because of government's nonchalance towards investing in them. But that does not mean we should throw the baby along with the dirty water used in bathing it.

A bride had a bad experience on her wedding day. She had no money to buy an expensive shoes, so she settled for a cheap 'Made in Nigeria shoes'. As she danced into the reception ground, as the centre of attention, one of the shoes separated from the sole. Embarrassed, she ran out of the reception ground. One can imagine the scene. This almost spoiled her beautiful day but for the intervention of good Samaritans who may taunt her with it tomorrow.

Talents abound in Nigeria. The problem is government's disinterest in investing in entrepreneurship. Leading economies like China are making waves in technological development due to their investments in that sector. There is no gain without pain.

Nigerians need to change their perception about our professionals like doctors, teachers. Medical tourism is the order of the day because those with the wherewithal believe they can only get the best medical attention outside our dime. A story was told of a rich man who was diagnosed of an ill health that required a surgery here in Nigeria. But he declined being booked for the surgery here and traveled to India to have the surgery. When he arrived, he was told that the surgeon had traveled but will be back soon. After about two weeks, he was scheduled for the surgery. To his surprise, the surgeon that was to handle his case was the same surgeon he left in Nigeria whom he declined his service. It was a very embarrassing situation. Imagine all the resources wasted going to Sokoto for what was in his shokoto.

The elite class has done Nigeria more harm than good in medical tourism. The only time they began to frown at it was when the Japs syndrome took root. Our medical personnel had to change environment, to greener pastures. Today, we are all crying foul for what the elite began. They should have seen that coming.

Another issue which is a threat to self realization is neocolonialism as regards discoveries by Nigerians in the medical line. Are you aware that in the era of Covid-19, Professor Noel Wannang, an indigene of Plateau State, had discovered a cure that would manage the deadly virus? He has submitted it for investigation. However, till date, his discovery is yet to see the light of day. We prefer to embrace whatever that is foreign and treat our brains as if they are dull. We need to go back to the drawing board, because we are the cause of our problems.

News

Mutfwang harps on international collaboration to tackle insecurity

By PETER TITLE

THE Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang, says the need for international collaboration and cooperation was imperative towards tackling the crises bedeviling Plateau State, the North Central and northern Nigeria as a whole.

According to him, the persistent violent attacks in Northern Nigeria needed urgent collaboration to nib them in the bud.

Governor Mutfwang disclosed this in an interview with journalists on arrival from a peace and security dialogue held in the United States of America (USA) at the Yakubu Gowon Airport, Heipang, near Jos.

The governor, who was part of the delegation of northern governors that attended the dialogue, posited that the attacks had a lot of international dimension but assured that the government would confront the



Mutfwang

perpetrators head-on.

He explained that the dialogue was timely, adding that the conference underscored the importance of strengthening the strategic alliance between the United States and Nigeria to tackle the current security challenges and emphasized the need to have an international perspective.

Mutfwang reiterated his readiness to address the problem from an informed position, emphasizing, "I have

come better armed, better informed, better equipped to be able to deal with the security challenges. As a matter of fact, from here, I am proceeding straight to the Plateau State University, Bokoos, to have a look and have a first-hand information on the situation in PLASU and in Bokoos in general so that we can begin to put heads together to see how we can arrest the situation."

Permit USA, France to set up military bases in Nigeria

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

AMIDST opposition by some eminent northern leaders against welcoming the United States of America and the French government to set up military bases in Nigeria, the front line civil rights advocacy group, Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA), has said it is best for these countries to be permitted by Nigeria to set up military bases provided their presence would quicken the destruction and existential defeat of Islamists under the auspices of Boko Haram terrorists and armed Fulani militants.

It would be recalled that the position of the northern leaders was contained in a press release jointly signed by Professor Abubakar Siddique Mohammed of the Centre for Democratic Development, Research and Training (CEDDERT), Zaria; Professor Kabiru Sulaiman Chafe, former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, representing the Arewa Research and Development Project (ARDP), Kaduna; Professor Attahiru Muhammadu Jega, former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC); and Professor Jibrin Ibrahim, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Abuja.

Others included Auwal Musa (Rafsanjani), Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CCISLAC), Abuja, and Y. Z.

Ya'u, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), Kano.

In an open letter to President Bola Tinubu and the leadership of the National Assembly, the leaders said the federal government should not succumb to such pressure.

According to the letter, the American and French governments have allegedly been aggressively lobbying Nigeria, along with other Gulf of Guinea countries, to sign new defense pacts that would allow them to redeploy their troops, expelled from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, to Nigeria.

But in a statement made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, recently, HURIWA called on the northern leaders to be broad minded and nationalistic in their outlook instead of holding on to the myopic, mundane and ethno-Islamic worldview which is not fundamentally different from the self-destructive ideology of Islamists and extremists working to destabilize Nigeria.

The rights body expressed shock that the problem of these northern leaders was the possibility of setting up US and France of military bases and not the massive attacks in the North West by armed bandits, terrorists and armed non-state actors who have killed 30,000 Nigerians in the

last one decade.

HURIWA maintained that there was nothing wrong with the presence of the USA and France military bases inside Nigeria if the Federal Government permits it, adding that the military bases could positively fast-track the war on terrorism.

HURIWA National Coordinator, Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko, said it would support any immediate or future decisions by the Tinubu administration to welcome the setting up of the military bases in Nigeria as long as those countries respect the sovereignty of Nigeria and do not carry out subversive activities that may undermine the territorial integrity of Nigeria.

"The government should accept these military bases if these nations accept to provide adequate technical, military and logical support to the armed forces of the federation of Nigeria to wage a time-bound and an effective war on terror in Nigeria," HURIWA concluded.

However, the Minister of Information, Alhaji Mohammed Idris, has debunked the claim that the Federal Government was being lobbied by the two countries to move their military bases from Niger and Mali to Nigeria.

Governor Mutfwang wins award

By PETER TITLE

THE Governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang, has been honoured with the Independent Newspaper's Best Governor of the Year Award in the Community Empowerment category.

Daily Independent Newspapers Limited recognized the governor's extensive community-focused initiatives within the Jos-Bukuru metropolis and throughout the state's local government areas.

At a ceremony held at the Eko Hotel in Lagos recently, the governor's Director of Press and Public Affairs, Gyang Bere, who received the award on his behalf, dedicated the award to God and to the entire people of Plateau State for their support to his administration.

According to him, over the past 11 months, the Mutfwang administration had concentrated on establishing a robust infrastructure, revitalizing the city center and enhancing the state's economy for the collective benefit of all, irrespective of ethnic or religious differences.

Among the key projects he highlighted were the revival of the defunct rail transport system, the introduction of modern MAN-Diesel buses



Mutfwang

for the Plateau Express Service Limited and the ongoing road rehabilitation and construction within the greater Jos master plan and neighbouring local government areas.

These initiatives, according to Governor Mutfwang, were part of a broader strategy to improve service delivery across the state.

He urged the media to collaborate with his administration in its reconstruction efforts, emphasizing his commitment to restoring peace, security and facilitate the return of Internally Displaced Persons

(IDPs) to their ancestral homes.

Steve Omanufeme, the Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief of Daily Independent Newspapers, welcomed the awardees for their meritorious contributions to their states and Nigeria.

The event also celebrated the achievements of other distinguished governors, including Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State, Peter Mbah of Enugu State, Adedapo Oluseun Abiodun of Ogun State, Pastor Umo Bassey Eno of Akwa Ibom and Agbu Kefas of Taraba State, among other notable figures.

Mutfwang applauds journalists

By HOSEA NYAMLONG & JIDAUNA DARING

PLATEAU State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, has applauded journalists for their sacrifices in the line of duty to ensure they educate and inform the populace with information that reflects happenings in the society.

Represented by Special Adviser on Strategic Communication to the Governor, Timothy Golu, in a message of solidarity reflecting the theme: "A press for the planet, journalism in the face of environment crisis" in Jos recently, the governor pointed out that journalists in Plateau and across the globe had remained resolute against all odds and refused to be intimidated or caged by corrupt leaders.

The governor emphasized that but for the media, the level of impunity, corruption and insanity would have been more in the country.

"Some people are compelled to obey the law, not because of punishment, but for the

fear of being exposed by the media," he pointed out.

Golu assured journalists that, as a media-friendly person, he would soon join journalists in that kind of sensitization walk.

He called on the media to work out a robust structure in which they would be protected, promising that his partnership with them would go a long way to improve and overcome the misrepresentation, misunderstanding, misinformation and fake news that is the order of the day.

Earlier in a speech by the Chairman Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Plateau State Council, Ayuku Pwaspo, said that journalists were often confronted with challenges such as threats to their lives, intimidation, physical violence and censorship while performing their duties and many have paid the supreme price.

Pwaspo pointed out that the war in Ukraine and Gaza, where journalists had been targeted, confirmed what members of the pen profession go through trying to keep the public abreast of

happenings around them.

She added that in Plateau State, "You will recall that in May 2007, nine of our colleagues lost their lives and eight others sustained various degrees of injuries while on an official assignment in the state.

"In June 2022, our members were attacked by hoodlums in Namu, Quan Pan Local Government while they were covering the commissioning of an ICT Centre by the then Senator representing Plateau South. They survived the attack, but the state council lost its Toyota Hiace bus in the sad incident."

Pwaspo solicited for partnership and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, security agencies and civil society organizations to support and protect journalists as they carry out their duties for the growth and development of the society.

Highlights of the event was the sensitization walk by journalists from the NUJ Secretariat to the Secretariat Junction flyover in commemoration of the 2024 World Press Freedom Day.



No, not our Senate!

NIGERIA'S woes have continued to multiply and pile up as if the country and its people are cursed. From one problem, we transit to another without finding solutions to the first. The ever-present Boko Haram crisis which has left several body bags in its wake is a constant reminder of government failure as it has refused to deal with it so as to bring the scourge to an end. Having been allowed to have a field day, these insurgents have dealt so much devastation on the North East and North West parts of the country that people had to abandon these areas putting pressure on other parts of the country.

Food, which should never have been a problem, has continued to be scarce in spite of the vast and fertile land at Nigeria's disposal. As if that was not enough, there have been several hikes in the costs of fuel since the Yakubu Gowon era. And, the amorphous subsidy has continued to be an issue till date.

Having failed to deal with the aforementioned, new problems keep rearing their ugly heads even as many institutions have been built to deal with them. Despite their feeble and lacklustre attempts, our leaders seem not to have the capacity and capability to deal with these challenges as they arise. Neither have they come to grapple with the fact that leaders are hired to solve problems on behalf of the people they govern.

Some of these issues that have continued to plague our society should have occupied the attention of our Senate, however, they have chosen to engage in affairs that are anti-people. Fuel queues have literally taken over our streets and productive man hours are lost trying to get that essential commodity, yet our senate prefers to engage in frivolities. Food is scarce and costly making most Nigerians go to bed without eating anything

yet our senate would rather waste precious time fighting themselves over where to sit.

Nigerians are being killed on daily basis but that is not good enough to attract the attention of our law makers to enact laws that would bring about a secured society. They would rather expend their energies engaging in small fights over who sits where as if sitting positions would help in stopping these unwarranted killings. As we go to press, a lot of Nigerians are held in kidnappers-den and are not able to pay ransome so that they would be free, but that is not a source of worry for our Senate. Indeed, Abuja, the capital city has not been spared the wrath of these daredevil persons. Several persons have been kidnapped for no fault of theirs and made to suffer humiliation and even death yet our Senate

would rather fight over sitting positions. Our distinguished Senators are not worried by the men of the underworld and cultists who have turned our country into a killing field neither are they bothered by the many poor school children herded into unknown destinations like cows led to the slaughter by heartless and wicked persons.

The story of Leah Sharibu is a constant reminder of the failure of government to provide security for the citizenry. So too are the stories of several Southern Kaduna school children taken hostage by Fulani militias who have turned kidnapping into a lucrative business. To add to the painful lists of our problems, the Abuja/Kaduna road has become a no go area for motorists just as has been the train services between the two cities. No where is safe any longer as kidnappings have been extended into our capital cities and nothing is being done to stem the tide.

The Middlebelt area which used to pride itself as the food basket of the nation can not live up to its billings. Fulani militias have taken over large swaths of the land rendering the people homeless and hungry and nothing has been done to return the displaced persons to their ancestral land.

These and several more are what the Senate should concern itself with not the issue of sitting space. They must know that they were hired to solve problems on behalf of Nigerians not to fight themselves over trivialities. The needless infighting among these senators who belong to the ruling party is not what they have been sent to the Senate to do. If they must be told, they were sent to make laws for the smooth running of the country, whether they sit on the floor or stand on their feet. Nothing less is expected from them.

“ Food, which should never have been a problem, has continued to be scarce in spite of the vast and fertile land at Nigeria's disposal. As if that was not enough, there have been several hikes in the costs of fuel since the Yakubu Gowon era. And, the amorphous subsidy has continued to be an issue till date.

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Politics

Yahaya Bello and a complicit judiciary

By CHIDI ANSELM ODINKALU

THE last Chief Judge of Kogi State who attempted to hold that office with dignity and independence, Nasir Ajanah, paid with his life, un-mourning and exiled from the state. He was the second Chief Judge of the State to be politically lynched by the government of Kogi State in one decade.

Josiah Majebi is the fifth Chief Judge of Kogi State (in north-central Nigeria) in four years and the fourth to exist almost entirely in the pocket of the state governor. He has been in office as substantive Chief Judge since the beginning of February 2023, having acted in that role since 26 June 2022 when his predecessor, Richard Olorunfemi, retired. Henry Olusiyi served in that office for just under seven months from the end of June 2020 until January 2021. Sunday Otuh, who succeeded him, spent eight months in office before retiring in September 2021.

The last Chief Judge of Kogi State who attempted to hold that office with dignity and independence, Nasir Ajanah, paid with his life, un-mourning and exiled from the state. He was the second Chief Judge of the State to be politically lynched by the government of Kogi State in one decade.

At the beginning of April 2008, the Kogi State House of Assembly, defying an order of the state High Court, adopted a resolution asking the State Governor to remove long-serving Chief Judge of the State, Umaru Eri. On that basis, then acting governor, Clarence Oiafemi, promptly announced the sack of the Chief Judge on 2 April 2008 and designated another judge, Sam Ota, to act in his place.

In his defence, Umaru Eri claimed that his crime was that he had declined the request of the politicians to act as go-between in bribing the election petition tribunal on behalf of the then state governor whose election was in dispute. On 16 May, 2008, Alaba Ajileye, a judge of the High Court of Kogi State, reversed the sack and reinstated Umaru Eri.

11 years later, on 18 June 2019, Alaba Ajileye presided again in deciding a case that seemed uncannily to reprise issues in his earlier decision. As with the 2008 decision, the claimant in 2019 was another Chief Judge of Kogi State, Nasir Ajanah with his Chief Registrar, Yahya Adamu. The defendants included the Kogi State House of Assembly, its Speaker, and the State Governor, Yahaya Bello.

At the directive of Governor Yahaya Bello, the Secretary to the Government of Kogi State wrote on 14 November, 2018 to Chief Judge Nasir Ajanah, asking him to provide "the payroll of judicial staff for the ongoing pay parade of civil servants in the state." At the time, the Governor was a defendant in the court of the Chief Judge, so the Chief Registrar responded to the letter and explained that the judiciary was a self-accounting and co-equal



Bello

branch of government supervised by the State Judicial Service Commission.

An affronted Governor Yahaya Bello wrote under his own name to Walter Onnoghen, then Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chair of the National Judicial Council (NJC), asking the NJC to find the Chief Judge guilty of misconduct and requiring that he "step aside and (an) Acting Chief Judge allowed to take his place."

While his petition was still waiting for the attention of the NJC, Yahaya Bello resorted to political self-help. He referred the perceived effrontery of Nasir Ajannah to the State House of Assembly, which promptly constituted an investigation committee. The Chief Judge sued. While his suit was pending, on 2 April 2019, the State House of Assembly adopted a resolution asking Yahaya Bello to remove the Chief Judge and also requiring disciplinary action against the Chief Registrar.

On 18 June 2019, Alaba Ajileye sitting at the High Court of Kogi State in Kotonkarfe, determined that the Kogi State House of Assembly and the Governor acted unlawfully in seeking to remove the Chief Judge.

The reaction of the governor was bestial. He first went after Alaba Ajileye, a man of courage and learning whose judicial record was unblemished. With a doctoral law degree, Alaba Ajileye was an expert in the rarefied subject of digital evidence.

Following this judgment, however, Yahaya Bello's government made it known that they could no longer guarantee his safety. Yet, when he was put forward for elevation to the Court of Appeal, the same Kogi State government actively blocked it. A

man who would easily have adorned the Supreme Court with distinction, Alaba Ajileye retired from the High Court in February 2023 and has since then forged a career as a scholar and academic.

Turning to the State Chief Judge, meanwhile, Yahaya Bello made life unbearable for Nasir Ajannah. He began by banishing the man from official state functions. When Chief Judge Ajannah attended the swearing in of the new Grand Khadi of Kogi State on 21 May 2020, the Chief Security Officer to Yahaya Bello informed him that "the governor gave a directive that he should not be allowed to attend the function."

In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Yahaya Bello made Nasir Ajannah persona non-grata in the state. As a result, he was forced into internal displacement in Abuja, where his personal arrangements were worse than transitory. While in hiding in Abuja, Nasir Ajannah contracted COVID and died in isolation in Gwagwalada in the

Federal Capital Territory on 28 June 2020. His death went unacknowledged and even the institutions of the judiciary were reluctant to mourn his passing.

The men who followed Nasir Ajannah in the office of Chief Judge of Kogi State learnt to stoke the vanities of Yahaya Bello and avoid his anger. Ahead of his departure from office at the end of eight years as governor of Kogi State in January 2024, Josiah Majebi as Chief Judge and Chair of the Kogi State Judicial Service Commission, prepared a list of candidates for nomination as judges of the High Court of Kogi State.

At the top of the list was a wife to Yahaya Bello the basis of whose claim to the nomination was the dutiful fulfilment of the duties of connubium in Yahaya Bello's bedroom. For the Chief Judge, it was also proof that he had truly abjured any pretensions to a mind of his own.

Alarmed at what they saw as a perversion of the system of judicial appointments, a group of seven

Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs) from the State wrote to Josiah Majebi to dissuade him from this course of action. In January 2024, they sued challenging his judicial nominations.

Pending the outcome, the NJC suspended the process of appointment to the Kogi State judiciary. On 18 April 2024, James Omotoso, a judge of the Federal High Court in Abuja many of whose judgments usually have something of a smell problem about them, implausibly ruled that these SANs had no legitimate interest in the process of appointment of judges in their state and that, in any case, the discretion of the NJC in appointment of judges was effectively not open to review.

It was the day after Yahaya Bello's chosen successor and blood relative, Usman Ododo, chose to turn his predecessor into a fugitive from legal process and two days after Mr. Ododo opened his case in the petition questioning the lawfulness of his election as governor of Kogi State. As a bungling Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) waited to arrest Yahaya Bello in Abuja, one I.A. Jamil, a judge of the High Court of Kogi State, issued an order claiming to restrain the Commission from doing its job.

According to the order of the judge, the case which was filed over two months earlier on 8 February, was hurriedly assigned while the siege was on going in Abuja, argued, heard and decided and the judge quickly signed the order and handed it to Governor Ododo to take with him to Abuja from where he spirited his cousin away from legal process in a blaze of gunfire. The court was almost assuredly disingenuous about the date of filing. In all likelihood, the case was filed same day on 17 April and then back-dated.

The EFCC now claims it has declared Yahaya Bello a fugitive but the real question will be how a compromised and complicit judicial leadership will now treat the nomination of his unqualified wife as a judge and the petition against the declaration of his violent cousin as governor of Kogi State. The judges who currently control Nigeria's criminal politics now must show how much they owe Yahaya Bello.

Sahara Reporters.

"11 years later, on 18 June 2019, Alaba Ajileye presided again in deciding a case that seemed uncannily to reprise issues in his earlier decision. As with the 2008 decision, the claimant in 2019 was another Chief Judge of Kogi State, Nasir Ajanah with his Chief Registrar, Yahya Adamu. The defendants included the Kogi State House of Assembly, its Speaker, and the State Governor, Yahaya Bello. At the directive of Governor Yahaya Bello, the Secretary to the Government of Kogi State wrote on 14 November, 2018 to Chief Judge Nasir Ajanah, asking him to provide "the payroll of judicial staff for the ongoing pay parade of civil servants in the state." At the time, the Governor was a defendant in the court of the Chief Judge, so the Chief Registrar responded to the letter and explained that the judiciary was a self-accounting and co-equal branch of government supervised by the State Judicial Service Commission."

Editorial

Governor Mutfwang: Another milestone

THE transportation of goods and services from one place to another is not only a commercial and business venture but an integral part of the developmental process of society and humanity generally. This is more so in the present era where the movement of people and ideas are expected to happen at great speeds to meet the needs and yearnings of the digital age.

IN view of the above, yesterday, Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State took one more step in his efforts towards at once meeting one of the people's most pressing needs of the moment and keeping his own part of the social contract with them.

HE launched the Tin City Metro Urban Transportation Initiative, a unique system of massively moving commuters at very subsidized rates within the areas of the Greater Jos Master Plan. It has in its fleet 15 state-of-the-art MAN-Diesel buses fully equipped with latest equipment such as Near Field Communication (NFC) and secure card payment systems.

NO doubt, coming at this critical point in time when Nigerians are groaning under the heavy strain of astronomically high transportation costs, these buses could not have come at a more auspicious period.

FURTHERMORE, and as the governor himself pointed out, "We are ushering in an era of digitized travel, aligning with the global shift towards cashless transactions for the convenience of our passengers."

IN addition, these iconic buses are set to immensely boost economic and social activities of the people of the state. This is because transportation has multi-dimensional and ripple effects on society generally, especially now that individuals, commuters and businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to commute and transport goods from one place to another.

AND, to boot, only one week ago, the state government unveiled 20 ultra-modern 8-seater Seinna buses that are now plying intra-state and national routes. The Plateau Riders Bus Services, which had almost gone under in the last eight years, has now been given a new lease of life. No doubt, the Mutfwang administration is easing the current pains of transportation even beyond the borders of the state.

AND on a more general note, these buses have come with the added blessings of the beautification of the Jos/Bukuru metropolis aimed at creating standard stations and a conducive environment for businesses and human traffic to cohabit with ease and flow seamlessly. Anyone who has been in these areas in the last one year will certainly attest to the fact that an extraordinary transformation is unfolding.

RIGHT from the day he personally supervised the state-wide environmental sanitation exercise (one of his first assignments after assuming office), Governor Mutfwang has left no one in doubt about his avowed commitment towards radically bringing sanity to the state's erstwhile dirty physical environment.

JOS Terminus, Ahmadu Bello Way, Rwang Pam Street and other nooks and crannies of Jos and Bukuru metropolis are beaming with a splash of well-tarred roads, complete with wide shoulders and drainages.

IT is with this same determination and zeal that the governor is confronting the problem of transportation in the state. As a man who deeply believes in the wholistic development of society, he is well aware that abandoning one sector in preference for another would never give room for all-pervasive and sustainable progress.

THUS, roads construction, building terminals for the new buses, regulating street trading, beautifying the city, etc, are all being carried out at the same time so that they can have a more enduring and impactful effect.

SOME of these radical transformations on the landscape of the state capital and environs have come at a heavy price to many citizens. There have been obvious pushbacks here and there. But these pains are as temporary as they are very necessary in order to ensure sanity, ease of movement and doing business and the general wellbeing of society.

THE onus is now on citizens to take full responsibility for these new buses, roads and physical infrastructure. Nigerians are notorious for misusing government property. We call on citizens to utilize the buses with care in order to safeguard the huge investments government has made on them.

AND, going forward, Plateau people have no doubt whatsoever that this is only the beginning of even better things to come. In fact, preparations are in top-gear towards the revitalization of the rail system within the Greater Jos Master Plan area to give more impetus to these lofty innovations the state government is making.

CERTAINLY, the Governor Mutfwang administration is on the road to taking the state to greater heights in this and other areas of human development.



Release FIJ journalist, Daniel Ojukwu

PERMIT me space in this widely read newspaper, THE NIGERIA STANDARD, to express the concerns of the Nigerian National Committee of the International Press Institute (IPI Nigeria) to again raise the alarm over the safety of journalists in the country.

This follows the report of the abduction of Daniel Ojukwu, a journalist with the Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ).

According to reports, Ojukwu was abducted by the Intelligence Response Team (IRT) of the Inspector General of Police and is currently being held at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Pantin Lagos.

IPI Nigeria strongly condemns the abduction and calls on the Inspector General of Police to, with immediate effect, order the release of Mr. Ojukwu.

Coming at about the period the world is celebrating the freedom

of the press, the action of the Nigeria Police Force speaks volumes of the attitude and commitment of law enforcement agencies in Nigeria to the freedom of the press.

Some weeks ago, the Nigerian military abducted a journalist, Mr. Segun Olatunji, in a Gestapo manner in Lagos and flew him to Abuja under humiliating conditions in apparent violation of his rights to dignity and expression.

With the two incidents cited above, a pattern has emerged that points to the fact that the administration of President Bola Tinubu does not only condone repression of freedom of the press but also encourage it, in contradiction of promises made during the president's inaugural speech that his administration would uphold fundamental human rights.

We have always stated, and it bears repeating, that in a democratic setting, the proper step to take is to follow due process in seeking

remedies against journalists.

It amounts to an abuse of his powers and office for the Inspector General of Police to order the abduction of a journalist just because he is the overall head of the Nigeria Police Force.

IPI Nigeria calls on President Tinubu to sanction the Inspector General of the Police, having failed to lead by example. Nobody is above the law.

Human rights violations have continued unabated because perpetrators are hardly held to account. It is time to begin holding those suppressing freedom of expression to account.

Daniel Ojukwu should be released immediately, or else the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, will be included in IPI Nigeria's book of infamy and branded an enemy of the media and journalists. His inclusion on the list carries serious consequences beyond the shores of Nigeria.

Musikilu Mojeed, President, IPI Nigeria.

Standard Cartoon

FG SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT POWER & PETROLEUM SUPPLY



**ALL WE ARE
S-A-Y-I-N-G
REGULATE OUR
PUMP PRICE
ELECTRICITY TARIFF
KAWAI!!**

Features

Benue, Plateau, Kaduna worst hit by religious killings - Security agencies

A report by the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety), has identified Benue, Plateau and Kaduna states as the worst hit by religious killings in Nigeria.

Intersociety stated this as part of its latest report shared with SaharaReporters recently and titled, "Governors In South-East Deafeningly And Dangerously Turning Igbo Into Jihadist Violence-Prone Benue, Plateau and Southern Kaduna."

In the report subtitled "Shocking Statistics Arising from our several reports in Nigeria" the organisation said that more than 8200 defenceless Christians were hacked to death in 13 months between January 2023 to January 2024 in Nigeria, while over 8000 others were abducted.

The organisation alleged that Nigerian security agencies are complicit in the religious killings.

The report said that "Nigeria also recorded over 150,000 religious related deaths since July 2009 following Boko Haram uprising; involving killing of at least 100,000 defenceless Christians, 46,000 moderate Muslims (killed by fellow



but radical Fulani Muslims and allied others). Not less than 4,000 deaths were drawn from non-Christian and non-Muslim Faith members."

According to the report, "Direct killings also accounted for not less

than 100,000 deaths and indirect killings including deaths arising from state actors and non-state custodial torture and shootings or hackings; took the remaining 50,000 deaths.

Between July 2009 and Jan 2024, not less than 19, 000 churches including over 2000 sacred temples of the "African Instituted Churches" and Jewish religion and over 1000 sanctuaries of the traditional

religionists were wantonly destroyed or burned down.

"About 2,500 Christian schools and other sacred places of learning were also affected.

"In the first past four months of 2024 or Jan to April, the number of Christians killed and those abducted has risen to an estimated 800 and 1000 respectively.

"In all these, Benue, Plateau and Southern Kaduna have steadily remained the worst hit since June 2015; to the extent that in the past four years or 2020 to 2023; the three states had lost not less than 24,000 persons on a yearly average of 2000 deaths."

The organisation added that "Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, dangerously accommodated in the three States over the years have also seized, Islamised and Islamically renamed more than 300-400 uprooted indigenous Christian communities since June 2015 and uprooted and displaced over 1000 communities.

"Today, Benue State accounts for at least 2million Christian IDPs - with hundreds of thousands of others found in Plateau and Southern Kaduna."

The report noted that "Release International, a respected UK not-for-profit group promoting the International Freedom of Religion or Belief and caring for the persecuted Christians in Nigeria had in its April 22, 2024 statement, condemned strongly soldiers of the Nigerian military for opening fire with live bullets at students of the University of Jos protesting attacks against villages by Jihadist Fulani herdsmen allowed by soldiers to operate freely without challenge.

"The students' protest followed recent indiscriminate killing of defenceless Christians leading to death of more than 40 between 1st and 18th of April 2024 in Christian/University communities located in Bokkos and Mangu in Plateau State; during which soldiers of the Nigerian military reportedly took side and allowed the Jihadist Fulani herdsmen to wreck havoc despite having been severally alerted ahead of the Jihadist attacks.

"In the ensuing shootings, soldiers reportedly shot dead scores of students and wounded others."

Sahara Reporters

Scientists develop plastic-eating bacteria to reduce pollution

By HELEN BRIGGS

POLYURETHANE is used in everything from phone cases to trainers, but is tricky to recycle and mainly ends up in landfill.

However, researchers have come up with a sci-fi like solution.

By incorporating spores of plastic-eating bacteria they've developed a plastic that can self-destruct.

The spores remain dormant during the useful lifetime of the plastic, but spring back to life and start to digest the product when exposed to nutrients in compost.

There's hope "we can mitigate plastic pollution in nature", said researcher Han Sol Kim, of the University of California San Diego, La Jolla.

And there might be an added advantage in that the spores increase the toughness of the plastic.

"Our process makes the materials more rugged, so it extends its useful lifetime," said co-researcher, Jon Pokorski. "And then, when it's done, we're able to eliminate it from the environment, regardless of how it's disposed."

The plastic is currently being worked on at the laboratory bench but could be in the real world within a few years, with the help of a manufacturer, he added.

The type of bacteria added to the plastic is *Bacillus subtilis*, widely used as a food additive and a probiotic.

Crucially, the bacteria has to be genetically engineered to be able to withstand the very high temperatures needed to make plastic.

But not everyone is convinced by the idea of developing biodegradable alternatives to conventional plastics. Some scientists argue it is far better to reduce the amount of plastic used in the first place.

The penultimate round of UN talks for a future plastics treaty have just drawn to a close in Canada, aimed at agreeing a global deal on tackling plastic pollution.

Prof Steve Fletcher, director of the Revolution Plastics Institute at the

University of Portsmouth, said the most effective way of tackling plastic pollution was to agree on global legally binding cuts in plastic production.

He told BBC News: "Care must be taken with potential solutions of this sort, which could give the impression that we should worry less about plastic pollution because any plastic leaking into the environment will quickly, and ideally safely, degrade. Yet, for the vast majority of plastics, this is not the case."

The research is published in the journal, Nature Communications.

The world is set to get a global treaty to tackle plastic pollution.

Nearly 200 countries have agreed to start negotiations on an international agreement to take action on the "plastic crisis".

UN members are tasked with developing an over-arching framework for reducing plastic waste across the world.

There is growing concern that discarded plastic is destroying habitats, harming wildlife and contaminating the food chain.

Supporters describe the move as one of the world's most ambitious environmental actions since the 1989 Montreal Protocol, which phased out ozone-depleting substances.

They say just as climate change has the Paris Agreement, plastic should have its own binding treaty, which sets the world on course for reducing plastic waste.

Prof Steve Fletcher of the University of Portsmouth advises the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on plastics issues.

He said the plastics problem spans international borders and boundaries.

"One country can't deal with plastic pollution alone, no matter how good its policies are," he said.

"We need a global agreement to enable us to deal with the widespread challenges that plastic gives us as a society."

What does this mean?

UN member states have agreed to start international negotiations on drawing up a global plastics treaty that could set rules for production,

use and disposal of plastics. The decision was made at a meeting of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi.

Dr Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, environment minister for Rwanda, which has been at the forefront of the proposals, said they were optimistic the negotiations would put in place a framework "to end plastic pollution".

Conservation charity WWF described the decision as one of the world's most ambitious environmental actions since the 1989 Montreal Protocol, which phased out ozone-depleting substances.

Addressing the full lifecycle of plastic products - production and use, as well as disposal - is key to turning off "the plastic tap", said senior policy advisor, Paula Chin.

"The next step is to make sure all signatories are ready to deliver on the promise of this ground-breaking agreement," she added.

World leaders have until 2024 to agree the plastic pollution treaty, including which elements will be legally binding and how the deal will be financed.

Environmental groups are calling for clear and strong global standards that incentivise nations to stick to common rules and regulations over plastics, while penalising harmful products and practices.

There will be pressure to help countries in the global south dealing with plastic problems created in the global north.

"There is debate about who pays and how do we make sure that countries in the global south have got the resources to deal with the plastic pollution crisis that they face," said Prof Fletcher.

The UK government, which supported the resolution, described the agreement as "truly historic".

"In the space of just one human lifetime, we have caused unimaginable damage to the global environment, choking every single part of the global ocean with plastic pollution," said Lord Zac Goldsmith, government minister for international environment.

"And although there is much to be done now to turn it into an ambitious and far-reaching treaty, we can now begin to close this ugly chapter."

Facts on plastic:

It's thought more than five trillion pieces of plastic are in the world's oceans, which can take years to break down

Each year, 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced and 40% of that is single-use - plastic only used once before it's thrown away

More than eight million tonnes of plastic enters the world's oceans each year and most of that escapes from land

Not all plastic can be recycled, either because of the way it's made or because it's too expensive or difficult to do so

Animals on land or at sea can be harmed by plastic. They can get trapped in carrier bags or food packaging or mistake plastic for food.

BBC News



Plastic pollution

Change of Name

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>NANCIT</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS NANCIT JAMES, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NANCIT ANDREW NANDUL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>NDANGUN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABU MANWOR, now wish to be known and addressed as NDANGUN NANWOR. Correct date of birth is 12/5/1972 not 7/5/1947. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>ELIZABETH</p> <p>I, formerly known as WAKFI P. SHANGTOKMWA, now wish to be known and addressed as ELIZABETH SHANGTOKMWA IBEABUCHI. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>RAHAP</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSHUA BAWA GOFWAN, now wish to be known and addressed as RAHAB TONGS JOSHUA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>MANDI</p> <p>I, formerly known as MWANTIRI DALYOP GASAT, now wish to be known and addressed as MANDI LADI MWANTI. Correct date of birth is 01.01.1940 not 01/01/1955. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>MARTHA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARTHA ISAAC MALESHEH, now wish to be known and addressed as MARTHA ZACHARIA LOMS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> |
| <p>DAVID</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVID CHRISTIANA PATRICK, now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID CHRISTIANA DALA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>ALI</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAKUBU MUSTAPHA ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as ALI MUSTAPHA ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p> | <p>INTERE</p> <p>I, formerly known as RETA LEKETA, now wish to be known and addressed as INTERE NANLE JOHN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>DOMSHAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as AMINU DACHUK, now wish to be known and addressed as DOMSHAK AMINU DACHUK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>WILLIAMS</p> <p>I, formerly known as WILLIAMS TIMOTHY now wish to be known and addressed as WILLIAMS TIMOTHY. Correct date of birth is 15/08/1982 not 24/04/1981. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>BIATRUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as BEATRICE JOSHUAU, now wish to be known and addressed as BIATRUS DAYI JOSHUA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> |
| <p>JOSHUA</p> <p>I, formerly known as SANI JOSHUA, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSHUA SANI SHANGAM. Correct date of birth is 07/01/1962 not 02/02/1969. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>SEKYEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SEKYEN KATHRINE DALU, now wish to be known and addressed as SEKYEN FITKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>ATAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as ATAM DAVID ABAN, now wish to be known and addressed as ATAM DAVID AKONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>ADAMU</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAM MARTHA ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU MARTHA DORATHY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>TIMOTHY</p> <p>I, formerly known as TIMOTHY DOMYIL, now wish to be known and addressed as TIMOTHY JOEL DOMYIL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> | <p>ALI</p> <p>I, formerly known as EKWUEME EMELDA OLUCHI, now wish to be known and addressed as ALI EMELDA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p> |
| <p>MUDUUTDAI</p> <p>I, formerly known as LONGZEH ERICA ANYEN, now wish to be known and addressed as MUDUUTDAI ERICA LONGZEH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>STEPHEN</p> <p>I, STEPHEN JOSEPH BAANKWAP, wish to state that my correct date of birth is 16th May, 2005 not 16th May, 1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>SALIHU</p> <p>I, formerly known as SALIHU ABDULLAH, now wish to be known and addressed as SALIHU MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH. Correct date of birth is 5/10/1973 not 6/11/1972. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>YAKUBU</p> <p>I, formerly known as SIMI MANCHA NANCY, now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU SIMI VELDET. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>NANDOM</p> <p>I, formerly known as YOHANNA PATIENCE KASSANG, now wish to be known and addressed as NANDOM PATIENCE KASSANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>DAVID</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVID SALOMI HARUNA, now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID SALOMI NANFE. Correct date of birth is 21/04/2002 not 21/4/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> |
| <p>DORIS</p> <p>I, formerly known as EMMANUEL CHIDIEBUBE DORIS, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. IBRAHIM DORIS CHIDIEBUBE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>RUTH</p> <p>I, formerly known as AYUBA RUTH, now wish to be known and addressed as RUTH YAYOCK AYUBA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>UDE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ONYEKWELU RITA IFEOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as UDE RITA IFEOMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>HAMZAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as HAMZAT KABIRU ABUBAKAR, now wish to be known and addressed as HAMZAT KABIRU ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>BADUNG</p> <p>I, formerly known as BADUNG SARAH, now wish to be known and addressed as BADUNG SARAH YOU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>GLORIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as GLORIA GUWOR PETER, now wish to be known and addressed as GLORIA GUWOR GEORGE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> |
| <p>LARABA</p> <p>I, formerly known as EMMANUEL LARABA ALI, EMMANUEL LARABA OJOCHIDE, now wish to be known and addressed as LARABA OJOCHIDE ONATE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>BULUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as BULUS ITSE MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS AJANG EMMANUEL. All former documents remain valid. Jos East Traditional Council and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>SOHNNAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SOHNNAN NANFA NATHANIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as SOHNNAN NANFA NANJING. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>BETENI</p> <p>I, formerly known as BETENI ERIMIYA DANBAKI, now wish to be known and addressed as BETENI IKIMIYA DANBAKI. Correct date of birth is 7/8/1983 not 8/7/1983. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>DANIANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANIANG EDWINA SAMSON, now wish to be known and addressed as DANIANG EDWINA LAPKANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>NAANKANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAGURUM GODFREY, now wish to be known and addressed as NAANKANG DADANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> |
| <p>NANBUP</p> <p>I, formerly known as JILLI DANDAM NANBUP, now wish to be known and addressed as NANBUP MARYOM MAFUYASH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>SALEH</p> <p>I, formerly known as SALEH ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as SALEH ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>MERCY</p> <p>I, formerly known as KWASHI ADAMU MERCY, now wish to be known and addressed as MERCY ADAMU KWASHI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>SHEHU</p> <p>I, formerly known as SARATU SHEHU MASHO, now wish to be known and addressed as SHEHU SARATU OLUWATOYIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>AYUBA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANIANG BEAUTY, now wish to be known and addressed as AYUBA BEAUTY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>DOGONMALAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as DOGONMALAM KHADIJAT DANIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as DOGONMALAM KHADIJAT DANIEL. Correct date of birth is 06/05/1983. All former documents remain valid. Sterling Bank Nigeria Plc, all concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> |
| <p>JOEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOEL NANKYER, now wish to be known and addressed as JOEL NANKYER KUMSHIN. Correct date of birth is 31st July 2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>JAMILA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMILA ABUBAKAR NIKAIL, now wish to be known and addressed as JAMILA IBRAHIM AHMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>ODUMU</p> <p>I, formerly known as ODUMU PATRICIA AJUMA, now wish to be known and addressed as ODUMU PATRICIA A.J. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>NGWU</p> <p>I, formerly known as OZIOKO JOSEPH, now wish to be known and addressed as NGWU JOSEPH OZIOKO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>HAUWA</p> <p>I, formerly known as HAUWA MUHAMMAD TAHIR, 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.</p> | <p>LINUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as LINUS JOHN, now wish to be known and addressed as LINUS JOHN ADAJE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> |
| <p>HANNATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as HANNATU JOSEPH DAYA, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH TITI TITUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>THOMAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN THOMAS, now wish to be known and addressed as THOMAS DANJUMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>ROSE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ROSE ANNA SUNDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as ROSE ANYA AZI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>AMOS</p> <p>I, formerly known as AMOS QUEEN ESTHER OLUWASEYI, now wish to be known and addressed as AMOS QUEEN ESTHER EZEKIEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>KWAMKUR</p> <p>I, formerly known as KUDOR KWAMKUR, now wish to be known and addressed as KWAMKUR AUDU KUDOR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>AMOS</p> <p>I, formerly known as LANHWANG JUSTINA, now wish to be known and addressed as AMOS JUSTINA. Correct date of birth is 15-2-1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> |
| <p>JUGU</p> <p>I, formerly known as GOODNESS YOHANNA NEKEN, now wish to be known and addressed as JUGU GOODNESS GYANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>DAKAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as GYANG LYOP LUKA, now wish to be known and addressed as DAKAT LYOP AMOS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>KATYIL</p> <p>I, formerly known as TADOK MUTTEP, now wish to be known and addressed as KATYIL AFINIKI AYUBA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>YILDONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as NICHOLAS NAANCHIN PANCHIN, now wish to be known and addressed as YILDONG MIRACLE DAMAR. All former documents remain valid. GT Bank, all concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>ATSEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as MOHAMMED ESTEHR LOVE, now wish to be known and addressed as ATSEN KUSHIN ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> | <p>PETER</p> <p>I, formerly known as PETER NANYA, now wish to be known and addressed as PETER NANYA COMFORT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> |

IMAGES

MUTFWANG COMMISSIONS METRO TIN CITY BUSES

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, yesterday commissioned the Revamped Tin City Metro Bus Initiative at the Government House Chapel premises, Jos



Governor Mutfwang (middle) putting heads with the General Manager, Plateau Riders, Samuel Gwot (right), and the Deputy Governor, Ngo Josephine Piyo



Representative of the State PDP chairman, Davou Mang (right), with Barr. Nasiru Goshi, party chieftain



From left to right, General Manager, Tourism Corporation, Chuwang Pwajok, General Manager, Plateau Riders, Samuel Gwot, former Minister, Sarah Reng Ochekepe, Chairman, Plateau State Internal Revenue Service, Jim Pam Wayas, and the Director-General, Plateau Printing Press, Sunday Rogo



Sen. Jonah David Jang (right), putting heads together with the Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Dewan



President, Plateau State Traditional Council, His Royal Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, Gbong Gwom Jos (left), flanked by other members of the Council



General Manager, Jos Metropolitan Development Board, Arc. Hart Bankat (standing), for rounded by members of the State Executive Council



Secretary to Government of the State, Arc Samuel Jatau (middle), with the Special Adviser on Special Duties, Rt. Hon. Istifanus Mwansat (right), and the Director-General, ICT, Dominic Datong



Hon. Dickson Chollom of Barkin Ladi and Dr. Adamu Aliyu of Jos North North, members of the State House of Assembly, paying homage to royal fathers

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

IMAGES

MUTFWANG COMMISSIONS METRO TIN CITY BUSES

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, yesterday commissioned the Revamped Tin City Metro Bus Initiative at the Government House Chapel premises, Jos



Governor Mutfwang delivering his speech at the ceremony



Governor Mutfwang (middle), cutting tape to officially commission the buses



General Manager, Plateau Riders, Samuel Gwot (left), with the Commissioner of Transport, Jatau Davou Gyang



Asharuwa dancers entertaining dignitaries



Director-General, Plateau Printing Press, Chief Sunday Rogo (left), with the General Manager, Tourism Corporation, Chuwang Pwajok



Chairman, Jos North LGC, Sam Dala Umaru (left), with the NUJ Chairman, Ayuku Pwaspo



Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos (left), Agwom Izere, Isaac Wakili, and the Miskhaham Mwaghavul, Da John Hirse



Head of Civil Service, Barr. Rauta Dakok (right), with the ALGON Chairman, Hamisu Anani of Wase LGC

PHOTOS: DANILADI DUK

Remembaranc



Late
**Hon. Pam Nuhu
 DUSU BOT**

The family of late **Hon. PAM NUHU DUSU BOT** remembers with love our Daddy, Grandfather, Brother and Uncle who passed on 36 years ago (May 8, 1988). You left a vacuum that is still difficult to fill.

Politically in Plateau and Nigeria you left good prints on the sands of time. For the Berom Nation, you were a force to reckon with.

Late **Hon. PAM NUHU DUSU BOT**, was born in the year 1934, in Fan District of Barkin Ladi Local Government Area. He attended the SUM Elementary School Fan, from 1945 to 1947. He proceeded to SUM Middle School Gindiri in 1948 to 1951, where he did his Middle Schools Certificate in the year 1952. He taught as a Probationary Teacher with the Sudan United Mission. He attended the SUM Gindiri Teachers' Training College between 1953 and 1954, where he successfully completed the Grade III Teachers Certificate Course. On completion, he was employed by the then Sudan United Mission, British Branch now COCIN in 1955 to 1956 and taught at Kuru and Foron respectively. In 1957, he went back to SUM Gindiri Teacher's Training College for the Grade II or Higher Elementary Teachers' Certificate (HETC), and resumed teaching again under the same organization at Du.

On the 26th November, 1959 to 1966 he was appointed Nigeria's Alternate Delegate to the International Tin Council, which he participated in drafting the Second International Tin Agreement under the auspices of the United Nations in New York City in 1960. From 1961 to 1967, he served the then Jos Native Administration in various capacities. He served as a member of the General Purposes Committee, Chairman Establishment Committee, Chairman Finance committee, Chairman Tenders Board and also first Chairman of Jos Local Education Authority.

Between 1967 and 1979, he was employed by the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, as a District Industrial Relations Officer and the ATMN Ltd. He attended courses in Industrial Relations and personnel Management.

In 1979, he was elected into the Plateau State House of Assembly representing Barkin Ladi North Constituency, comprising of Fan, Foron and Heipang Districts on the platform of Nigeria People's Party (NPP).

Continue to rest in peace at Jesus' Feet.

Left to mourn him are; children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, among whom are:

Josephine Leo Ibrahim-United Kingdom
 Chundung Caleb
 Salome K. Ameh
 Dabot N. Bot
 Kangyang N. Bot-Juth
 Gwong N. Bot
 Christiana Tanze
 Asabe Sunday- Juth
 Dusu N. Bot
 Zong N. Bot-Late
 Victoria Jonathan-Nig Standard
 Simi R. Doji-State Secretariat
 Rwang N. Bot-Late
 Chollom N. Bot
 Sister Ngo Garos Wurim
 Brother Da Francis Tok-Bot

Signed:
Josephine Leo Ibrahim

Politics

Prioritise safety, welfare of journalists, says Oyo senator

From **MUSLUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan**



Abiodun

CHAIRMAN, Senate Committee on Electoral Matters, Barrister Sharafdeen Abiodun Alli, has enjoined governments at all levels and media proprietors to prioritise the safety and welfare of journalists in their organisations.

Alli, who represents Oyo South Senatorial District on the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC), made this appeal while felicitating with media practitioners on the occasion of this year's World Press Freedom Day.

The lawmaker, in a statement made available to journalists recently, advocated for a better welfare package and

safety of journalists nationwide. Alli, in the statement signed

by his Special Adviser on Media, Akeem Abas, acknowledged the pivotal role journalists played in upholding democracy and fostering transparency.

The lawmaker, however, expressed deep concern for the safety of journalists as they go about their professional work.

He called for an environment where journalists could work freely without fear of intimidation or harm, saying that it was essential for the preservation of press freedom.

"I advocate for better welfare and safety of journalists nationwide as they celebrate the 2024 World Press Freedom Day and acknowledge the pivotal role journalists play in upholding democracy and fostering transparency," the lawmaker said.

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THIRTEEN aspirants gunning for the chairmanship position of the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) has rejected the purported endorsement of one Mr. Enemona Anyebe as consensus candidate.

Our correspondent reports that a committee comprising former governors and party leaders had endorsed Anyebe as consensus candidate for the chairmanship position.

The spokesperson, Forum of Kogi State PDP Chairmanship Aspirants, Aruwa Ismaila, while briefing journalists in Lokoja on the development, said the purported endorsement of Mr. Anyebe as the consensus candidate was blatantly false, misleading and only existing in the imagination of their sponsors.

Ismaila said: "It has therefore become imperative to issue this rebuttal so that the unsuspecting public and particularly our PDP supporters and members are not misled, misguided and sold a dummy."

"We state that, at the scantily attended meeting of Kogi East critical stakeholders held at Lokoja on Monday 29 April 2024, the Elders Review Report on Zoning which was presented on their behalf and for which none of the 6 Elders attended was outrightly rejected especially on the issue of the Elders going outside their mandate to source for and nominate one Mr. Anyebe from Olamaboro."

"We the chairmanship aspirants spoke through our spokesperson Mr. Ismaila Aruwa which is me at the meeting and advocated for an outright rejection of the Review report which even fell

PDP aspirants reject consensus candidate

far short of the initial Zoning committee report led by Hon. Tom Zakan. Our position has NOT changed.

"We the aspirants have not delegated our position to any Elder to canvass for on our behalf nor are we ready to do so going forward. A consensus candidate can only be arrived at by all the 13 aspirants discussing and agreeing with each other and not the Elders." He added that the PDP leadership in the state under

Senator Danjuma La'a as chairman and Senator Philip Gyunka as secretary, had not put in place or activated any process among the 13 aspirants for the purpose of arriving at a consensus candidate.

The 13 aggrieved aspirants, however, resolved that the leadership of the party should create a level playing ground for all aspirants vying for the PDP Chairmanship position in the state.



Damagun

South West PDP leaders meet over Ondo election

SOUTH-West leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) met yesterday in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, to strategise ahead of November's governorship election in Ondo State.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the meeting, hosted by Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, was held at the Presidential Lodge, Government House, Agodi, Ibadan.

Addressing journalists at the end of the meeting, Mr. Makinde disclosed that the party leaders' convergence opened up the process of reconciling PDP members in Ondo State.

He added that the PDP family had begun to speak with one voice.

According to him, the party's governorship candidate in the November election in Ondo State, Agboola Ajayi, and others would team up to ensure the party excels at the election.

The governor said all PDP leaders and stakeholders from across the six South-West states were behind Mr Ajayi.

He expressed optimism that the party candidate would reclaim Ondo State from the All Progressives Congress (APC).

"With our leaders from across the South-West behind our candidate in Ondo State, I think it is a strong signal to the present occupier of the Ondo State Government House that PDP is coming and it will happen."

"Our candidate, Mr Agboola Ajayi, is here and the first step

forward for us is to reconcile all the tendencies in Ondo State.

"This is because once we have a unified PDP in Ondo State, we have a path to the Alagbaka Government House, Akure," he said.

Giving details of the meeting, Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State told journalists that the South-West PDP came together to deliberate on the affairs of the party regarding the forthcoming election in Ondo State.

He said the leaders congratulated Mr. Ajayi for winning the party primary in a transparent process that showed the PDP was a democratic party that followed due process.

"We also began the reconciliation process, because we know some people are upset and we believe our leaders will go back home to bring everybody together," he said.

Thereafter, Mr. Ajayi thanked Makinde and Adeleke as well as other PDP leaders for their support ahead of the election.

According to him, the party was formidable in Ondo State as all members of one family were working to deliver the state to the PDP fold in November.

Currently, the PDP is in power in two out of the six states in the region - Oyo and Osun.

The rest - Ogun, Ondo, Lagos and Ekiti - are being governed by All Progressives Congress (APC) governors.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that the Right of Occupancy Certificate No. **PL 58942** in the name of **MR. GRAND UBONG CHRISTOPHER (late)**. The said Right of Occupancy No. **PL58942** is in the possession of **MRS. CHRISTOPHER ESTHER UKPONG**

The Ministry of Land Survey and Town Planning, Jos Plateau State and the general public should take note.

Any person that purchase the said property do so at his/her own risk.

Signed: **MRS. CHRISTOPHER ESTHER UKPONG**

CHANGE OF NAME

OICHEME

I, formerly known as **MISS JOSEPH ANGELA ONYEKA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OICHEME ENE ANGELA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ELISHA

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

ISHAKU

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

PEACE

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

MA'AN

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

MANDAM

I, formerly known as **WILLIAMS HASSANA MANJA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MANDAM HASSANA EZEKIEL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SALE

I, formerly known as **YESHUA JIBRIN JIBO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SALE JIBRIN YUSHUA**. Correct date of birth is 01/01/1995 not 11/02/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ASHAWAT

I, formerly known as **AWANDASH HAPPY MARK**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ASHAWAT ACHUBE ALAKWAN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

PAM

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

PAM

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

RENGNOCK

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

EMMANUEL

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

LUKA

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

DABUK

I, formerly known as **MONDAY DORCAS DANG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DABUK DORCAS DANJUMA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

YILBISSA

I, formerly known as **YILBASSA DANIEL DORMWAKAT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YILBISSA DANIEL DORMWAKAT**. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

EUNICE

I, formerly known as **DAYIL EUNICE DAE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **EUNICE SHIZAK DAYIL**. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

GEOFFREY

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

SPACE FOR SALE

ODD WORLD

Ghana man hugs 1,123 trees in an hour for world record



A Ghana man studying forestry in Alabama set a world record for most trees hugged in an hour when he hugged 1,123 trees at Tuskegee National Forest. Photo courtesy of Guinness World Records

By UPI Staff

A Ghana man studying forestry in Alabama set a world record for most trees hugged in an hour when he hugged 1,123 trees at Tuskegee National Forest. Abubakar Tahiru, 29, became interested in nature

conservation while growing up in a farming community in Tapa, Ghana. He is pursuing a master's degree in forestry at Auburn University.

The record attempt required that Tahiru wrap both of his arms around each tree in a close embrace without causing any

damage to the trees. No tree could be hugged more than once, requiring Tahiru to move quickly between each hug.

Tahiru was fasting for Ramadan at the time of his record attempt, which presented another challenge.

"Not being able to drink water throughout the attempt posed a significant challenge, especially given the physical exertion required," he told Guinness World Records. "However, this also proved to be helpful in a way, as there was no need to pause for water breaks, allowing me to continue the attempt uninterrupted from start to finish."

Averaging 19 trees per minute, Tahiru easily surpassed the minimum requirement of 700 trees to establish the record.

The record raises awareness of the importance of trees and environmental conservation.

Source: Guinness World Records

Dancers gather at sunrise for May Day celebrations

By UPI Staff

CROWDS of Morris dancers dressed in traditional folkwear gathered at sunrise across the country to ring in the beginning of May.

Performers met as early as 5am last Wednesday morning to mark the dawn of May Day and observe a pagan festival celebrated for hundreds of years.

Members of the Leicester Morris Men were pictured braving the misty weather to dance in front of the Old John Tower in Bradgate Park, as others in Glastonbury, Somerset cheered in their all-white ensembles after the sun had

risen.

According to the Leicester group, the dancing is "a very social activity - it helps to keep you fit, it entertains (or irritates) the public, it keeps the tradition alive and, most importantly, it is fun".

May Day was also celebrated on Primrose Hill, London, by female group The Belles of London City who performed a Cotswold variety of Morris dancing characterised by handkerchief and stick props. The performance also featured Betley, the group's Hobby Horse, among the dancers.

Morris dancing is typically performed in groups of six or eight arranged in two lines as

dancers shake white handkerchiefs and bang sticks against each other to the rhythm of a drum or accordion.

Dancers wear white save for coloured baldrics (belts) across their chests and bell-pads tied from the knee which provide their characteristic sound.

May Day celebrations, closely linked to the Beltane pagan celebrations, honour the beginning of the summer and was traditionally observed to bless crops and wildlife.

The festivities often include the dancing, crowning of a May queen and performing around a maypole.

Source: the telegraph



Morris dancers in Glastonbury, Somerset celebrate the coming of spring CREDIT: Lee Thomas

Mt. Erebus: Fountain of Gold, Heart of Darkness

By SAM ANDERSON

IT turns out that Mount Erebus spews a fortune in gold across Antarctica — \$2.1 million worth of it per year, according to reports.

You'd struggle to pan it out of the Antarctic snow, though. Tiny particles of the volcanized gold disperse from Erebus up to 1,000 kilometers across Ross Island. And tiny means tiny: at around 60 microns, the gold flecks are much smaller than the thickness of a human hair.

Still, Erebus disgorges 80 grams of the precious metal every day — scattering \$6,000 into the frozen landscape.

It's one oddity that helps place Erebus among the planet's most distinct volcanoes. The formation, sharing the name with the Greek god of darkness, bursts from the Ross Sea to a smoldering 3,794m peak. Its active caldera features a bubbling, fluctuating lava lake that has erupted constantly since 1972.

Its riches are likely unextractable. And its labyrinthine gas vents may help researchers understand life on other planets.

Fountain of gold — and 'lava bombs'

Philip Kyle, Professor Emeritus at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, has logged more time on Mount Erebus than anyone on Earth. Kyle's 50+ expeditions to the world's southernmost volcano have helped produce totemic research. On one effort to access the inner crater for sampling, an explosive eruption launched lava bombs several hundred meters skyward and likely cost him a "walnut-sized" piece of his brain.

But Kyle persisted to become a de facto Erebus ambassador. He explained to BBC Earth Science how the lake exists as a conduit to the volcano's sub-tectonic guts.

"Erebus is a living volcano because it breathes. By looking at the lava lake, we're actually looking inside the volcano. It's like having a window in your chest so you could see your heart," Kyle described.

Veins of exposed magma on the surface can reach 1,000°C. But cooler areas can harbor gold particles, which travel upward from deep subterranean deposits in many volcanic events. Most other volcanoes melt these particles during eruptions — but Erebus is different.

Frigid air could explain why. Only seven other volcanoes on

Earth support lava lakes. The coldest one is Mount Michael, an 843m outcrop in the South Sandwich Islands. The South Sandwiches can be cold, but not like Erebus. Nearby McMurdo station — only a few meters above sea level — can reach -50°C.

It's thought that when the bracing Antarctic air skims the scorching surface of Erebus' lava lake, the conditions for solid gold materialize.

Keys to the cosmos

Erebus' perpetual off-gassing doesn't just disperse precious metals. It also creates networks of ice caves, which provide access into its catacomb-like vents.

Fumarolic ice towers, which form when volcanic gases freeze solid at the surface, indicate entry points.

"When you just go there for the first time, you don't realize that virtually under every ice tower is a big ice cave system," Kyle said in the BBC video, adding that "literally hundreds" of the structures exist on Erebus.

Far-fetched enterprises to mine gold from lava lakes date to early colonial efforts. Friar Blas del Castillo earned mixed credit as an early volcanologist for his attempt to extract silver and gold from Nicaragua's Masaya Volcano in the 16th century. Castillo famously descended into the caldera inside a basket with dubious prospecting tools: a hammer, a flask of wine, and a wooden cross. (The work was misguided — the caldera yielded no trace of precious metals.)

Even if it were feasible to collect the gold microparticles from the expansive Mount Erebus plain, the haul would be contraband in about two-thirds of the world. The Antarctic Treaty prohibits "any activity relating to mineral resources other than scientific research."

But Erebus' value could still be astronomical — literally. Its gas vents harbor microbial communities unknown anywhere else on Earth. Temperatures can vary up to 60°C just 10 cm away from the vent surfaces. The life forms that flourish in this outlandish ecosystem could teach us what thrives in the final frontier.

"Erebus is such an extreme environment — this could provide insight into the possibility of life on a place like Mars," Kyle said. "There's lots of new technology, so it's time for the young studs to come along and do something new and interesting."

Source: Explorersweb.

Foreign News

Israeli forces seize Rafah, threatening aids, cease-fire

ISRAELI tanks seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on yesterday as Israel brushed off urgent warnings from close allies and moved into the southern city even as cease-fire negotiations with Hamas remained on a knife's edge.

The Israeli force overnight came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated cease-fire proposal. Israel, however, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands.

The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive — if only barely — for a deal to bring at least a pause in the war, which as it marked its 7-month point yesterday, has killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip.

The incursion appeared to be short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned, and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded. The looming operation threatens to widen a rift between Israel and its main backer, the United States, which says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into the city.

U.S. President Joe Biden warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again on Monday against launching an invasion of the city after Israel ordered 100,000 Palestinians to evacuate from parts of Rafah.

The Israeli 401st Brigade entered the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing early Tuesday, the Israeli military said, taking.

The Rafah crossing with Egypt and the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel are critical points of entry for food, medicine and other supplies keeping Gaza's population of 2.3 million alive. They have been closed for at least the past two days, though the smaller Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza continues to operate.

Israeli strikes and bombardment across Rafah overnight killed at least 23 Palestinians, including at least six women and five children, according to hospital records.

Egypt had previously warned that any seizure of Rafah — which is supposed to be part of a demilitarized border zone — or an attack that forces Palestinians to flee over the border into Egypt would threaten the 1979 peace treaty with Israel that's been a linchpin for regional security.

Netanyahu has said an offensive to take Rafah — which Israel says is Hamas' last major stronghold in Gaza



Nathanyahu

— is crucial to the goal of destroying Hamas after its Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel that triggered the war.

As Israel announced it would push ahead with Rafah operations, it said the cease-fire proposal that Hamas agreed to did not meet its "core demands." But it said it would send a delegation to Egypt to continue negotiations. An Egyptian official said delegations from Hamas and Qatar arrived in Cairo on Tuesday.

An Egyptian official and a Western diplomat said the draft Hamas accepted had only minor changes in wording from a version the U.S. had earlier pushed for with Israeli approval. The changes were made in consultation with CIA chief William Burns, who

embraced the draft before sending it to the Palestinian group, the diplomat and official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the internal deliberations.

The White House said Burns was discussing the Hamas response with the Israelis and other regional officials. Hamas is believed to still hold around 100 Israelis captive, along with the bodies of around 30 others.

Hamas has demanded an end to the war and complete Israeli withdrawal in return for the release of all hostages. Publicly, Israeli leaders reject that trade-off, vowing the war will continue until the hostages are all released — and Hamas is destroyed.

A shocking and heartbreaking revelation has emerged from the Gaza Strip, shedding light on the horrifying aftermath of a brutal war that has devastated the Palestinian people. After 209 days of conflict, mass graves have been discovered, along with an estimated 37 million tons of debris and unexploded ordnance, posing a significant threat to the lives and well-being of the population.

The Ambassador of the Embassy of the State of Palestine, Abdullah M. Abu Shawesh, disclosed this distressing information during a press conference in Abuja, Nigeria. The discovery of these mass graves has exposed the brutal reality faced by the Palestinians during the conflict. Reports indicate that the number of Palestinian casualties has reached a staggering 34,535, with 77,704 wounded. Additionally, thousands of individuals remain missing, either buried under the rubble or subjected to enforced disappearance in Israeli occupation detention centers.

The extent of the devastation caused by the war is further highlighted by the dire conditions faced by Palestinian detainees. These individuals endure harsh measures and receive minimal sustenance, resulting in substantial weight loss and serious health consequences. The humanitarian crisis is worsened by the scarcity of food, water, and medical care, leaving approximately 155,000 pregnant women and new mothers struggling to survive.

Abu Shawesh emphasized that not only have lives been lost, but the infrastructure in the Gaza Strip has also been decimated. The transportation sector alone

The grim reality of the Israeli, Palestinian war

By DORCAS PANKYES

has suffered losses exceeding \$3 billion, with approximately 945 km of roads and 55,000 vehicles destroyed. The scale of destruction accounts for 65% of the road network and 60% of the licensed vehicles in the strip.

The recent discovery of mass graves at the Al-Shifa Medical Complex and the Nasser Medical Complex has sent shockwaves through the international community. These graves contain hundreds of bodies, with victims found handcuffed, denied medical care, and even executed despite their health conditions. Disturbingly, there are suspicions of organ theft surrounding the unidentified bodies, further adding to the horror of the situation.

Eyewitnesses and rescue teams have reported the presence of bodies with signs of torture and plastic restraints. Some victims were found wearing operational clothing, raising alarming doubts about their burial while still alive. These appalling findings suggest that the occupation forces committed crimes against humanity and carried out field executions within the premises of the Nasser Medical Complex.

Despite Israel vehemently denying the veracity of these facts and dismissing them as false and disinformation, the mounting evidence necessitates an independent investigation committee to be established by the United Nations. A specialized expert technical support team must be tasked with conducting a credible and impartial inquiry into these grave violations.

Furthermore, the war has left behind a dangerous legacy in the form of unexploded ordnance scattered throughout the Gaza Strip. With an estimated 37 million tons of debris, it is projected that it could take up to 14 years to clear the territory of these deadly remnants. The risk to the lives of Palestinians remains high, as shells and unexploded materials continue to pose a threat, especially as people start returning to their homes.

Ambassador Abdullah highlighted that there are significant shifts in the global discourse and political arena, challenging Israel's portrayal as an eternal victim. Criticism of Israel's genocidal war is now met with accusations of anti-Semitism and support for terrorism, a tactic aimed at silencing dissenting voices. However, new generations worldwide are becoming more aware and knowledgeable of the facts, leading to pro-Palestine protests spreading across university campuses in the United States.

As the world grapples with the haunting revelations of the mass graves and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, calls for justice and accountability grow louder. Ambassador Abdullah called on the international community, particularly the United Nations, to take decisive action to ensure that the war crimes committed during this devastating conflict are thoroughly investigated and that those responsible are held accountable for their actions. Only then can the Palestinian people begin to heal and rebuild their shattered lives.

Chad holds presidential election

By EDOUARD TAKADJI and MOUTA ALI

CHAD held its long delayed Presidential election on Monday following three years of military rule under the interim president, Mahamat Deby Itno, a vote that analysts widely expected the incumbent to win.

Deby Itno seized power after his father, who spent three decades in power, was killed fighting rebels in 2021. His government announced it was extending the 18-month transition for two more years, which provoked protests across the country.

The oil-exporting country of nearly 18 million people hasn't had a free-and-fair transfer of power since it became independent in 1960 after decades of French colonial rule. There were 10 candidates on the ballot, including a woman. More than 9 million people are registered to vote, in a country of more than 17 million people, one of the poorest in the world.

Analysts say Deby Itno is likely to win the vote. A leading opposition figure, Yaya Dillo, the current president's cousin, was killed in February in circumstances

that remain unclear. The other front-runner in the race is a former opposition leader who recently returned from exile to serve as prime minister in January, Succès Masra.

Chad is seen by the U.S. and France as one of the last remaining stable allies in the vast Sahel region following military coups in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in recent years. The ruling juntas in all three nations have expelled French forces and turned to Russia's mercenary units for security assistance instead.

Earlier this year, Niger's junta ordered all U.S. troops out, meaning Washington will lose access to its key base in Agadez, the center of its counterterrorism operations in the region. The U.S. and France still have a military presence in Chad, which consider it to be an especially critical partner.

The West also fears that any instability in Chad, which has absorbed more than a half-million refugees from Sudan, could increase the number of migrants moving north towards Europe.

"These are all the reasons

the West is staying relatively quiet about the democratic transition in Chad," said Ulf Laessing, head of the Sahel program at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. "Everybody just wants this vote to pass so Deby Itno gets elected so they continue to work with him and preserve the stability of the region," he added.

The vote, which began Sunday for the military and nomads, was marred by a number of incidents of violence that led to at least two deaths, according to local journalists. In Moundou, a major city to the south of the capital, a voter was shot dead by security forces for reasons that were unclear. In the country's eastern city of Abeche, a civilian fatally stabbed a soldier, also according to local journalists there.

Over the weekend, several civil society groups issued a joint statement to say that many of the 2,900 observers that had requested accreditation to monitor the vote had been denied.

Along with the arrival of refugees from Sudan, Chad is also dealing with high food prices partly caused by the war in Ukraine and a renewed

threat from the Boko Haram insurgency spilling over from its southwestern border with Nigeria.

In March, an attack the government blamed on Boko Haram killed seven soldiers, reviving fears of violence in the Lake Chad area after a period of peace following a successful operation launched in 2020 by the Chadian army to destroy the extremist group's bases there. Schools, mosques and churches reopened and humanitarian organizations returned.

"For years now, we've had to cope with the high cost of living, without any solution," Adoumadi Jean, a teacher at a state secondary school in Moyen-Chari province, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We want a change this year through this election."

Boko Haram, which launched an insurgency more than a decade ago against Western education, seeks to establish Islamic law in Nigeria's northeast. The insurgency has spread to West African neighbors including Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

Human rights groups have called for an investigation

into the killing of Chad's main opposition figure, Dillo. The government has said Dillo was killed during an attack on the the National State Security Agency by his group, known as The Socialist Party Without Borders. But a photo of Dillo showed that he was killed by a single bullet wound to the head.

Human Rights Watch said the killing raised serious concerns about the environment for the election.

According to the U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, known as ACLED, Chad experienced almost 270 incidents of political violence, leading to the deaths of more than 1,000 people.

"With his most significant opponents either co-opted or eliminated, and critical electoral institutions stacked with his supporters, Déby Itno's victory is all but certain," wrote Michelle Gavin for the Council of Foreign Relations, a Washington-based think tank.

Votes will be first counted at polling stations, but preliminary results will be announced three weeks later on May 21. If no candidate wins outright, a runoff will be held on June 5.

NEWS

Arrest negotiators of GBV cases, say stakeholders

By **PALANG KASMI**

APPARENTLY concerned by the high rate of inability to conclude Gender Based Violence (GBV) litigations due to the role of negotiators, the Plateau State Gender Commission and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) have called for arrest of negotiators.

This, they said, would deter the negotiators from the practice.

Speaking during a press briefing organized by the Plateau State Ministry for Women Affairs and Social Development in Jos recently, both bodies condemned the practice where religious and traditional leaders, family members and others who usually view GBV as 'private' or 'family' matters and spearhead negotiations or out-of-court settlements.

It would be recalled that a press conference was held recently to condemn a domestic violence incident where a police officer, Mr. Ibrahim Shagari, from the Plateau State Command, cut off the wrist of his 7-month pregnant wife following an argument over

money.

Speaking at the forum, Chairperson of the Plateau State Gender Commission and Special Adviser to the Governor on Gender, Olivia Dazyam, called for laws to halt the practice of negotiating crimes which she said was a major challenge in the dispensation of justice for GBV victims.

"We cannot keep on negotiating crimes to make the laws ineffective. We have the right legal frameworks but there is no impact. These are things that happen in homes, not outside," she emphasised.

Dazyam advised that for GBV to be addressed in the country, everyone must be a stakeholder.

"We can't overlook it and always fold our arms to say domestic violence are problems in their own family, so let them settle it. No, if it becomes violent, certainly, it is a community issue," she pointed out.

Also in her remarks, Chairperson, FIDA, Plateau State Chapter, Mrs. Obioma Ngozi Achilefu, said negotiators of GBV should be tagged as perpetrators of the crime.

The FIDA Chairperson lamented: "I see the

negotiators as perpetrators. As it is now, there is no law in place to punish crime negotiators, whether they are traditional rulers, religious leaders, or whatever status they acquire.

She stated: "I think the time has come that we have to engage the legislature to come up with laws that will dip the wings of these negotiators, so that if somebody proposes negotiation, support or suggests it, such a person should be arrested.

"Such suggestions should be criminalised. Because that's the problem. That's why we are not moving forward with the GBV laws, the laws are there."

Speaking earlier, Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Caroline Panglang Dafur, who led a team to visit the victim, Mrs. Hauwa Shagari, at the Plateau Specialist Hospital where she was receiving treatment, promised to ensure justice was served.

She condemned the high level of silence, secrecy and shielding of perpetrators, adding that citizens had a responsibility to speak out against such injustices by defending the victims.

BY **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

PLATEAU State University, Bokkos, has partnered with a faith-based American organisation, Africa Arise International, to secure the institution from any threats or attacks.

The Acting Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Shedrack Gaya Best, disclosed this recently when the founder of the organisation, Mayor Mike Arnold, visited him in his office in Bokkos, Plateau State.

Best, gave assurance that he would not be distracted by the recent attacks on the university community by the men of the underworld who did not wish the institution well.

He, however, expressed disappointment with the sensational news circulating on social media that did not reflect the Plateau spirit of love, hospitality and peace and appealed to the public to always verify every source of information before spreading it.

The Vice Chancellor, stressed the need for fencing the institution and the construction of more hostels to address the housing deficit

PLASU partners Africa Arise International on campus security



Best

which, he said, exposed students to attacks.

Responding, Mayor Arnold expressed his readiness to support the institution towards ensuring its security.

Present during the visit were the renowned international gospel singer, Panan Percy Paul and the

Dean of the Faculty of Education, Reverend Sister Josephine Marie, among others.

Thereafter, Professor Best took the visitors to the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences to see the broken fence herders often use to force their way into the university.

Doctors protest manpower shortage at Teaching Hospital

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THE Association of Resident Doctors (ARD) at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Lokoja (FTHL), has protested the shortage of manpower and too much work load at the hospital.

ARD members recently protested round the hospital premises carrying placards with inscriptions such as "We want to work, not to work and die," and "Don't kill us, stop using no work no pay to threaten us" and "End casualization of doctors," among others. "Federal,

The Chairman of Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Kogi Chapter, Dr. Olushola Baoku, who joined the protest, said the doctors were completely overworked without commensurate wages.

He lamented: "The doctors are angry and sad and, of course, in extension, NMA is sad because of what is actually taking place in Federal Teaching Hospital, Lokoja.

"We have been communicated three times in the last three months concerning the burning issues. We had hoped that the management of the hospital would have found a middle ground in resolving all these issues.

"People cannot be on duty for 48 hours and there will be no food to eat. What

if they collapse?

"I can't imagine that with all the things, Mr President has put in place for workers, there are some doctors that are not getting 35,000 wage award."

Baoku urged the management of FTHL to urgently address the issues of manpower shortage as well as improve the working conditions of the resident doctors.

Meanwhile, the management of the FTHL has debunked the allegations levelled against

it by the ARD.

Dr. Ebune Ojochide, the Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC) of FTHL, said manpower shortage in health sector remained a major challenge across the country as a result of the Japa syndrome.

Ojochide stressed the need to follow the administrative process required for the recruitment and replacement of workers into federal institutions.

He explained that the Federal Government had

put on hold the recruitment of workers into the federal civil service, including the health sector.

As a result, he noted, "An health institution like ours cannot recruit without the approval of the federal government with the necessary cash backing to recruit."

He pointed out that FTHL management had put in place a temporary arrangement of bringing in local medical officers to fill some of the manpower gaps.

Unijos VC commends leventis for outstanding performance of APLORI

By **JIDAUNA DARING**

VICE Chancellor of the University of Jos, Professor Ishaya Tenko, has commended AP Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI), University of Jos Biological Conservatory, for its outstanding performance in ornithological research.

Prof. Tenko gave this commendation in his capacity as the chairman during the 20th anniversary of APLORI held at the Aliyu Akwe Doma Indoor Theatre, University of Jos permanent site, recently.

He said that the institution was very grateful for the work APLORI had been doing since its establishment in



Ishaya

2001.

He noted that the epoch-making event had further

demonstrated to the world that APLORI had matured.

The VC disclosed that the Senate of the university

had approved the upgrading of APLORI from an institute to a Centre for Excellence, Institute for Research and Training, University of Jos.

Earlier in his remarks, Director of APLORI, Dr. Adams Chaskda, expressed joy for the huge successes recorded by the institute and the institution as a whole.

He pointed out that many APLORI graduates were doing amazing work across the world, adding that it had been adjudged a major hub in ornithological research across the world.

Our correspondent reports that the event featured paper presentations and an award ceremony.

PLAMWASSA enlightens residents on enumeration

Agency (PLAMWASSA) has organized a one-day advocacy training workshop for stakeholders in Mangu Local Government Area on the upcoming enumeration exercise aimed at capturing households in municipal areas of the locality.

Our correspondent reports that the initiative was part of the Nigeria Sustainable Urban and Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme for Results (SURWASH), supported by the World Bank to improve water services in the state.

Declaring the advocacy open, Commissioner of Water Resources, Noel Nkup, who was represented by the acting Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mr. Timothy Gayi, reiterated

Governor Mutfwang's readiness, determination and commitment to improved water and hygiene in the state.

Nkup said that the advocacy was aimed at sensitizing the community about the importance of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) policies and the upcoming enumeration exercise as mentioned above in the locality.

PLAMWASSA General Manager, Julius Akawu, called on stakeholders to support and cooperate with the enumerators before, during and after the exercise.

He added that the present administration was willing to provide the dividends of democracy to the door-steps of citizens.

He further explained that the exercise was geared towards establishing a baseline for WASH facilities to provide information about the current state of households regarding toilets and access to clean water services.

Responding, Chairman, Mangu LGC, Markus Artu, who was represented by Twangshak Chimbes, expressed gratitude to the state government for selecting Mangu LGA as one of the beneficiaries of SURWASH in the state.

Artu assured the donors of the LGC and its people's readiness to support the enumerators during the exercise.

The stakeholders were made up of traditional rulers, religious heads, women and youth groups and Water Consumers Association (WCA) members, among others.

VOX POP

Fuel scarcity, what the people say

Lately, queues have resurfaced on the streets of Nigerian cities and towns as petrol scarcity bites harder. As a result of the resultant hardships, our reporters, Hosea Nyamlong and Jidauna Daring, went to town to seek people's views regarding the situation and ways of finding a permanent solution



Gad Shamaki,
Civil Society Organization (CSO), Jos

It is unfortunate that many years down the line, despite all the promises made by government, the fuel subsidy has been removed and adjusted.

Yet we are still suffering on the issue of fuel scarcity in Nigeria. As I speak to you now, in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, fuel goes for ten thousand naira (10,000.00), for four litres while in Jos, it goes for six, seven thousand naira per gallon.

No filling station in Jos sells fuel for less

than seven hundred naira (700.00), except government filling stations that sell for less, but one has to queue for many hours before getting the fuel.

In a situation like this, citizens pay more for fuel, including other basic needs of life like food, electricity, water, etc. This makes life very difficult for an average citizen to bear.

I believe the situation we are in now is as a result of government mismanagement. When government removed subsidy, monies gotten from it should have been ploughed back into the economy.

Government needs to go back to the drawing board and get it right so that Nigerian citizens should not suffer unnecessarily.

The way out for government in this situation is to sit with the stakeholders and see how they can bring back our refineries to work. We cannot be a rich nation while we are still poor.

Governments need to stop illegal exportation of our crude oil. They need to provide essential services for their citizens in order to make life easy and better.

WELL, the fuel scarcity in the country has made life difficult to the people. It has made the prices of goods or provisions in the market very expensive and citizens are the ones suffering from this untold hardship.

Actually, there is no price control, many fuel stations sell the product at different prices. Nigerians are expecting government to look into the situation and address it immediately.

Also, I feel that governments should have mechanism in place that will control prices of goods generally in the country because the vast majority of the citizens are affected by the current scarcity of fuel. Because their earnings are not the same, those that earn less suffer more.

I am calling on government to address problem as soon as possible in order not to allow the situation to

escalate into another thing. Many of my customers are affected, especially those that live very far. They no longer patronize me again because things are very difficult for them.

But I am very optimistic that fuel scarcity will soon become a thing of the past so that business will flow freely, so that customers will come to patronize our business as they used to do before.



Joseph Auta,
provision shop owner, Jos



Jonathan Simon, Keke operator

THESE few days, the situation in the country had not been easy for me as a Keke Napep operator. I want to tell you categorically that the fuel scarcity has actually disorganized my business. This is more so as getting passengers has now become a serious problem. So some of us have been struggling to get passengers before the unfortunate fuel scarcity hit everywhere in the country.

In fact, even the passengers now argue a lot about the fare because we have to increase it due to the increase in the price of fuel. As it is now, many of

the commuters can't afford to pay their transportation fare. Well, before the fuel scarcity, transport fare within the city of Jos was between 100,150 and at most 200 naira per drop. But, presently, these have doubled. This is because the fuel is still very expensive. This had brought about misunderstanding between us the operators and the passengers who board some of the Keke Napep. The argument always arises as a result of the increase in fares from one point to another.

My advice to government is to look

into the plight of the masses because they are the ones that are worse hit by this unpalatable situation in the country.

Also, the fuel scarcity has affected my work and my daily income has actually dropped. It seems am only working in order to buy fuel. It is unfortunate that a litre is sold for a thousand naira in some black market fuel stations. That is why passengers have now resorted to trekking because of high cost of the fare which are forced to impose.

THE experience is terrible. Nigerians are not finding it easy, especially the common citizens. For me as a teacher, it is like what I am collection as salary is actually going for my transport fare. My salary has not been increased, despite the current situation in the country.

I believe government can do better; serious action should be taken to address this situation in time. I reside at Rantya, I spend not less than

1,500.00 naira for my transport fare to work every day, to and fro. I also trek for one drop from my house to enable me save some money for other uses as far as life is concerned.

I am appealing to government to urgently look into the root cause of the fuel scarcity so that other sectors of the economy can boom.

My prayer is that God should help us change things in this country.



Kilani Muniru Ola, a commercial transporter

EVER since the fuel subsidy was removed, transporters have been facing a lot of difficulties just to buy the product and, coupled with the current fuel scarcity in the country, life has become very unbearable. On a daily basis, I buy a litre of fuel for as high as one thousand naira per litre depending on your location.

Transporters have no option than to increase the transportation fare in order to meet up with the cost of the product and other services.

Initially, the transport fare from Jos to Bauchi State was between 800 to 1,000 naira but now it is 2,500 to 3,000 naira as the case may be. And commuters are not finding it easy to board our vehicles because of the increase in the price of fuel.

I am appealing to government to make the product available in all fuel stations at a subsidized price

Compiled by Hosea Nyamlong and Jidauna Daring



Mrs. Antonia Ayin, a teacher with the Government Secondary School, West of Mines, Jos

EYE'S WORLD

With Palang Kasmi

Living

Justice for woman whose fist was chopped off

By PALANG KASMI

LAST week, the news about a house wife, Hauwa Shagari, who had her fist chopped off by her husband, a police officer serving with the Plateau State Police Command, grabbed the headlines all over the country. The urgent calls for justice were as loud as they were strident and widespread considering the fact that such other cases in the past had been swept under the carpet without justice being served.

The victim, Hauwa, who resides with her husband in Dong community, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State, was seven months pregnant when he chopped off her fist after arguments ensued between them over N20,000.

Condemning the gruesome act, the Plateau State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Caroline Panglang Dafur, during a press briefing said the police officer's action against his wife on Monday, April 29, 2024, was the greatest act of man's inhumanity to man, which was even made more horrendous because it was perpetrated by a supposed spouse.

"It is heartless and horrifying," the commissioner declared, adding, "Mr. Ibrahim Shagari, a police officer and husband to Mrs. Hauwa Shagari, barbarically cut off her hand, a woman heavily pregnant for him and the mother of his three children. This heartless and horrifying act has left us all shocked and outraged. No woman deserves to be treated with such cruelty and violence, and it is even more unacceptable that this act was committed by a person sworn to protect and serve - a so-called police officer."

The commissioner lamented that this was not the first time such a dastardly act was being committed against women. "Gender-Based Violence is a menace that affects countless women and girls in the country, sadly often remains shrouded in silence and secrecy, leaving countless individuals trapped in a cycle of fear, pain, and suffering," she explained.

"This monstrous act of Gender-Based Violence that has developed wings and soaring over our skies must be brought down by good. Silence, secrecy and shielding of perpetrators must leave the ground where it is and constitute a storm in the sky, where GBV has now taken abode and battle it to the ground," she said, assuring that her office, in conjunction with the Plateau State Gender Commission, were already investigating and collaborating to ensure justice is served to Hauwa.

"On Tuesday, 30th April, 2024 we were at the Plateau State Specialist Hospital, Jos, where the victim is responding to treatment. I want to assure Mrs. Hauwa



Dafur, briefing the press over the incident

Shagari and her family that we stand with them in this difficult time and will do everything in our power to ensure that justice is served," Dafur asserted.

She revealed that the victim's bills would be settled by government while her children were already being well taken care of by the state. "We intend keeping her in a safe place when she fully recovers," said Dafur.

She further called on all citizens of Plateau State to break the cycle of silence, join in the fight against Gender-Based Violence, GBV, using the VAPP laws, to create a society where women and girls could live free from the fear of violence and discrimination based on their gender.

"This demonic act transcends race, gender, age, and socio-economic status. It affects our friends, neighbours, and loved ones. It robs victims of their dignity, their sense of self-worth, and their dreams. It fractures families and leaves scars that may never fully heal. How does Mrs. Shagari overcome the trauma of losing a hand to a man that is supposed to be her shield?" she wondered.

While appreciating the Nigeria Police Force, Plateau State Command, for swiftly arresting the perpetrator, Dafur kicked against those tagging domestic violence as a 'Private Matter' and gave this advice: "Every one of us has a responsibility to speak out against this injustice, to challenge the status quo, and to stand as allies for those who have been violated."

Chairperson of the Plateau State Gender Commission and Special Adviser to the Governor on Gender, Barrister Olivia Dazyam, who was part of the press briefing, called for the enactment of laws that would halt the negative

practice of negotiating with families of victims of such crimes which she said was a major challenge towards the dispensation of justice.

"We cannot keep on negotiating crimes to make the laws ineffective. We have the right legal frameworks but there is no impact. So it is the business of everybody as these things that happen from homes, not outside," she noted.

The Chairperson of the Police Officers' Wives Association (POWA), Mrs. Emmanuel Olugbenga, and her management team also visited Mrs. Hauwa Shagari at the Plateau Specialist Hospital to also express their sadness over the terrible incident.

The POWA chair, while comforting and encouraging the victim, expressed happiness that the doctors had assured that baby was doing fine and in a fine good condition. She disclosed that the purpose of the visit was to physically show support to Hauwa and let her know that she was not alone. She further promised that POWA would liaise with the Commissioner of Police to ensure her welfare and that of her children.

Another organization, Stand up for Women Societies (SWS), in a statement condemned the police officer's action, describing it as wicked, brutal, barbaric and inhuman.

The SWS Chairperson, Mrs. Grace Gora, described it as yet another sad incident of Gender-Based Violence which affects women, girls and vulnerable groups in Nigeria. She lamented that it was deeply distressing that the crime was allegedly perpetrated by a police officer who is ordinarily supposed to be in the vanguard of protecting his family, citizens of the state and country at



POWA chairperson, Mrs. Adesina, comforting Hauwa at Plateau Specialist Hospital Jos



Women Affairs Commissioner Dafur, chairperson Gender Commission and her team, during the visit

large from such vicious acts.

Gora tasked the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, Emmanuel Olugbemiga Asesina, and other critical stakeholders to ensure speedy dispensation of justice for the poor woman who was now carrying a permanent physical disability as a result of her husband's callous action.

In an interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Alfred Alabo, assured that the Plateau State Police command had already taken proactive actions on the matter.

He explained that the incident was sparked by an argument over the whereabouts of the N20,000 the police officer said he had kept somewhere which he was searching for to buy something for the family. It was in the heat of the argument that the brutal incident happened.

"It is not proper, it is not our way. Even as normal human beings, there are ways you settle issues. But for you to take up a cutlass and just chop off the hand of another person, and this other person happens to be your lawful wedded wife who is also pregnant, is so

painful and disheartening," the PPRO pointed out.

"So the Command frowns at this, it is a very sad one for us. His children are our children, even the unborn one coming into the world. This is very pathetic. But the Command has done what it is supposed to do, and we are assuring the general public that justice will be served," he declared.

Earlier in a statement, the PPRO disclosed that the State Commissioner of Police, Emmanuel Olugbemiga Adesina, had also visited Mrs. Shagari at the hospital where he expressed his sympathy to her family and the entire good people of Plateau State over the sad incident.

The statement also assured the general public that the unfortunate act did not in any way portray the image or core values of the Nigeria Police Force.

The statement added: "We stand for justice, discipline, order and respect for the fundamental rights of all citizens of Nigeria. To this end, Inspector Shagari has since been arrested by the Command, detained and made to face all necessary disciplinary actions."

Opinion

Reflections on Workers' Day

IN the face of the challenges confronting Nigerian workers and Nigerians generally, what has been the government's response? What has it done towards ameliorating the desperate conditions of citizens?

As a short-term measure, the Federal Government announced the payments of varying sums of money to workers for six months. For some states of the federation, the payment of that palliatives allowance has since expired without further action. Clearly, it was only a stop-gap solution, a temporary remedy, while the main issue still lingers.

Another sore point regarding Nigeria's current economic predicament is the lingering issue of a new minimum wage. While the tripartite committee set up by the Federal Government is yet to submit its report on the new minimum wage, almost everybody seems to be in the dark about what is actually happening at the moment.

Although the Edo State Governor,

By VICTOR ALI

Godwin Obaseki, was quoted as saying that he had raised his state's minimum wage to N70,000, this purported pronouncement remains worrisome. As a member of the tripartite committee set up by the Federal Government on the new minimum wage, where and how did Mr.

"As a short-term measure, the Federal Government announced the payments of varying sums of money to workers for six months. For some states of the federation, the payment of that palliatives allowance has since expired without further action. Clearly, it was only a stop-gap solution, a temporary remedy, while the main issue still lingers. Another sore point regarding Nigeria's current economic predicament is the lingering issue of a new minimum wage. While the tripartite committee set up by the Federal Government is yet to submit its report on the new minimum wage, almost everybody seems to be in the dark about what is actually happening at the moment".

Obaseki arrive at his seventy thousand naira whilst the committee of which he is a member is yet to submit its report?

Even as the two main umbrella bodies of workers in the country - the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) - are vigorously pushing for a 'living wage' for the Nigerian workers, they should be wary of the intrigues and antics of the employer.

Obviously, Governor Obaseki is flying a kite. If not, why not wait for the committee to submit its report?

Certainly, at moments like this, both the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) should be resolute, firm and work in unison in order to achieve the set objectives. It is unfortunate that earlier on in this renewed struggle for the new minimum wage, the two unions were obviously working at cross-purposes without agreeing on a particular amount. This would not serve their purpose as leaders of workers in the country.

With the May 31, 2024, deadline given by the unions for government to resolve the lingering issues related to the new minimum wage, President Ahmed Tinubu should do the needful by wading into what seems like an imminent industrial showdown. With the battered economic situation of the country, it would do no one any good should there be another industrial unrest.

The imperative of human capital development

THERE is a saying that, 'whoever has humans has everything'. No wonder, the Holy Book says that blessed is the man whose quiver is full of children. These explain the essence of human beings. These sayings become even more sacrosanct if adequate care is taken towards human development to handle challenges in the society.

In Nigeria, there is no time that the imperative of developing human capital resource is more necessary than now. Gladly, it is part of the cornerstone of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope agenda.

Over the years, part of the nagging problems besetting Nigeria, especially employable youths, according to investigation, has been poor and tardy preparations to face the competition in the job market. No wonder, even when there is a teeming population of school leavers in the country who could be employed for certain technical and vocational positions, foreigners who pose as expatriates fill these slots most often. Many available young Nigerians are like misfits who cannot compete with their counterparts from other climes.

This trend, however, is about to be addressed because recently at the 38th convocation ceremony of Bayero University Kano (BUK), President Tinubu said his administration would continue to support education because of his strong belief that Nigeria's survival can only be assured by the quality of human capital development.

The president, who was represented by the minister of education, Professor Tahir Muhammad, explained that the administration accords top priority to education and human capital development. That was why the government took steps to provide constant electricity to universities via Compressed Natural Gas through the ministry of education and that of gas.

He said: "On its part, the government has taken steps to

By SUNNY IDACHABA

provide power to universities through Compressed Natural Gas. To this effect, the Ministry of Education together with the Ministry of Gas has been directed to work out this facility so that our higher institutions could have a continuous uninterrupted supply of power for their research and general services.

"We have worked out this facility so that those institutions could have a continuous uninterrupted supply of power for their research and general services. While supporting all aspects of education, this administration would focus on skills, technology and vocational education as core drivers of educational system that would prepare graduates for employment and as employers of labour.

"For this purpose, the federal government is building 24 skills and vocational hubs in polytechnics as well as entrepreneurship centres in our universities. We are also reviving 970 Tsangaya centres for integrated learning and development of Almajiri in the country."

In addition to all of these, the president announced that the federal government was constructing 91 vocational schools in secondary schools across the country to ensure that all levels of education enjoy the impact of the policy.

"We are set to inaugurate Private Sector Innovation Enterprise Centres across the country to deliver on the skills acquisition programme of the government. Our universities are centres of learning that need to upscale and adjust to the modern day world by repositioning themselves as citadels of education that would bring about development.

"As a government, we are also determined in our effort to continue to support the upgrade of infrastructure, teaching materials and research equipment in our universities which the need assessment of

Nigeria's public universities is addressing," he stated.

He, therefore, urged all the higher institutions to carve out a niche for themselves by designing programmes that would assist the government in poverty reduction, creation of employment opportunities and application of new technologies in the advancement of knowledge and prosperity, saying all of those would help in protecting the environment and sustain good governance.

Over the years, despite claims of the usual rhetoric of 'education for all', governments never really gave utmost attention to human capital development with impressive growth rates. Rather, attention was focused more on upgrading political institutions.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), human capital is an active factor that drives economic growth in every nation, not political institutions. Therefore, the global body says that Nigeria's poor investments in human capital development are largely linked to her poor economic growth rates.

According to an economist at Western Delta University, Oghara, Delta state, Dr. Felix Ashakah, no nation can develop without investment in human capital resources. He said, "Human capital development refers to the process of acquiring and increasing the number of persons who have the skills, education and experiences that are critical for the economic growth and development of a country."

According to him, this is very crucial to economic growth because humans can think, analyse and solve problems to achieve a more efficient society that can yield the desired growth rates and development.

"The ability of a country to seize the competitive advantage that technology offers depends on human capital development. Nigeria's investment in human capital development is unimpressive. The Nigerian

education sector has received poor budgetary allocations to run the education system over the years. For instance, in the 2022 budget, the education sector got an allocation of N1.29 trillion (7.9%) out of N16.39 trillion, in the 2021 budget, it got N 771.5 billion (5.68%) out of N13.58 trillion, and in the 2020 budget, it got N671.07 billion (6.7%) out of N10.33 trillion. There are little or no provisions for the training of young Nigerians in vocational trades," he explained.

Public primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions in the country, he lamented, lacked the required facilities for learning due to poor funding.

"The public schools are poorly staffed and lack the required classrooms for their student populations. The employment of teaching staff has been compromised and politicised to allow less qualified teaching academics in the education system," he disclosed.

Following the poor funding of the education system, he said some lecturers in the higher institutions do not even have the required skills to impart knowledge due to the absence of training.

"As a result, they impart obsolete information to students who become unemployable in the industries. The non-employability of some graduates has discredited the educational system in the global markets. This is why politicians and wealthy Nigerians send their children and wards overseas to acquire higher knowledge."

Therefore, he said, the government must improve budgetary allocations to education and health sectors and should establish control systems to ensure budgetary allocations are well utilised, with recruitment of staff into the educational and health institutions effective and staff regularly trained to promote performances.

On a general note, he said, entrepreneurial studies should be taught at all levels in the school system to equip graduates

with the relevant skills to own and manage their businesses even as he said the government should promote the firms set up by both young and older graduates.

On her part, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Calabar, Prof. Florence Obi, who was guest speaker at the Bullion Lecture 2024 with the theme, 'Human Capital Development as Catalyst for Nigeria's Prosperity,' said human capital development is about empowering people to reach their full potential, personally and professionally, thereby creating a workforce that is productive, innovative and adaptable to changes.

She was of the opinion that human capital development enhances and improves the skills, knowledge, abilities and overall potentials of individuals within a society or organisation.

"When a man is confronted with knowledge economy and technology economy, the most essential variable is the human capital," she said.

According to her, Nigeria's education is currently too rigid and conservative to influence the needed development drive. Hence, there is a need to review the national policy on education to make it functional and re-evaluate the entire value-chain of the education system, especially the curriculum.

As Nigeria aspires to be among the leading economies in the world by the year 2030, the development of human capital development is sacrosanct. By this the country would escape from the pitfalls of churning out school leavers who cannot compete in the job market.

Also, the era of expatriates taking up technical jobs that Nigerians can handle would become a thing of the past and ultimately the mass migration to Western and Asian countries of employable Nigerian youths in what is known recently as the 'japa' syndrome would automatically cease.

Source: Primum Times

SPORTS

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS WON BY PLATEAU CONTINGENTS

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang yesterday at the old Government House, Rayfield, Jos performed the presentation of medals won at Kaduna National Marathon championship and bade farewell to state's contingent to Nairobi, Kenya Marathon



Commissioner for Secondary Education, Alhaji Muhammed Salihu Nyalun (right), presenting the medal to Governor Mutfwang



Governor Mutfwang (middle), in a group photograph with medalist and contingents to Kenya



Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Education, Secondary, Maram Isaac Monday (left), flanked by management staff



Secretary to Government of the State, Arc. Samuel Jatau (left), with the chairman, SUBEB, Sunday Amuna

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Catching athletes young is key

By ANDRE D BISYIT

CATCHING potential athletes young is key in every sports as they would know the rudiments from an early age and become professionals as they grow.

Professor Ezra Gunen, Director of Sports, Plateau State Sports Council, revealed this during the opening ceremony of the Cricket Naija Kids Grassroots Development Program organized by the Nigerian Cricket Federation, in collaboration with the Plateau State Cricket Association, held at St. Paul's Anglican Private School, Jos, yesterday.

He noted that introducing the game to primary school pupils was necessary as it would develop their fitness level and give them the opportunity to acquire skills to play the game.

He explained that they could play for recreation and competition so that in the future they could represent the country in international tournaments.

He disclosed that because sports development was in stages, the Federal Government had supported the state to implement programs towards improving the performance of athletes.

-Gunen

He stressed that "skills development is into ages. First, you have to develop the fundamental skills, that's why we are using improvised equipment to teach them which can't harm but attract them. And as they engage in these activities, the components of agility, balance, coordination are developed and that will enable them to learn."

Abu Alabi, Chairman, Plateau State Cricket Association, explained that the talent hunt was organized to discover hidden talents that would on day represent the country.

He pointed out that they would be visiting five schools where about four thousand cricket players were expected to be discovered, adding that Nigeria was rated forth in the world as a result of massive awareness and discoveries.

Queen Joseph, the cricket player who represented the country in the Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Botswana, disclosed that the secret behind her success was starting the game at a tender age and advised beginners not to give up as the sky would be their limit.

"The experience I acquired in the game over time, especially during the Under-19 World Cup in Botswana, is what I want to impart to these school pupils so that we can have more players that will represent not only the state but the country at large," she said.



Ezra Gunen, Queen Joseph and Abu Alabi

Mutfwang emphasizes the need for grassroots sports devt.

By PETER TITLE

THE Plateau State Government says it intends to include grassroots sports development in next year's budget as a deliberate action towards improving the sector.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang disclosed this when he received some secondary school students who made the state proud by bringing laurels in a Marathon event held in Kaduna State recently.

Receiving the six students who represented the state in different categories of the marathon, the governor

disclosed that, from next year, each local government in the state would be expected to organise its own sports festival in order to fish out hidden talents.

The governor, who said the life of an athlete was based on discipline, pledged to provide the necessary sporting facilities for sports to thrive in the state.

On his part, leader of the delegation and state Commissioner for Secondary Education, Mohammed Nyalum, thanked the governor for supporting the activities of the ministry and pledged to do the state proud at the international sporting event to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.



Cross-section of Marathon winners during the visit at Government House



The Islamist insurgency in Northern Nigeria, spearheaded by groups like Boko Haram and its offshoots including ISWAP has dramatically reshaped the region. Founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf, Boko Haram initially targeted Western education and aimed to implement Sharia law, seeking to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria. But following Yusuf's death in 2009, under Abubakar Shekau's leadership, Boko Haram escalated its campaign, launching widespread attacks against the government, security forces, and civilians.

NUHU RIBADU

Addressing multi-dimensional insecurity challenges in N/Nigeria

The distinction between economic necessity—"I must rustle some cattle to buy guns to defend my people from Yan Sakai"—and economic opportunism—"The more cattle I rustle, the more guns I can buy, becoming more powerful and wealthy"—is subtle. Many herders who initially took up arms for self-defence have since become hardened criminals.

The conflict in the north remains dynamic and mobile. The base of operations for bandits in the northwest can shift rapidly. Additionally, gangs often collaborate with other bandit groups to conduct attacks far from their camps, driven by both opportunity and necessity. For instance, bandit Dogo Gide, usually based in the Birnin Gwari forest straddling Kaduna and Niger states, targeted distant Birnin Yauri in Kebbi state for a mass kidnapping in July 2021, as many schools closer to his camps had closed due to banditry. Bandits typically move on motorcycles but also utilize waterways, especially during the rainy season, to transport themselves and their weapons via canoe.

Zamfara stands as the epicentre of banditry, albeit local government areas (LGAs) within Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Niger, and Kaduna that border Zamfara are also severely affected. For example, Sabon Birni, Isa, and Rabah, Goronyo in eastern Sokoto, bordering Zamfara's Shinkafi LGA, have been among the hardest hit. In the Birnin Gwari region in western Kaduna high levels of violence are linked to its forest networks extending into Zamfara.

Banditry is also evolving, with groups have expanded their operations to include kidnapping for ransom, a highly profitable tactic that fuels their activities. In a significant strategic shift, the abduction of school children has become a favoured method for bandits, notably highlighted by the audacious kidnapping of the Kankara schoolboys by Auwalu Daudawa in Katsina state in December 2020. Since these incidents, the kidnapping of school children has become a potent weapon, with the most recent being the kidnapping in Kuriga, Kaduna state in March 2024.

Estimates suggest there are over 300 bandit warlords, each



commanding at least 50 fighters operational across different regions of Northern Nigeria. Like in the pre-colonial era, kinship and community ties continue to play significant roles in banditry, with bandit groups often operating within defined ethnic or kinship lines, forming bandit families or clans. These groups rely on extensive networks of informants, safe houses, and community support to evade authorities or rival factions. The loyalty within these families and the code of silence among community members have made it challenging for authorities to effectively combat banditry.

The importance of a bandit leader extends beyond mere strength and the size of their forces or weaponry; it also hinges on the prowess of their affiliated musicians and the popularity of their songs. Most bandit kingpins, locally known as "Kachalla," boasts special songs attributed to them, contributing to their myth and aura. Hausa speaking Nigerians in their 40s and above will undoubtedly be familiar with the songs of Kassu Zurmi, Gambu and other musicians who served as praise singers to bandit families and noted kingpins in the past. Today, this trend has continued with the emergence of a new breed of bandit-musicians, including figures like the late Surajo, Adamu Ayuba, Hammadu, Makaho, Mal, Jika, and Malgari—the latter three all hail from Dunburum in the Zurmi LGA of Zamfara state. These

bandit-musicians play a pivotal role in the banditry ecosystem, with their songs serving as a measure of a bandit kingpin's power and influence.

The menace of banditry, while historically entrenched in the socio-economic fabric of Northern Nigeria, has undergone a significant transformation. Previously confined to local skirmishes and cattle rustling, modern-day banditry in the region has escalated into a lucrative and deadly operation. This involves kidnapping for ransom and large-scale violence that destabilises entire communities. This evolution reflects broader socio-economic despair and a governance vacuum, realities that have allowed bandits to grow their tactics and access the sophisticated weaponry. To this end addressing banditry today requires not only a security response but also an understanding and addressing of its deep-rooted causes.

The Islamist insurgency in Northern Nigeria, spearheaded by groups like Boko Haram and its offshoots including ISWAP has dramatically reshaped the region. Founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf, Boko Haram initially targeted Western education and aimed to implement Sharia law, seeking to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria. But following Yusuf's death in 2009, under Abubakar Shekau's leadership, Boko Haram escalated its campaign,

launching widespread attacks against the government, security forces, and civilians.

Ansaru, which emerged from Boko Haram in 2012, and ISWAP, which formed in 2016 and pledged allegiance to ISIS, represent significant fractures of the original movement. These groups have not only perpetuated the conflict but also broadened its scope from the Northeast across to the Northwest and North-Central zones of Nigeria, intertwining with local banditry and exploiting community grievances. This complex web of insurgent activity, coupled with efforts to embed within local populations and even collaborate with bandits, has fuelled a devastating humanitarian crisis marked by mass displacement and severe socio-economic disruption. The Boko Haram insurgency has directly and indirectly caused the deaths of tens of thousands of Nigerians and the displacement of millions, significantly hindering socio-economic development and altering the security, socio-economic, and geopolitical fabric of the region.

The growth of interactions with the other insecurity challenges across Northern Nigeria is a concerning trend. In the northwest, a region already troubled by bandit groups, there is an emerging cooperation between these bandits and terrorist groups, often involving financial exchanges, in states

such as Zamfara, Niger and Katsina. This collaboration, particularly around the sharing of resources but also around local terrain knowledge, poses a risk of escalating the current insecurity. For instance, the train attack in Kaduna in March 2022 was a joint operation between a Boko Haram faction and the late Ali Kawaje, a prominent bandit warlord. But Boko Haram factions are not alone in this approach. Ansaru and ISWAP's strategies have also included providing support against bandits in exchange for community allegiance and operating in strategic locations like Dandume, Birni Gwari and the Shiroro axis. This multifaceted insurgency landscape, marked by potential for both cooperation and infighting among groups, not only has immediate impacts for residents, but significantly complicates efforts to address insecurity in Northern Nigeria.

The age-old conflict over scarce resources between nomadic herders and settled farmers has intensified in North-Central states such as Kaduna, Benue, and Nasarawa, exacerbated by climate change, population growth, and land degradation. These clashes are no longer mere resource disputes but are increasingly interpreted through lenses of ethnicity and religion, adding layers of complexity to an already volatile situation. In this way the conflicts in the North-Central states of Nigeria are emblematic of a broader crisis facing the country, where environmental, economic, and societal pressures converge to fuel violence.

Historically, the relationship between nomadic herders and settled farmers was symbiotic. Herders' cattle would graze on leftover crops from farmers' fields, providing manure for the next planting season. But the historical migration patterns and pastoral livelihoods are now in direct conflict with modern agricultural practices and land use policies, leading to recurrent violence and community ruptures. Furthermore, this relationship has been strained by climate change, population growth, and land degradation, which have led to a reduction in available grazing land and water resources.

To be continued