THE NEWSPAPER YOU CAN TRUST

Daily Trust

Wednesday, August 24, 2022
Muharram 26, 1444 AH

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N200
Vol. 56, No. 34

32 PAGES

STILL IN CAPTIVITY

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1 STUDENT OF BETHEL BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL, KUJAMA — 416 DAYS

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- We're working to resolve PDP crisis – BoT chair

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■ Sudanese take shelter in a stadium after being displaced by flood in Managil city in al-Gezira state, around 250Km south of the capital yesterday Photo: AFP

Int'l airfares triple over $464m blocked funds

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TajBank to launch mobile banking app P 4

UK donates £15m to tackle food insecurity, malnutrition in N/East P 26

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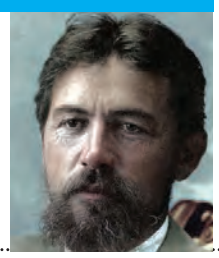
UK donates £15m to tackle food insecurity, malnutrition in N/East P 26

2023: Kwakwanso promises to reform maritime sector P 27

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice"

– *Anton Chekhov*



AFRICAN SAYINGS

If men swear that they want to harm you when you are asleep, you can go to sleep. If a woman says the same stay awake

(African Proverbs)

Source: ***BBC collection of listeners' proverbs***

WEATHER

Compiled by JAMIL H. SALIM

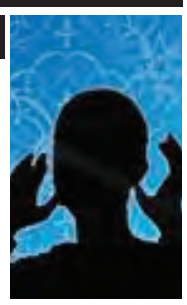
ABUJA	KADUNA	KANO	MAIDUGURI	JOS	SOKOTO	IBADAN	ENUGU	P/HARCOURT	LAGOS
THUNDER STORM	THUNDER STORM	PARTIALLY CLOUD	MOSTLY SUNNY	THUNDER STORM	PARTIALLY CLOUD	THUNDER STORM	THUNDER STORM	THUNDER STORM	THUNDER STORM
28 MAX / 22 MIN	29 MAX / 21 MIN	34 MAX / 23 MIN	36 MAX / 25 MIN	25 MAX / 17 MIN	33 MAX / 24 MIN	28 MAX / 22 MIN	28 MAX / 22 MIN	23 MAX / 17 MIN	28 MAX / 23 MIN

(Temperature in centigrade)

PRAYERS TIMES

MUHARRAM 26, 1444 AH

PRAYERS	ABUJA	ENUGU	KADUNA	KANO	KATSINA	LAGOS	MAIDUGURI	P/HARCOURT	SOKOTO
FAJR	5:11	5:08	5:09	5:08	5:10	5:26	4:48	5:13	5:18
DHUHR	12:38	12:38	12:38	12:36	12:42	12:55	12:16	12:41	12:48
ASR	3:37	3:37	3:37	3:35	3:41	3:54	3:15	3:40	3:47
MAGHRIB	6:41	6:45	6:44	6:41	6:42	7:03	6:21	6:49	6:52
ISHA	7:46	7:50	7:49	7:46	7:47	8:08	7:26	7:54	7:57



SOURCE: *Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna*

PHOTO OF THE DAY



■ People abandon pedestrian bridge to cross the road at Katangua Bus Stop near Abule-Egba, Lagos

Photo: **Benedict Uwalaka**

STOCK INDEX

TUESDAY 22, 2022

GAINERS	NEM	FTNCOCOA	HONYFLOUR	UPL	MBENEFIT
OPEN	N4.40	N0.33	N2.89	N1.89	N0.29
CLOSE	0.40	0.03	0.26	0.17	0.02
CHANGE	10.00%	10.00%	9.89%	9.88%	7.41%

LOSERS	BUAFOODS	NNFM	SEPLAT	ETERNA	NAHCO
OPEN	N54.00	N7.75	N1300.00	N6.05	N5.50
CLOSE	-5.95	-0.85	-119.90	-0.55	-0.45
CHANGE	-9.92%	-9.88%	-8.44%	-8.33%	-7.56%

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IN-DEPTH

Fresh crisis rocks N12.6bn monthly deal for Azura Power 8 years after AGF faulted pact

On August 19, 2022, the House of Representatives Committee on Finance discovered that the country was committed to a monthly payment of $33m in a take or pay power generation deal with the Azura plant. It had summoned the parties including Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET), the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), minister of finance and other parties. By Monday, after a hearing, it further summoned heads of the parastatals to appear before it yesterday for further clarification.

By Simon E. Sunday

Fresh crisis as lawmakers probe payment

At the resumed hearing yesterday, the committee directed TCN to provide details of the $33m payment with the Azura power plant and other plants under the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC).

Chairman of the committee, James Faleke, told the Managing Director of TCN, Engr Sule Abdulazeez, who was present at the Tuesday hearing, that Azura power plant failed to deliver the 450MW of electricity to the national grid which he said was a breach of the agreement signed with TCN for power transmission.

Faleke also directed TCN to present its budget allocation from 2002 and the contract awarded and the certificates by TCN on power transmission line, as well as details of its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) from 2010 including its audit report.

The committee also summoned the Minister of Power, NDPHC, NBET, the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

However, at the previous hearing, the Managing Director of NBET, Nnaemeka Eweluka, said the 'take or pay' deal was an incentive for investors in the power sector.

How firm raised $750m, got FG buy-back guarantee

The federal government through the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) signed a Pull Call Option Agreement (PCOA) along with a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) obligating Nigeria to pay between $30 million and $33 million monthly to Azura for generating electricity whether such is transmitted and consumed or not.

The Azura Edo Independent Power Plant (IPP), according to its website, generates 461MW just as the operators are developing the Edo phase II combined cycle expansion for another 275MW. Its subsidiary, Azura-Nova, has a 125MW solar power plant being developed in Katsina State.



■ Then Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo (left); then Edo State governor Adams Oshiomhole (middle) & then Minister of Finance/CME, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (right) at the Azura construction contract signing ceremony in March 2014



■ Azura power

Construction work for the Azura Edo plant with a World Bank's Guarantee of about N47 billion started in January 2016; the plant was backed by the PCOA before the construction began. The agreement gave the investors the guarantee that the federal government would buy back unused power and also buy the plant when the need arises.

By March 2016, NBET signed a pact with the University of Benin in Edo State to monitor and evaluate the construction works for the 450 megawatts (MW) Azura gas-fired power plant.

However, the paper work began in 2014 when Azura Power Holdings Ltd, an international consortium, signed a $750 million contract and debt financing for the Independent Power Plant (IPP) project.

The project worth $750 million, involved a $220 million of equity and $530 million of debt from a consortium of local and international financiers. According to Sundeep Bahanda, a co-founder of Amaya Capital and David Ladipo, the Managing Director of Azura, the project construction was ready for take-off after signing the pact.

Also party to the deal was Seplat in a joint venture with Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC), a subsidiary of NNPC Ltd. Seplat/NPDC invested $300 million on the gas facility from its Oben Gas Plant to the power plant.

As at May 2014, the project handlers disclosed that Siemens and Julius Berger Nigeria got the Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract; Seplat had the Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement, and an Operations & Maintenance contract with PLC Marubeni.

The lead sponsors are Amaya Capital, and American Capital Energy and Infrastructure, while the co-sponsors include Edo State government, Aldwych International, Africa Infrastructure Investment Fund 2 (AIIM) and Asset and Resource Management (ARM). The key lenders to the project include Standard Chartered, Rand Merchant Bank, Siemens Bank, KfW, World Bank, StanbicIBTC, and FCMB.

How AGF declined pact over non-compliance 8 years ago

In a letter of response dated December 23, 2014 to then President Goodluck Jonathan on the Azura deal, the then Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Mohammed Bello Adoke, said he could not give a legal opinion as requested by the then Coordinating Minister of the Economy and Minister of Finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, because, "the PCOA was executed without due regards to my Legal Opinion of 24th July 2014, wherein I highlighted significant issues that needed to be incorporated and changes required".

He said there was non-compliance with his recommendations for the PCOA. He insisted that arbitration for the power purchase deal, if any, should be in Nigeria and London, and frowned at clauses that insinuate that the government will purchase the energy or plant if there is a halt (force majeure) in gas supply or in the case of radioactive contamination

He also objected to Clause 13.1.2 of the PCOA which he wanted deleted but was not. It stated that the federal government 'irrevocably waives its immunity over its assets or revenues from suit, execution, attachment or other legal process.

Adoke also said the arrangers of the deal failed to insert the indemnity clause directed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), which gives Nigerian agencies backing in the case of any foreign litigation.

He requested Jonathan to direct Okonjo-Iweala to ensure his recommendations were followed in conformity with extant laws, policies and circulars of government, but *Daily Trust* could not verify if this was done before the plant was operationalised from May 2018.

Tinubu, Wike's London meeting rattles PDP, Atiku

By Ismail Mudashir, Baba Martins (Abuja) & Abiodun Alade (Lagos)



■ Wike



■ Tinubu

The London meeting of the Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike has unsettled the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its Presidential Candidate, Atiku Abubakar, *Daily Trust* reports.

Wike, who came second during the presidential primaries of the PDP has been at loggerheads with Atiku following the selection of the Delta State governor, Ifeanyi Okowa as the vice presidential candidate of the party.

Spirited efforts by the leaders of the party to persuade Wike to key into Atiku's project have hit the rock.

Instead, the Rivers State governor has upped his romance with the chieftains of the ruling party and the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi.

Analysts believe that this development will heighten the anxiety in the camp of the former vice president.

Reliable sources close to both Tinubu and Wike told this paper that the two personalities met on Monday in London, where issues revolving around the presidential aspirations of the former Lagos State governor were extensively discussed.

A source in the campaign council of Tinubu said the meeting, which he described as "fruitful" was attended by six persons, three from each side.

On the part of the APC presidential candidate, he said Tinubu, the Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his Ekiti State counterpart, Kayode Fayemi were part of the parley.

According to him, from Wike's side, two governors who are of the PDP, Samuel Ortom (Benue) and Seyi Makinde (Oyo) attended the meeting.

"It was a fruitful outing from our end. Further meetings would be held," the source said, saying he should not be quoted.

A former minister in Wike's camp, who also confirmed the meeting, said there was nothing wrong with the parley, saying Atiku is also meeting with APC governors.

"Atiku is also meeting with some APC governors, why are they complaining? What is good for the goose is good for the gander. It is all part of the game and nothing more," he said in a phone interview last night.

It was learnt that two things are being ironed out, whether Wike should dump PDP and join the APC or remain in PDP but work for the APC at the presidential election.

In the 2019 presidential election, Atiku polled 473,971 votes against Buhari's 150,710 in Rivers State.

A former minister of works and chieftain of the APC, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe, has advised Wike to consider working with Asiwaju Tinubu, noting that he should not remain where he is not appreciated.

"In politics, nothing is impossible. Political parties are always looking for numbers and value, and Governor Wike will add it to the campaign. He should consider working for the APC, especially considering that his efforts are not appreciated where he is," he said.

Efforts to speak with the spokesman of the APC presidential campaign, Festus Keyamo, the Director of Media and Publicity of the campaign, Bayo Onanuga as well as Tinubu's media aide, Tunde Rahman, proved abortive as they neither answer calls placed to their known telephone numbers nor respond to SMS/Whatsapp messages.

When contacted, a spokesperson for Atiku, Paul Ibe, declined comment on the matter.

Why Atiku, Wike feud lingers

The key issue delaying the reconciliation of Atiku and Wike, according to party chieftains, is the demand for the resignation of the National Chairman of the PDP, Iyorchia Ayu.

The camp of the Rivers State governor was said to have reduced his demand for the resignation of Ayu. They argued that he was biased during the primary and that he pledged to quit if a northerner emerges as the presidential flag bearer of the PDP.

But a leader of the party said it would be difficult for Ayu to resign.

"A statement was issued last week, where it was stated that Ayu won't resign. It would cause a lot of distraction now that we are strategising to defeat APC in 2023," he said.

A former Deputy National Chairman of the PDP, Chief Olabode George has insisted that Ayu must resign for peace to reign in the party.

In a recent interview with this paper, George recounted that Ayu promised to vacate his seat as the chairman, if the party produced a presidential candidate from the North, challenging him to let his word be his bond.

George also said the South is not interested in the position of the director-general' of the Presidential Campaign Council, saying in the interest of equity, fairness and justice, the national chairman should vacate his seat for a Southerner to take over.

We're working to resolve PDP crisis - BoT chair

To douse the tension in the PDP, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BoT), Senator Walid Jibrin, expressed optimism that the feud between Atiku and Wike would soon be resolved.

"I still maintain my stand that PDP is a democratic and national party that caters for all Nigerians, it's not sectional but loved by all Nigerians. As a PDP BoT chairman, I must say the truth and nothing but the truth no matter any criticism I don't fear anyone.

"Therefore, I will never accept any unholy criticism by anyone. I will remain in PDP until my death. I still maintain that the BoT is eagerly waiting for the report of the reconciliation committee headed by the governor of Adamawa State and Professor Jerry Gana, thereafter, the BoT will thoroughly discuss it and inform the public accordingly no more, no less," he said.

PSC suspends recruitment of constables after IGP's protest

By Idowu Isamotu

The Police Service Commission (PSC) yesterday suspended the recruitment process of constables into the Nigerian Police Force.

The commission did this less than 24 hours after the Inspector-General of Police, Usman Baba, fumed over a newspaper advertorial on recruitment.

The IGP had on Monday asked Nigerians to disregard the advertorial.

PSC spokesman, Ikechukwu Ani, in a statement yesterday, confirmed there were contending issues between the NPF and the commission on the recruitment exercise.

He, however, assured that all the issues would be resolved between the two parties in the interest of the nation.

He asked all interested applicants and other Nigerians desirous of a career in the Nigeria Police Force to exercise patience "while these issues are being resolved."

TajBank to launch mobile banking app

By Faruk Shuaibu

The Managing Director of TajBank Ltd, Mr Hamid Joda, says the bank is set to launch a digital banking application to attract more customers to its platforms as it seeks to grow its operation nationwide.

He disclosed this in Abuja yesterday during a courtesy visit to bank's headquarters by the management of Media Trust Group.

He said: "We're launching our digital bank; it's the first of its kind in Nigeria and it was developed locally by some young Nigerians. The features we have on it can compete with any other digital bank in the world. We're taking it to the public hopefully in September or October as we're waiting for some regulatory approvals. The digital bank is mainly for young people to come on board and we need the media to tell the story."

Joda said the bank had recorded some feats in the Nigerian market despite the disruption caused by COVID-19

"2019 was a tough year as we faced the COVID-19 challenge. For a startup, it was an extremely difficult year, but thanks to God, we were able to surmount the challenges and we broke even in our 8 months of existence. Apart from that, we were able to wipe up operation expenses in our first year of business and we recorded profit in the first year also which is quite unusual in the banking sector."

He also said the bank was able to increase its balance sheet from N50bn to N140bn. He disclosed that the bank would soon launch N100bn SUKUK programme.

Group Chief Executive Officer, Media Trust Group, Mounir Haliru Gwarzo, said the company was ready to partner with the bank to promote its activities.

Banditry has turned many Niger children into street beggars – SSG

From Abubakar Akote, Minna

The Secretary to the State Government (SSG) of Niger, Ahmed Ibrahim Matane, has said that many out-of-school children from banditry-infested communities in the state have resorted to street begging for survival because their parents were unable to support their education.

He spoke at the opening of a two-day stakeholders' workshop on the implementation of the "At-Risk Children Programme (ARC-P)," in Niger State.

Matane said the programme was timely as it would increase equitable access to education for out-of-school children, improve basic literacy and strengthen accountability for results in basic education.

The SSG noted that the state had completed mapping on Almajiri clusters in 20 of the 25 local government areas, calling for full support for seamless implementation of the ARC-P.

Also speaking, the wife of the state governor, Dr Amina Abubakar Bello, said Niger State had the highest number of youths that were into drug abuse in the North Central, attributing the trend to lack of access to quality education and skills that would make them productive in the society.

She stressed the need for proper coordination and effective strategies as well as monitoring to achieve efficiency and proffer effective solutions to challenges facing the vulnerable children in the state.

Earlier, the Special Adviser to the President on Social Investment, Maryam Uwais, said adequate data on vulnerable children was required to drive the programme, calling on stakeholders to key in to enable the target children to benefit.

She said the state had enough land to engage its teeming unemployed youths and children in various skills that would enable them to live productive lives.

Police rearraign driver who crushed Sokoto student

From Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

Barely 24 hours after the Daily Trust report, the police have rearraigned Aliyu Sunusi Umar, the student who knocked down Fatima Suleiman with a car as a result of which one of her legs was amputated.

After sitting for their final examination, Fatima and her friends were jubilating, exchanging contacts and signing autographs when Umar ran over her while performing stunts.

It was gathered that the case had also been withdrawn from the magistrate who earlier granted bail to the culprit.

The police have also amended the charges for the second time and the new charges included grievous hurt.

Our reporter learnt that the new magistrate on Monday remanded Umar in the Sokoto Correctional Centre till next Monday when the case would come up for further hearing.

Speaking on the replacement of the magistrate handling the case, the Chief Registrar of the Sokoto State High Court, Bashir Ibrahim, said it was not a disciplinary measure against the magistrate.

He said, "We just thought being a new magistrate, she might not understand the gravity of the case that is why she was replaced by a highly experienced magistrate to handle the matter.

"But the decision has nothing to do with disciplinary measures because nobody complained against her."

The father of Fatima, Dr Suleiman Saba, expressed satisfaction with the new development, saying the family was optimistic justice would be done in the case.

Meanwhile, the wife of the Governor of Sokoto State, Hajiya Mariya Tambuwal, on Monday visited Fatima and pledged to support her in overcoming the trauma.



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JNI faults CAN's opposition to rebuilding Jos Main Market

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

The Plateau State Chapter of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) under the leadership of the Emir of Wase, Dr Muhammad Sambo Haruna, has faulted the submission of the state chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), and other groups on the rebuilding of the Jos Main Market.

There have been arguments on whether or not to build the market following the agreement between the state government and Jaiz Bank.

The bank, according to the state government, is the financier of the project, a development that CAN said the project should be put on hold.

The JNI, in a statement signed by the state Secretary, Salem Musa Umar, said the statement was disgusting and provocative to the Muslims in the state and an affront to Islam.

"Of particular concern to us was a trending video in social and mainstream media where someone was speaking under a clear banner that stated, Concerned Christians of Plateau.

"We wonder since when the rebuilding of the Jos Main Market turned into a religious issue that religious bodies will use it to cast aspersions at and abuse Muslims and Islam?"

The body expressed shock that the person in the video described Muslims as terrorists and accused them of burning down the market when half of the shop owners and operators at the burnt market were Muslims.

The JNI said its stand was not just because Jaiz Bank was involved but because it believed in the viability and desirability of having the main market back to function in the interest of all in the state.

"We, therefore, call on all citizens in the state, especially our brothers in faith to eschew any form or bitterness that might have been implanted in their minds by some dubious politicians and support the move by this administration to restore the Jos Main Market into full use," the statement added.



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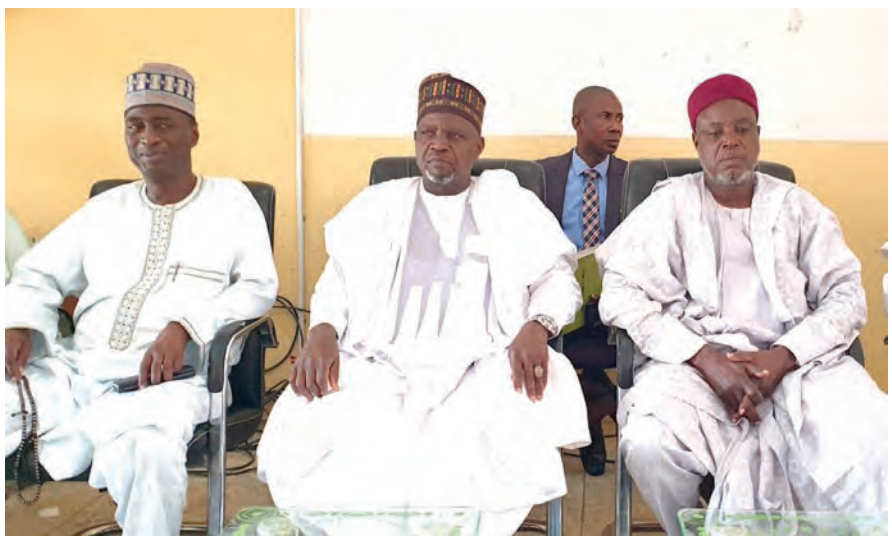
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EVERY WEDNESDAY

Manpower devt: Yobe trains workers on planning, office procedures, others

As part of efforts towards promoting efficiency in the implementation of government policies and programmes, the Yobe State Government has organised a three-day workshop for administration and planning officers on grade level 13-14 on office procedure, memo writing and minuting.

The Yobe State Acting Head of Service, Alhaji Garba Bilal, while declaring the training open at the Conference Hall of Shehu Sule College of Nursing and Midwifery, Damaturu, said the measure became necessary given the role of the chosen officers in administrative processes.

Bilal disclosed that the present administration of Governor Mai Mala Buni remained committed to ensuring a holistic capacity building of the civil servants for efficiency in service delivery across the state.



■ R/L; The Yobe State Permanent Secretary Admin, Abdulakarim Mai Umar, Ag. Head of Service, Alh. Garba Bilal and Perm Sec. Political Alh. Lawan Kolo Geidam during a workshop in Damaturu

"I wish to emphasise that this workshop is being organised to further actualise the goals of the present administration of His Excellency, Hon. Mai Mala Buni in terms of capacity building and manpower development for effective and efficient policy formulation as well as service delivery in the civil service.

"In this regard, I will like to express my immense appreciation to His Excellency Hon. Mai Mala Buni for graciously approving this workshop with the aim of enhancing the capabilities and potentials of the participants in discharging their assigned responsibilities in their respective ministries, departments and agencies.

"Let me seize this opportunity to appeal to our learned resource persons to make excellent presentations and respond to questions with relevant and simple examples of their vast experiences during their heydays in the civil service.

"I believe that this is the best way to impact knowledge to our participants for the progress and development of our dear state," the HoS said.

He charged the participants to pay rapt attention with a view to learning more skills, techniques and exposure of handling administrative matters for better results.

Permanent Secretary, Public Service, Alhaji Bukar Kilo, described the workshop as apt taking into consideration the number of challenges confronting the trainees.

Kilo commended Governor Buni for his support to the entrenchment of civil service and civil servants in general.

Buni offers 2 sons of slain Yobe cleric automatic jobs

Yobe Governor Mai Mala Buni has directed automatic employments for two sons of the late Islamic cleric, Sheikh Goni Aisami, who was gruesomely killed last Friday near Gashua.

A statement issued by the Director General Press Affairs and Media to the Governor, Alhaji Mamman Mhammed, said Buni gave the directive yesterday when members of the family visited him to express their gratitude for his concern for the family.



■ Governor Mai Mala Buni

Governor Buni assured that the government would ensure investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of the cleric.

He also assured that the government would continue to support the family as it had lost its bread winner.

Malam Ibrahim Aisami, who spoke on behalf of the family, expressed appreciation for the message of condolence and visitation by a high-powered government delegation to commiserate with the family.

He said the employment would cushion the hardships the family might suffer following the demise of the cleric.

Sheikh Aisami was allegedly killed last Friday by two suspected military personnel.

Meanwhile, the police have arrested the suspects; while the military announced that it had launched an investigation into the matter to unveil all details and anyone found wanting, would face the law.

We're committed to rebuilding infrastructure, restoring livelihood at conflict-ravaged areas – Buni

Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni has restated the commitment of his administration to rebuilding structures destroyed by the Boko Haram insurgents across the state.

Buni gave the assurance when the United Nations Representative for Nigeria/Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for Nigeria, Mr Mathias Schmale, called on him in Damaturu.

Buni, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, BaBa Malam Wali, said this, among other things, informed the decision of government to sustain partnership with the United Nations agencies among pther partners with a view to further addressing multiple humanitarian crises across the state.

"There is no gainsaying the fact that the Yobe State Government has committed a huge portion of its scarce resources to the current rebuilding of basic infrastructure and restoration of livelihood especially in the Boko Haram conflict-ravaged areas.

"I wish to emphasize that with the remarkable cooperation and magnanimousintervention of the various agencies of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), we have been together maintaining a very strong partnership in addressing multiple humanitarian crises paving the way for the citizens to continue to pursue their legitimate goals in various aspects of human endeavour.

"It is indeed pertinent to stress that the successes so far recorded were largely the results of cross fertilization of ideas between the Government of Yobe State on one hand and the UNOCHA on the other.

"There is therefore, the need to sustain our achievements in this trying period which is being aggravated by the current global recession.

"I believe we have already developed platforms to enable us to sustain or even surpass our gains," Buni said.

The UN Representative for Nigeria, who is also the Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for Nigeria, Mr Mathias Schmale, said he was in Yobe State to understand priority needs of the state, challenges and possible areas of improved intervention.

He commended the efforts of the state government and the relative peace experienced in the state, pledging the active participation of development partners in complementing the recovery process and other needs of the state.

Universal Health Coverage: Yobe to develop health financing policy

To ensure the success of the Universal Health Coverage initiative, the Yobe State Ministry of Health and the State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (YSCHMA), in collaboration with the State House of Assembly, has resolved to develop a health financing policy document for the state.

Participants at a two-day Health Financing Policy retreat for high-level political leaders, government officials and other stakeholders organised by YSCHMA in Kano, resolved that to achieve increased access to quality and affordable healthcare, the health financing policy backed by the law of the state assembly must be developed.

The retreat, attended by the legislature, permanent secretaries, WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates and Denote foundations, Lafiya Dole, Saving one million lives, CSOs and the Nigerian Labour Congress among other development partners and stakeholders, was also to seek the support of the stakeholders on the on-going Yobe State's drive for mobilization of additional domestic resources for health financing to achieving Universal Health Coverage Programme.

The leader of the Yobe State House of Assembly, who chaired the retreat session, Hon. Bukar Mustapha, said the house remained resolute to ensure that the state had a good working health financing policy document for a healthy society.

"The Yobe State house of Assembly through our committee on health is ready to welcome you, (the Ministry of health and its agencies) with a view to formulate the policy.

"I must tell you that both the legislature, executive and the civil society among others have a vital role and responsibility to ensure the successful formulation of the health financing policy," he added.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr Mohammed Lawan Gana, commended the members of the house and other participants of the retreat for sound and insightful contribution towards having a health financing policy in the state.

Various speakers including the chairman house committee on appropriation and that of public account Hon Chiroma Buba Mashio and Hon Bulama Bukar as well as the chairman house committee on health Hon Ajiya Kachalla Maina reassured their readiness towards support the health sector reforms for better result.


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Hurray
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I, **Hon. Umar Mohammed Bature** on behalf of my family, wishes to join millions of Muslims, Friends, Well wishers and Associates in expressing our profound gratitude and appreciations to Almighty God for gracing and blessing the life of Amirul Mumminin, **His Eminence, Sultan Sa'ad Abubakar III, mni, CFR to this colourful day of his Birthday @66.**

Truly, Your Emenince, you have invested much of your time, resources, and intelligence towards promoting unity, peace and cohesion amongst Nigerians.

I salute you with great hope and Allah's guidance.

I remain Loyal, Sir!

His Eminence,
Sultan Sa'ad Abubakar III, mni, CFR
The Sultan of Sokoto



Signed

Hon. Umar Mohammed Bature
PDP National Organising Secretary.



ZAMFARA STATE GOVERNMENT

Alhamdulillah, Sarkin Musulmi is 66!

His Eminence,
Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar 111
Sultan of Sokoto

I wish to, on behalf of myself and the good people of Zamfara State, congratulate our indefatigable role model, the Sultan of Sakkwato, His Eminence, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar 111 as he attains the age of 66 today.

As the President General, Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, your queentisential fatherly role to all is of unquantifiable value and excellence.

Since your ascension to the exalted throne of your forefathers as the 20th Sultan of Sokoto, you have, like your predecessors, continued to champion the advancement of our people to attain tranquility, peace and harmonious co-existence across the length and breath of this country and beyond.

While joining millions of your well wishers across the globe to say happy birthday, I pray that Almighty Allah continue to bless you richly in sound health, more wisdom and long life.

Once gain, happy birthday Your Eminence.



Signed
His Excellency,
Alhaji (Dr) Bello Mohammed MON
Matawallen Maradun, Barden Hausa, Shattiman Daular Usmaniya,
Executive Govenor, Zamfara State.

OPINION

Email: opinion@dailytrust.com
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A manifesto to save Nigeria's public university

By Kudus Oluwatoyin Adebayo

The industrial dispute between the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the federal government has dominated the media for many months. ASUU leaders stated and restated the position of their members, informing the public of the Memorandum of their Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Action (MoA) – going back to 2009 – leading to the current demands. The representatives of the government have managed to perfect the act of "majoring-in-the-minor". They centre one issue this month and another the next. Their narratives portray the university lecturers as greedy and unpatriotic.

Too many and confusing information and uninformed opinions are circulating. ASUU-greed experts and professional trolls with a massive following are packaging and disseminating decontextualised data and narratives on social media.

University students and prospective ones are angry, depressed and anxious. They are also divided, unsure how to rescue themselves from the educational institution that has put their lives on hold. Parents' voices seem drowned or lost amid incoherence in the public space.

The Nigerian academic diaspora has been an active voice as well. While divided in their opinions, some loudest voices in this group are too obsessed with comparison: "In the US…", "In the UK…", "In America…", "In Europe…", "In Canada…", "In South…", etc. Usually, these diaspora intellectuals ignore their privilege and the systemic nature of the crisis. They "talk at" striking lecturers as "greedy and lazy" people who do not contribute to national and global knowledge, innovation and progress. In this talk, Nigerian diaspora intellectuals suppress why they left, stay abroad and don't return to Nigeria as lecturers.

ASUU is persistent and determined to keep fighting. As a young researcher employed in the country's foremost university, University of Ibadan (UI), however, I sometimes ask myself: "Why bother?" High-ranking professors in Nigerian universities are already encouraging their best students to leave and never look back. Many who returned to Nigeria after studying abroad in the 1970s and 1980s quickly tell their regrets. Some of the finest thinkers trained in the 1990s and 2000s did not stay long enough to have their spirits crushed. More so, from 2010 to date, young PhDs who entered the system are pursuing needless second PhDs abroad to escape the fast-crumbling Nigerian university system. So, "why bother?"

I concluded that some people stayed back to train the next generation of Nigerians. They stayed even if it meant struggling through their careers to ensure the son and daughters of ordinary people had access to quality and globally competitive university education. Their struggle over the years is not just to save a critical social institution; they stayed to rescue the future and soul of a society. Their struggle is right. Their struggle is just. Their struggle is patriotic.

Again, ASUU is persistent and determined to keep fighting. Still, this struggle is not and cannot be a struggle for ASUU and allied organisations alone.

We must rally to build a unified voice against common enemies of our collective future: those who understand the depth of the crisis and choose to play politics. The common enemies comprise the state and the intelligent and crafty stooges, political appointees and mouthpieces who know but pretend and speak vacuously. They are the people who feel young people should be lined up indefinitely at the altar of sacrifice for the benefit of the few. They are comfortable proposing that your early career lecturer with a PhD in a specialised field resigned from the university instead of complaining that N137,000 monthly take home – in 2022 – is not enough to take them home. They are the ones criminalising patriotism, faking elitism and truncating national progress.

Those at the top of university leadership should speak up and speak out. Your silence is complicity. You no longer have the luxury of playing the "bewildered generation". It is no longer safe for you to ask, "How did we get here?" When writing the letters, make a patriotic and sincere case for "why we must leave here and move forward." In the note, let the country know what you and your bursars go through in Abuja.

Also, professors must resist the urge to keep super-dry skeletons standing. They need to help the National Universities Commission (NUC) to scrap courses lacking the required human resources by refusing to help glorified secondary schools disguise as universities. Those privileged as heads of government agencies should not sabotage their colleagues. If you cannot talk because your mouth is full, do not be a barrier to those trying to fight for a better system.

Statesmen and stateswomen should lend a voice. Before your departure, talk to your replacements. Remind them how we started as a nation and how far gone we are since making the wrong turn. Not tomorrow, but right now.

Politicians should know that there is more for all if we have a society that works. In a society where knowledge is valued, nurtured and accessible to all irrespective of their social status, there will be prosperity that will benefit all equitably.

Parents and students have important roles to play in all of this. As a parent, you are probably tired that your wards are not making that transition to adulthood as quickly as you hope. But delay is not denial. By seeing this struggle as your own and supporting it openly in whatever way you can, you are helping your wards have a solid foundation for their future.

To young Nigerians, students and those planning to go to university especially, your voice is more critical today than ever. By their advice that you sue ASUU, a suggestion unlikely to yield any meaningful result for you, they ask you to excuse their incompetence and mischief. It is shameful that they are demanding more sacrifices from you now. Your grandparents sacrificed. Your parents sacrificed so much. You have been making sacrifices since you were born in Nigeria as a Nigerian. Refuse to be the sacrificial goat. Secure your future.

Nigerian diaspora intellectuals should appreciate the delicate situation of university lecturers. As many of you as possible should speak truth to power and resist the urge to villainise ASUU. Take time to talk to your former colleagues and friends in Nigerian universities. Ask them questions, listen and reflect on where you are and where you could have been, and then speak based on conviction and truth. By all means, criticise ASUU, but ask the stooges and mouthpieces of the state on social media what they are gaining by demeaning, demoralising and degrading university lecturers.

To end, we should have an honest and public conversation about what we want for ourselves as a society and the role we want the university to play in it. In doing this, we must also ask what a fair working environment is to make the university play that role, given the required quality and cost of talents. This is how we can start the journey towards saving public universities in Nigeria.

The journey must start today, now – not tomorrow.

Dr Adebayo is a research fellow at the Institution of African Studies, UI.

OPINION

Buhari and Nigeria's climate challenge ahead COP27

By Aliu Akoshile

Barring all odds, Africa is set to host the 27th edition of the now famous Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which debuted in Berlin, Germany, in 1992. The COP27, slated for Egyptian Sharm-el Sheikh peninsula in November this year, marks the fifth time Africa will be hosting the climate summit, having been hosted previously by Morocco (2001 and 2016), Kenya (2006) and South Africa (2011). According to a UNCTAD 2021 report, climate change constitutes an existential threat to the lives and indeed livelihoods of some 490 million people living in extreme poverty across Africa.

As Africa's big brother, Nigeria bears a chunk of the continent's climate impacts in many areas. For instance, the country's extensive coastline, stretching approximately up to 853km, has been receding over the years due to overlapping waves that swallow the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in southern region. With the sea level already projected to rise by about 65cm by the turn of the century, a further erosion of the shorelines will only deepen the environmental crisis the country must deal with.

At another level, rivers are drying up while desertification is taking its devastating tolls across the arid zone of the far Northern region. Loss of biodiversity and fatal floods that ravaged farmlands and cities are other challenges confronting the world's most populous black nation. Similarly, degradation of the tropical forests, depletion of floras and faunas due to illegal deforestation as well as criminal wood logging, have been on the increase. It must be noted however that the problem of deforestation in Nigeria is being exacerbated by the prohibitive cost of cooking gas and kerosene, and the virtual absence of alternative clean energy for use by the poor masses.

The impact of climate change is also tellingly grim in the area of agriculture and the quest for food security in Nigeria. It is a cynical irony that a population of over 200 million people is being fed largely by rural peasant farmers using traditional hoes and cutlasses as major tools. By default, such farmers who are not agro-tech savvy can only cultivate crops that are subject to the vagaries of unstable climatic conditions. Of course when the rainfall is excessive, or the drought is extreme, farm produce harvest is abysmally poor, resulting in a disequilibrium between demand and supply, and causing galloping inflation on food prices.

For a country that is in dire need of industrialisation, irregular power supply is a major disincentive for manufacturers and other entrepreneurs currently at the receiving end of climate impacts. And with barely 3,500 MW of electricity generation, factories and businesses that are embedded in Africa's leading economy are weighed down by the quest for alternative energy sources. It is estimated that over 60 million Nigerians rely on generators powered by fossil fuel for 48.6 per cent of the electricity required in their homes and businesses, and at a huge cost of $14bn yearly. The impact is no less serious in environmental waste as Nigeria produces 32 million tonnes of solid waste yearly with plastic waste constituting 2.5 million tonnes, and making the country one of the highest waste producers in Africa.

Yet the challenges posed by some of the climate impacts pale into mild threats in the face of the existential danger inherent in Nigeria's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission footprint which is estimated at 126.9 million tonnes as at 2020. In fairness, Nigeria has always been in motion to keep pace with the global advocacy on climate change. As a party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, it ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2004 and soon followed it up with a National Policy on Climate Change aimed at building an environmentally resilient society. The nation's interest was further concretised in 2012 when it was admitted as a voluntary member of the UN Environment's Climate and Clean Air Coalition saddled with the mandate to reduce climate pollutants in ten high-impact sectors of the global economy.

President Muhammadu Buhari took a defining step in 2015 when he committed Nigeria to the Paris Agreement and presented the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with a pledge to conditionally reduce GHG emissions by 45 percent by the year 2030. The Nigerian voice again resonated last year at the COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, where President Buhari announced a 2060 net-zero emissions target. He thereafter signed into law, in November 2021, the Climate Change Act which commits the federal government to measurable action plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

As Nigeria prepares for a robust engagement with other state and non-state actors at the fifth global climate summit in Africa, President Buhari must ensure the seamless harmonisation of the country's environmental policies and actions, and the on-boarding of all critical stakeholders in energy transition, climate financing, renewable energy, biodiversity, waste management, and the media. The creation of the National Council on Climate Change, (NCCC) and the appointment of veteran environmentalist, Dr Salisu Dahiru, as pioneer director general, are steps consciously taken. It is hoped that this step will now accelerate the country's climate actions and convert the age long motion into fast paced movement.

Ahead of the COP27, Nigeria's crucial tasks must include to set a robust agenda for, and coordinate Africa's strategic response to, the global climate debates especially the blame game on culpability for GHG emissions, the tardiness in pegging the global warming at 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the dilemma over green and blue hydrogen options, and the resistance in redeeming the annual $100bn pledged to Africa to finance climate mitigation and adaptation, among others. The top industrialised nations who are known to be culpable for GHG pollution must be held accountable for climate change impacts being experienced in Africa today. Nigeria is duty bound to lead the charge.

This is an updated version of the article published yesterday

Akoshile, an environmental journalist, wrote via eic@naturenews.africa.

EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way, Utako District, Abuja

Nigeria must stem brain drain

The recent migration of skilled Nigerian professionals, creatives and entrepreneurs in search of better prospects, and a less hostile environment to work and produce in away from this country is a source of concern. Considering what the brain drain being witnessed today means for the economy of the country and its social development, we are gravely concerned about this development and surprised that alarm bells are yet to go off in the appropriate quarters and MDAs.

Already, a lot has been said about the brain drain being experienced in the medical field with Nigerian-trained medical professionals, including doctors, and medical support staff. This is well documented in the media without commensurate measures by the government to reverse the tide. Not too long ago, the president of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) Professor Innocent Ujah, admitted that the country lost 9, 000 medical doctors between 2016 and 2018 to other countries. These figures have since gone higher in the years following, and should have triggered furious efforts by the government to improve working conditions that would keep such professionals at home. That, unfortunately, has not been the case here.

Medical education in Nigeria is one of the cheapest in the world, with the federal and state governments subsidizing the cost of tuition and boarding, so that overall, the cost of a six-year training for doctors is generally not more than a few thousand dollars, against tens of thousands of dollars required for the same training in the countries our doctors move to like the US, UK, and the Middle East. Training of nurses and other health professionals in Nigeria is even cheaper. In this respect, the brain drain in the medical field translates to billions of naira in losses for Nigeria, and makes it difficult for the country to retain a sufficient number of doctors to balance the doctor/patient ratio in the country. This has left Nigeria with just four doctors to 10, 000 Nigerians, according to data from the World Health Organization, an abysmal figure compared to the African average of 27 doctors to 10, 0000 patients.

Sadly, the brain drain is not only prevalent in the medical sector but has spread to the education and creative sectors as well. Thousands of young and mid-level intellectuals and creatives who work or should normally be working in our universities and research centres have packed their bags and left the country, and in effect, using their training and skills acquired here in Nigeria to help develop other countries.

Only this Monday, the New Telegraph newspaper reported that "a wave of brain drain" has hit Nigeria's banking and financial sector, with tech experts in the sector leaving "in droves for greener pastures" in other countries. And in April, the same report said, the Chief Executive Officer of Sterling Bank Plc, Abubakar Suleiman had told reporters at a post-Bankers' Committee Meeting press briefing that "So many of our very experienced talents, especially in the area of software engineering, are either leaving the industry or leaving the country", the paper reported Suleiman to have said.

Also, many Nigerians have applied for the UK Global Talent Visa, designed to attract some of the finest brains and social pillars from other countries to the UK, based on their track record of social engagement and cultural and creative productivity. While we admit that nothing can stand in the way of an individual's desire for personal career growth, it is alarming that many of these Nigerians are leaving because they see no realistic prospects in the country. And while we also acknowledge that human migration is dynamic, emigration of skilled professionals and creatives within a short period from a region that is already in desperate need of such skills and competencies is a precursor to the failure of a country, something the government must avoid by all means.

What is even more worrying is that these Nigerians are not only migrating temporarily or for personal career growth, but are being pursued by the sorry state of the economy, the malignant insecurity, the despondent state of social affairs, the hopeless lack of opportunities and enabling policies, the aggressive state of corruption, the lack of basic amenities among others. We are aware of social media discussion fora where thousands of Nigerians interested in leaving the country share ideas about the best ways to migrate.

Besides the loss of manpower for Nigeria, this brain drain translates to a loss of tax revenue, loss of potential future entrepreneurs, and a shortage of important skilled workers. The exodus may lead to a loss of confidence in the economy by potential investors.

The surest way to stem this brain drain is to create decent paying jobs for Nigerians, introduce enabling policies that allow young entrepreneurs and businesses to thrive, enjoy government protection, stabilize the economy and improve the value of the naira to enable small and medium businesses to be competitive and employ more Nigerians. We strongly suggest that the government commissions a study into the trending brain drain and develop a strategic short- and long-term approach to keeping promising Nigerian talents in all walks of life comfortable enough to stay and develop their country. In the long run, Nigeria cannot afford such an exodus of its finest brains.

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[MAKING SENSE OF THE ECONOMY]

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Economy in doldrums yelling for new ideas

By Vincent Nwanma

Nigeria's case is increasingly becoming a textbook example of failed economic policies. At least the World Bank has said so, with facts and figures. Those in charge of the nation's economic affairs will need better or superior facts to counter that, but I do not know how many Nigerians will support any argument to that effect.

This economy deserves better attention than it has received up to now. From the monetary to the fiscal authorities, there is a call for new insights into the widening challenges. And that attention must be driven by greater ideas that can halt the drift and an end to the battering of people's welfare. People are hungry; people are jobless, and everything has risen in price beyond the reach of ordinary people. There is an urgent need for retooling the management of this economy before collapses.

Who will attest to the sterling management of this economy in recent months or years? Is it those who are on a minimum wage of N30,000 per month? In 2019, that amount was equivalent to $82 in nominal terms. Today in 2022, its worth has come down to N22,000 in real terms and $37 in nominal terms, after adjustments for inflation and exchange rate depreciation, the World Bank said in its latest edition of Nigeria Development Update, published in June.

Given that these calculations were based on lower inflation and exchange rates, the reality is that the average household in Nigeria right now is much worse off. Inflation spiked to 19.64 per cent in July, up from 17.71 per cent in June; the exchange rate crossed the N700/$ mark before receding. In fact, Nigerians have not had is so harsh in recent times.

The government's failure to tame inflation has left millions of households under extreme pressure. Putting this differently, the failure of economic policy has stoked inflation so much that it has now eaten deep into people's welfare, dragging millions into poverty. Six million such people were previously predicted by the Bank to slip into abject poverty by the end of this year. Now, with additional inflationary pressure from the Russia-Ukraine war, another one million will join them. This gives a total of seven million new entrants that will join the league of the extreme poor this year via the furry of the unseen force called inflation, what economists call "inflation shock".

With this, the number of Nigeria's extremely poor will rise to 89.9 million. Now, juxtapose this figure with the government's announcement that it would pull 100 million Nigerians out of poverty over a 10-year period. On average, that would see about 10 million Nigerians pulled out of poverty yearly. In the last seven years, there should have been a significant reduction in the number of the poor by now, if this has been the case. So, if we still have this number of people in poverty this year, it means that either the plan has not worked or that more people have actually fallen into the poverty bracket, which the Bank's figure seems to suggest. Whichever, the summary is that the government's plans or policies have failed to reverse the drift into poverty.

Like most economic indicators, the fact about inflation is that focusing on it is a distraction. It's like a headache, which is felt in the head while the causal factors are located elsewhere in the body. In our present case, there are identifiable factors supporting it. A disaggregation of our inflationary dynamics, according to the World Bank, shows that the multiple exchange rates, higher import prices of intermediate goods caused by trade restrictions component through high import prices of both finished and intermediate goods, have all played roles in this price surge. Of course, there are other local factors, including the worsening level of insecurity in the land. The Bank estimates, for instance, that import bans led to a 38 per cent rise in the prices of goods concerned, just as trade restrictions led to a 14 per cent increase in the prices of the inputs affected.

So, it is not only imported food items, including wheat, that have risen in price. On the contrary, locally produced staple such as rice, yam, and bread have all risen in price, even faster than the average inflation rate. Yam is grown locally, but in April 2022, the price of an average tuber of yam rose by 42.7 per cent to N361, from N253 a year before; the price of a 500g loaf of bread rose by 35.4 per cent over the same period, the Bank said, citing figures from the National Bureau of Statistics.

Yet, the overarching factor remains a weak policy environment underlined by conflicting actions that produce unintended consequences. When unintended consequences become the dominant or most prominent outcomes of a set of policy actions, then there is an urgent need for a review and reappraisal of the entire process.

This should have been done long ago, but those whose responsibility it is to do so were busy, encumbered with the pursuit of political kingdoms while the economy drifted. The consequence is the general directionless state of this economy today. Economic policies are not magic wands that you flash and expect an immediate response. Applied at the right time and in the right dose, they produce the right effects at the appropriate time.

The next six months to one year will be critical to the survival of the Nigerian economy. As the political transition takes the centre stage in our national discourse, there is a chance that the economy will recede further to the background, but that will be a dangerous relapse. Three key policy areas should dominate activities within the period, says the World Bank. These are reducing inflation, addressing fiscal pressures, and catalysing private investment to boost job creation.

Addressing the first among the three points will involve tackling the constraints facing domestic production, from agriculture, which is threatened by insecurity, to the manufacturing sector which has been emasculated by high production costs. The business environment has become volatile and harsh, despite the talk about the ease of doing business.

Tackling these challenges will pave the way for the private sector to step in and invest in businesses that will create jobs. Without new jobs being created, nobody should expect an end to the escalating tension in the country. As for the fiscal pressures, the government's agencies have to show dedication to their jobs. Part of that problem today is the rising oil theft, which many believe can be solved if the government shows the political will to do so. It's all a matter of letting new ideas take us beyond where we are now.

Daily Trust
Wednesday, August 24, 2022

LETTERS to the Editor

Email: letters@dailytrust.com
Text: 08131800030

CARTOON by Mustapha Bulama



The Buhari-Dangote war on malaria

The inauguration of the Nigeria End-Malaria Council (NEMC) by President Muhammadu Buhari has raised expectations that a big push would be made towards freeing our country from the killer ailment.

The 16-member council on fighting malaria is chaired by the country's top business mogul, Alhaji Aliko Dangote.

President Buhari said, at the inauguration of the council, that he was deeply worried that malaria is still a major public health problem in Nigeria. He quoted a 2021 report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which says that Nigeria accounts for 27 per cent of malaria cases and 32 per cent of deaths caused by malaria in the world.

It is important to note that earlier efforts to tackle malaria such as the Nigeria's Malaria Strategic Plan (NMSP) and Roll Back Malaria in Nigeria and Africa at best yielded mixed results. Although the World Health Organisation (WHO), other reporting agencies and stakeholders have acclaimed the efforts, malaria persists worldwide.

This is despite more funding for malaria control from Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the US President's Malaria Initiative and the World Bank Booster Programme for Malaria and the participation of the private sector.

President Buhari said the new effort by Nigeria to check malaria is part of an Africa-wide initiative rooted in a declaration by the African Union. A continent-wide approach is more comprehensive. It is alarming that the five types of parasites that cause malaria after infected mosquitoes bite humans have developed resistance to most current treatment regimes. The problem of fake and substandard drugs aggravates the situation.

As it is evident that most of the types of organisms which cause malaria have developed resistance to current treatment regimes, the Dangote-led council may build on the achievements of the presidential committee that was appointed in 2005 to produce Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACTs) locally. For instance, the farms for the cultivation of five varieties of Artemisia annua in Jigawa, Plateau, Ogun, Enugu, Cross River, Taraba, Kano, Nasarawa, Gombe and Katsina states could be expanded to cultivate the plant massively. Its leaves were successfully processed into various products for the effective treatment of malaria.

The Department of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the Federal Ministry of Health; the Raw Materials Research and Development Council and the Nigerian Medicinal Plants Development Company (NMPDC) which were involved in the Artemisia annuum process can be relevant in the efforts of the Dangote-led council in taming malaria.

Beside expanding the farms, a large-scale processing plant can be established for extracting the Artemisinin content from the leaf biomass to locally produce affordable anti-malarial drugs. This will save foreign exchange, create jobs and make Nigeria the hub for the production of Artemisinin-based anti-malarial drugs (ACTs) in West Africa.

Luckily, the Chairman of the End-Malaria Council, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, has a strong knack and reputation for looking inwards to source raw materials for his businesses. His council can apply the same principle in sourcing the requisite raw materials for the production of anti-malarial drugs in the country.

A massive media public sensitisation programme on the importance of keeping our surroundings clean will helpfully complement the availability and affordability of anti-malarial drugs in tackling the menace.

Health inspectors recruited by state and local governments to encourage cleanliness in homes and communities may be included in the Buhari-Dangote war on malaria. This will make it a grassroot-oriented exercise and enhance its chances of success.

Salisu Na'inna wrote from Dambatta, Kano State.

ASUU and its phantom work policy

The decision of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU) and the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) to call off their strike and return to their duty posts has isolated the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

While agreeing that government has met all its conditions, ASUU is holding out from resuming work claiming that government should pay the lecturers for the months that they did not work.

That is the sticking point that has now opened the ASUU activists to the claim of being selfish and turning what they initially claimed to be a selfless struggle for the upliftment of the universities into an egocentric venture.

It is worthy to note that SSANU and NASU have agreed to resume without demanding to be paid for the months they were at home.

The ASUU activists are carrying on as if they alone carry out the work of academia, forgetting that the NASU and SSANU are also facilitators who with other stakeholders contribute to the output from the universities.

When Professor Emmanuel Osodeke appeared on Channels Television on Friday morning, you could see the difficulties of the normally friendly anchors who found it difficult to accept the sense of entitlement he sought to browbeat them with. The anchors could not understand why the lecturers should be paid for work not done.

"If they fail to pay, we will not teach those students," Professor Osodeke said. "Those students" are nothing more than a distraction for Osodeke, whose key demand is that his members are paid for work they have not done – because they have been on strike. For a country that has had historical experiences with phantom experiences including phantom coups, the bid by ASUU to now introduce phantom work is laughable.

We cannot as a country accept that persons should be paid for not working. Worse, to agree to Osodeke's egregious demands would be to open the door for any public servant or even private employee to demand payment for nothing.

Even more, as Osodeke admitted during his interview on Channels, ASUU like every union has a strike fund from where its members are paid during a strike. As such the demand by ASUU for back pay is now equivalent to its members getting double pay for doing nothing.

Indeed, the real victims here are "those students". They contribute through their fees to the maintenance of the academic institutions to which Osodeke's members are contracted but choose not to work.

In any industrial dispute, there comes a point when continuing with the action threatens to damage the very institutions and purpose of their existence.

This moment was averted by the leaders of NASU and SSANU. It is not being averted by the leaders of ASUU. Indeed, worse; he is purposely sacrificing the futures of "those students" and damaging the very institutions on which his members depend – all to prove his belief that universities exist solely for the financial benefit of their teaching staff.

Mohammad Umar Salihu and Akinloye James, head The Nigerian Project Initiative and Initiative to Save Democracy, respectively

Breakthrough ACTION + RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL & BEHAVIOR CHANGE

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Purpose: COVID PERFAR Project Printing
Issuance Date: 24th August 2022
Deadline for Submissions: 2nd of September at 5:00pm

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (CCP), Baltimore USA, has received USAID funding, under the Breakthrough ACTION Nigeria (BA-N) project, to implement health promotion and social and behaviour change interventions in Nigeria up until 2025. The project collaborates with the Federal and State Ministries of Health to build their capacity in social and behaviour change communication leadership and implement cutting-edge social and behavioural interventions to improve the health and well-being of Nigerians across a broad array of health issues, including Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (MNCH+N), Family Planning, Malaria, Tuberculosis, and emerging infectious diseases. We works in all geographical zones in the country.

Purpose & Specifications

Breakthrough Action Nigeria seeks to engage the service of eligible print vendors to produce communication and training materials listed in the table for the COVID PEPFAR project. Intending bidders are expected to **quote per batch for one, more or all batches** in this procurement based on area(s) of specialization and/or interest.

Batch	Sub	Item	Link to Item Design	Specifications	Quantity
1 https://bit.ly/3zvhWuh	1	Guideline for HCWs on COVID-19 Wall Chart	https://bit.ly/3cgpW6Q	A1, 250gr matte card, full colour processed, front print	3,000
	2	Guideline for HCWs on COVID-19_BA-N	https://bit.ly/3PDQgbW	A2, 250gr matte card, full colour processed, front print	4,800
	3	COVID-19 Prevention Testing and Vaccination Wall Chart _BA -N	https://bit.ly/3RR1KKY	A2, 250gr matte card, full colour processed, front print	5,000
	4	Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine or Booster Doses Poster	https://bit.ly/3IQI71H	A2, 135gr, matte paper, full colour processed, front print, trim to size	5,000
2 https://bit.ly/3J4bz4q	1	Guideline for HCWs on COVID-19 Table top	https://bit.ly/3yShxAB	A4, 135gr paper, matte, full color processed	3,000
	2	FAQ on COVID-19 Vaccines_BA-N (2 page)	https://bit.ly/3ohQxFP	A4, 135g paper matte, full color processed	4,800
	3	COVID-19 Vaccination: Comorbidity Flier	https://bit.ly/3aRUYEl	A4, trifold, 250gr matte card, full colour processed, trim to size	5,000
	4	Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine Handbill	https://bit.ly/3IUms8T	A5, 135gr, matte paper, full colour processed, front and back, trim to size	5,000
3 https://bit.ly/3J0ntMJ	1	After Vaccine Reminder Card	https://bit.ly/3AXpffD	A5, laminated 250gr matte card, full colour processed, front and back, trim to size	5,000
	2	Vaccine Referral Card	https://rb.gy/k9y6o2	A7, 170gr matte paper, front and back, perforated and serially numbered, full colour processed, 100 pages, hot binding. Cover - 250gr card, trim to size	2,000
	3	Peer Referral Card	https://bit.ly/3bVYG0i	A7, 170gr matte paper, front and back, full colour processed, 100 pages, hot binding. Cover - 250gr card, trim to size	500
	4	Vaccine Awareness Game	https://bit.ly/3aQjJ3R	A6, 40 laminated cards, double-sided printing, Printed on cardstock paper. Laminated for sustainability. Attached together on a ring. Attached to a pen anchor	500
4 https://bit.ly/3PAk0H1	1	BTE Participants Handout_BA-N	https://bit.ly/3aQM9uy	A5, 135g paper, matte, full color processed. Cover - Front page alone, 250gr card with matte lamination, perfect stitch, 18 pages	16,000
	2	COVID-19 Dialogue Framework for Community Volunteers – English	https://bit.ly/3yV30nN	A5, card gloss laminated, 16 pages	30,00
5 https://bit.ly/3OwFMKz	1	BTE - Facilitator's Manual_BA-N	https://bit.ly/3cmQ1nb	A4, 135 Matte paper, 64 Pages. Cover - Front side alone, 250 gr matte card, gloss laminated. Finishing - Sown and hot bound	4,800
6 https://bit.ly/3RZxvl7	1	I'm Vaccinated for COVID-19 Pin Badge	https://bit.ly/3RQpkYe	Medium Size "*COVID CAMPAIGN LOGO*" 25mm round button badge with safety pin fitting	500
	2	HCW T-Shirt - I Am Fully Vaccinated Are You	https://bit.ly/3cyOpqQ	Material: 100% Cotton Style- Short sleeve, round neck, V-neck Branding: Fully branded with USAID and B-AN logos on each sleeve. Text Inscriptions on front and back Colors: White, Blue (V-neck), and Grey. Sizes- Mix of all sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL) Quantity: 100 for each colour	300
	3	HCW T-Shirt - I Am Fully Vaccinated Join me	https://bit.ly/3PGc5l2	Material: 100% Cotton Style- Short sleeve, round neck, V-neck Branding: Fully branded with USAID and B-AN logos on each sleeve. Text Inscriptions on front and back Colors: White, Blue (V-neck), and Grey. Sizes- Mix of all sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL) Quantity: 100 for each colour	300
7 https://bit.ly/3PDo8Gj	1	Roll up Banner - Design 1 - BA-N	https://bit.ly/3yPLFN4	COVID-19 brand 3 X 7 feet solite flex material, finish Flat base Roll Up Banner Stands	20
	2	Roll up Banner - Design 2 - BA-N	https://bit.ly/3yUadVk	COVID-19 brand 3 X 7 feet solite flex material, finish Flat base Roll Up Banner Stands	36
	3	Roll up Banner - Design 3 - BTE	https://bit.ly/3v8ogg7	COVID-19 brand 3 X 7 feet solite flex material, finish Flat base Roll Up Banner Stands	20

*Type hyperlink into browser to access batch or item design

Eligibility of Bidders

Bidders must show their eligibility to participate in this procurement by providing copies of the following documents. Bidders would be assessed on all criteria. Bidders who did not meet all the criteria would be disqualified from the procurement.

- Company Registration.
- Tax Identification Information
- Company profile with verifiable business address, valid email, telephone numbers and contact person for the organization.

Note: Bidders must be prepared to cover their logistics cost arising from any correspondence/checks from Breakthrough Action-Nigeria with regards to this procurement.

Evidence of past performance on similar procurement with reputable organizations. Bidders to provide at least 3 purchase order and 3 reference contacts (organization, name of contact, telephone, and email).

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for the procurement are:

1. Provision of high-quality sample.

Note: For batches 1, 2 and 7, bidders must provide a sample of any item from each batch. For batch 3, samples of the After Vaccine Reminder Card and three cards of the Vaccine Awareness Game with ring and pen anchor must be provided. For batches 4 and 5, bidders must provide samples of all the books. The samples must include the front and back cover, a few inside pages and bound as stated in the specification. For batch 6, samples of the COVID-19 Pin Badge and any of the T-shirts must be provided. **All bids without accompanying samples would be considered non-responsive and would be disqualified.**

2. Assessment of sample against specification and quality.
3. Delivery lead time.

Note: Delivery lead time must be clearly stated for each batch of the procurement. Delivery lead time would be assessed for feasibility.

4. Due diligence check to determine bidders' capacity to provide service requested on this RFQ.

Also, note the following:

1. All submitted quotes must remain valid for a period of 90 days.
2. Quotes must be in Naira.
3. Payment terms must be stated clearly on the quotation.
4. All submitted samples must be durable and be of good quality.
5. Intending bidders must submit samples to the BA-N Office, Abuja (Indicate interest to submit sample(s) through the **batenders@ba-nigeria.org** and you will be contacted directly). The logistics for the submission of the samples would be the responsibility of bidders.
6. Offer will be made per item or batch to suitable vendors based on the outcome of the competitive bidding process.
7. All finished products are to be delivered to the BA-N office, Abuja. Handling, packaging/ transportation costs should be incorporated in unit costs.

Submission of Quotes

All bids must be on company official letter, duly signed, dated and emailed to **batenders@ba-nigeria.org** before the **2nd of September 2022**. **Please ensure that bids capture all requirements for selection**. Any bids received without following the submission instructions would be disqualified. Question(s) should be addressed to the procurement team and emailed to **batenders@ba-nigeria.org** (response to question(s) will be shared with all bidders). Only shortlisted vendors will be contacted for further discussions. Quotations should be addressed to:

The Project Director, BA-N
Ref: COVID PERFAR Project Printing

Payment Terms

Please state your payment terms while quoting. However, BA-N's preferred term is full payment after receipt of goods, receipt of invoice and certification of products. BA Nigeria is VAT exempt, so please do not include VAT fees when quoting. **Also note that BA-N will deduct 5% withholding tax from the total value, to be remitted to FIRS.**

Note: BA-N reserves the right to consider any quotations received before and after the end of the deadline. Any deviation from the specifications contained in the RFQ will lead to the vendor's **DISQUALIFICATION.**

CITY & CRIME

Hubby divorces wife for online chatting with male neighbour

● He's a liar – wife

An Igando customary court on Tuesday dissolved the union between Mr Nurudeen and Mrs Nimota Salami on the grounds of infidelity, absenteeism and negligence.

The President of the court, Mr Adeniyi Koledoye, ordered that the couple should go their separate ways without any further bickering.

He ordered Nurudeen to pay his divorced wife N250,000 as severance package.

Nurudeen, a businessman, had approached the court seeking the dissolution of his marriage with Nimota.

He claimed that she left their matrimonial home on three occasions and once stayed away from the family for about two months.

Nurudeen further said she was involved in an extramarital affair with their neighbour who she spent quality time with online.

He added that, "The last time she left the house, she didn't return for a long time. When she eventually returned, it was to pack her belongings.

"I am fed up with her neglect of marital obligations and threats. I need peace of mind."

In her response, Nimota told the court that, "He is short tempered. He accuses me wrongly of infidelity. He has even arrested and locked me up in police cell.

"I am comfortable with the dissolution of the marriage. I am tired of being beaten, I am tired of the allegations." (NAN)

Flood ravages 13 Plateau communities

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

No fewer than 13 communities in Langtang South Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State were on Monday night ravaged by floods which damaged property and farms.

Residents said the flood also left hundreds of persons displaced and some bridges destroyed.

The residents told our correspondent that the incident was caused by a heavy rainfall which lasted several hours.

Emmanuel Nanpak, a resident of Mabudi, told Daily Trust that several homes were submerged in Mabudi, Lashel, Turaki, Gehetu, Karkasi, Magama, among other communities.

Another resident, Nankar Adams, said the flood would result in "hunger in the localities because several major farmers have been affected."

The Chairman of Langtang South LGA, Hon Vincent Venman Bulus, on his Facebook page wrote: "Its sad to hear about the flood that swept Mabudi community of Langtang South which resulted to destruction of property worth millions of naira.



■ Traders at Orange Market, Zuba, FCT, yesterday
Photo **Onyekachukwu Obi**

Man commits suicide with Sniper in Suleja

By Seun Adeuyi

A man, Mustapha Yakubu, on Tuesday committed suicide at Angwan Gwari Kwamba in Suleja Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State.

Yakubu drank a poisonous substance suspected to be Sniper insecticide brand and died in his room. An empty bottle of the substance and a suicide note were found in the room.

The note which was shown to our reporter by a neighbor, Jegede Badmus, via his phone reads: "Sorry. I end am like this."

According to Badmus, Yakubu's relatives evacuated his remains for burial according to Islamic rites.

He further said, "We were all shocked when we discovered what happened, because he was good to everyone. I wonder what could have been the reason for his action. Someone that was just starting life. He's not even up to 30 years.

"As soon as the discovery was made, his relatives here in Suleja came around and took his body for burial. It was very obvious it was a suicide case."

A resident, who didn't want his name in print, said the deceased was recently defrauded.

The matter had not yet been reported to the police as at the time of this reporter's visit yesterday.

Gunmen abduct 5 family members in FCT community

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Five family members were on Monday around 9pm abducted by gunmen at Bukpe community of Wako Ward in Kwali Area Council of the FCT.

Those abducted are Ibrahim Dakwoi Bukpe, Monica Ibrahim, John Dakwoi Bukpe, Yabuku Dakwoi Bukpea and Margaret Yakubu.

A member of the victims' family, Yakubu Theophilus, said the gunmen in their numbers wielding sophisticated weapons invaded the community and abducted the victims from two compounds.

He said, "They also captured me, but when we trekked some distance away from the village, they asked me if I could raise ransom for all the victims. I told them yes and they told me to go back home."

Another family member of the victims, Justus Male Dakwoi, said, "It was God that saved me, as the gunmen also entered my house but I was away in Awawa village."

The Village Head of Bukpe, Alhaji Hasan Shamdozhi, said the gunmen operated for nearly an hour.

He said, "I just entered my house not more than 10 minutes when I heard gunshots across the community. Later a report came to me that five people from the same family were abducted."

He said the attack on the community was the fourth within the last one year, while appealing to government to come to the aid of his people by providing them with security.

It would be recalled that on March 30, 2022, bandits invaded Alhaji Hasan's palace and abducted him and three others.

The chief was set free after an undisclosed amount was paid to the bandits after spending 28 days in their den.

The spokesperson of the FCT Police Command, DSP Adeh Josephine, did not reply to an SMS on the latest incident.

Fake police officer operating for 13 years arrested

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

The Oyo State Police Command has arrested a Level-14 elementary school teacher at Ikereku- Idan, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Mr Adebisi Ayodele, who has been parading himself for 13 years as an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) attached to the Police Mobile Force Unit.

Adebisi was arrested when the "Operation Restore Peace" attached to the Oyo State Police Command was conducting a stop-and-search.

The command's spokesman, Adewale Osifeso, who paraded the suspect in Ibadan on Tuesday, said he operated in isolation along adjoining routes and link roads sharing boundaries with Oyo, Ekiti and his base in Ogun State.

According to him, the suspect was arrested last Sunday on Asejire Bridge in Egbeda LGA while providing illegal escort services in a Mistubish space wagon with registration number: ARP 34 AA, dressed in complete police uniform.

Osifeso said the suspect confessed to have been practicing the act for 13 years and had successfully misled a lot of people by his action.



■ The suspect

He further said the point of arrest he was found in possession of two unexpended canisters (teargas) and a complete kit of Police Mobile Force Uniform.

Indian hemp dealers nabbed fighting over customers in Ogun

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Operatives of the Ogun State Security Network (Amotekun) have arrested seven Indian hemp sellers while fighting over customers in Ogun State.

The Amotekun Commander, David Akinremi, said the suspects were members of the Eiye and Aiye cult groups.

He said, "They are Alimi Raimi, Ayotunde Onakoya, Ogunmade Seun, Ayodele Oreoluwakintan, Taofeek Shitabay, Ibikunle Gbengas and Ebiruga Oluwaseun.

Akinremi explained that the suspects were arrested in connection with a case of conspiracy and cultism.

He said one of the suspects, Ebiruga Oluwaseun, reported to operatives of the corps in Ijebu North East Local Government Area (LGA) that the first suspect, Alimi Raimi, and one Ola, alias Ebony, threatened to kill him.

According to him, the death threat was over a supremacy rivalry as they were all "members of a drug syndicate dealing in weeds suspected to be Indian hemp and other illicit drugs."

Akinremi said the rift between them began after Oluwaseun claimed seniority in the drug business, accusing the first two suspects of snatching his customers; a development which led to a free-for-all that attracted the attention of the corps.

The Amotekun boss explained that all the suspects were arrested at different locations in the town.

He added that, "Items recovered from them include a UTC axe, cutlasses and charms."

Customs seizes 3,154 bags of rice, 724 petrol kegs in Ogun



■ Some of the seized items

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Ogun Area (I) Command impounded 3,154 bags of foreign rice equivalent to five trailers in July, 2022.

The command also intercepted two trucks belonging to the Dangote Group with 300 bags of rice concealed with bags of cement.

The Area Controller, Bamidele Makinde, said this on Tuesday at a press briefing.

Makinde said the Dangote trucks were intercepted on Ibese Road in Yewa North LGA and at Lafenwa in Abeokuta.

He also disclosed that the command made seized 724 kegs of petrol, 310 cartons of frozen poultry products and 14 motorcycles and other vehicles used by the smugglers.

He said other seizures were 153 bales and 68 sacks of clothing, 79 sacks of shoes, 111 cartons of foreign wine and 16 sacks of used bags.

He put the Duty Paid Value (DPV) of the seizures at N311,924,551.

Man sues in-law for taking away his wife

A businessman, Isma'il Ibrahim, on Tuesday, dragged one Zainab Muhammad, his mother in-law, to a Shari'a court at Rigasa, Kaduna, for refusing to allow his wife return to her matrimonial home due to his financial situation.

He told the court that, "I love my wife and I want her home. I pray this court to assist me get my wife back."

The defendant said she stopped her daughter from going back to her matrimonial home due to lack of care by the husband.

She said her daughter had a caesarean section (CS) and lost the baby and that the complainant failed to pay the hospital bill and abandoned her at her parent's house for three months without care.

She said, "He came after three months, requesting for his wife to return to him, and I told him she had to stay with me for six months to enable her fully recover.

"My daughter fell sick after the operation and I was the one that paid for all her medication and feeding throughout the period."

She told the court that she was ready to hand over her daughter to her husband if he paid all she spent on medication and feeding for nine months.

The Khadi, Malam Abubakar Salisu-Tureta, asked the defendant to calculate and present to the court the total sum of the money she spent on her daughter and adjourned to September 4. (NAN)

FCT: Dad of kidnapped 2-year-old girl in Tungan-Maje urges police to intervene



■ Rabiat

By Dalhatu Liman

The father of a two-year-old girl, Rabiat Yakubu, who was kidnapped on August 7, 2022, in Tungan Maje community in Gwagwalada Area Council of the FCT, has appealed to the police command to intervene and rescue his daughter.

The father, Rabiu Yakubu, a staff of *Daily Trust* Newspaper, made the appeal, saying he had reported the issue at two police divisions: Tungan Maje and Zuba, immediately after her disappearance.

City & Crime learnt that Rabi'at is the fifth child to be abducted from the community in recent times and that none of the abducted children has been found yet.

This, our correspondent learnt, has become a source of worry to parents in the community.

Women raise alarm as firewood, charcoal scarcity hits Abuja

Women in Bwari Area Council of the FCT have complained about the rise in the cost of firewood and charcoal, attributing it to the hike in the price of cooking gas.

The women, who spoke with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday in different communities of the council, said the demand for firewood and charcoal had increased, so also their prices.

Mrs Phoebe Ishaku, a resident of Piyawe community and a mother of four, said she now used firewood and sometimes charcoal to cook because of the hike in the prices of kerosene and gas.

She said, "We had women who sold firewood for as low as N100 for a few pieces at the beginning of 2022, but now you can only get four tiny pieces for N200.

"Earlier in 2022, I bought a bag of charcoal for N2,500, but now that same bag is N3,800.

"This is because most people have resorted to cooking with these products as alternative to gas and kerosene since both products have become expensive."

Similarly, Mrs Auta Bature, a wife and mother of five in Sabon-Gari area of the council, said she initially used kerosene to cook but that she could not afford it any longer because of the cost.

According to her, a litre of kerosene now sells for N900 and that she needs up to five litres to cook for her large family.

She said, "This will not even take us up to two weeks because the kerosene they sell these days easily evaporates."

"So buying a bag of charcoal and gathering firewood while returning from the farm has been a bit more effective for us."

Mrs Hannah Dangana, a supplier of charcoal in the area, told NAN that the situation was not different in most households in the community.

She said most Nigerians were turning to the use of firewood and charcoal due to the hike in the price of cooking gas.

Mrs Dangana, however, noted that some women might suffer the health implications of cooking with firewood, but added that the old tradition remained the cheapest means of cooking for them.

She further said, "There was a time government and some NGOs tried to encourage the use of cooking gas and discourage local cooking fuels because of the health implications and deforestation-related issues.

"Now, the situation is further made worse by the recent scarcity and soaring prices of cooking gas and kerosene which has pushed many households back to the forest in search of firewood and use of charcoal.

"Even those of us who supply have our challenges; bringing them down here to sell, because we spend so much on transportation and levies.

"Although this is a profitable business for me, I however urge government to bring down the prices of cooking fuels so that Nigerians can at least enjoy something." (NAN)



■ Charcoal

Police kill 1 kidnapper, rescue 1 abductee

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

The police in Edo State police have killed a kidnapper during a gun battle in an operation to rescue a kidnapped victim.

The police, it was learnt, rescued a kidnapped victim during the operation while other kidnappers escaped on August 22, at Ayaen community in Uhunmwode LGA.

The command'sspokesperson, Chidi Nwanbuzor, who confirmed the killing of the kidnapper and rescue of the victim said one Mr Aisosa Moses of Ayaen community reported to the police that while returning home with his wife and daughter, two hoodlums ambushed them at the entrance of his house and whisked the wife away.

He said, "Operatives trailed the kidnappers to their hideout at Uzala Forest and the suspects on sighting the team of operatives attempted to escape through the bushes and in the process one of them was neutralised while others escaped, leaving their captive.

...Another drowns in Lagos, body missing

A 26-year-old man, Olamilekan Olubusade, on Monday drowned at the Alpha Beach in Lagos while swimming with his friends.

The police spokesman in the state, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, who confirmed the incident to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), said the body was yet to be recovered.

Hundeyin explained that the elder brother of the deceased, Ayorinde Olubusade, reported the case to the police at about 2pm that his younger brother, Olamilekan, of Igbo Efon area, Ilasan, Lagos, went to the Alpha Beach, Igbo Efon, to swim with his friends.

Hundeyin said, "Ayorinde said his younger brother drowned at the beach and that all effort to trace him proved abortive.

"The police visited the scene and there is currently a search and rescue operation by marine police and local divers with a view to recovering the body. Investigation is in progress."

In another development, a 42-year-old pedestrian, Kareem Moshood, was knocked down and killed on Monday while crossing the road at Agogo Igbala Bus Stop on the Lagos-Badagry Expressway.

He said the driver of the Toyota Highlander which kocked Moshood, Abiodun Rasheed, had been detained. (NAN)



were picked

QUICK READ

FRSC to impound unregistered bikes in Ondo

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Okitipupa Unit, in Ondo State, has said it will impound unregistered private and commercial motorcycles as part of measures to check insecurity in the area.

Mrs Modupe Ojogbenga, the unit's commander, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday that security breaches in the state and country at large were being perpetrated with motorcycles.

She said the unit had been using parks, markets, churches, mosques and the media to sensitise motorcyclists on the need to register before the enforcement would begin. (NAN)

Flood: NEMA urges flood-prone Anambra communities to relocate

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has advised flood-prone communities in Anambra State to begin to relocate upland ahead of possible flooding.

Mr Thickman Taminu, the acting Coordinator of NEMA, Enugu Zone, gave the advice on Tuesday in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

Taminu said the Nigerian Meteorological Agency's (NIMET) prediction of flooding in Anambra was still valid.

He said the prospect of flooding had not been fully averted in the state, adding that 15 LGAs were predicted to be highly vulnerable. (NAN)

Oyo agency arrests 4 men for defrauding motorists

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

The Oyo State Road Transport Management Authority (OYRTMA) has arrested men who have been parading themselves as traffic officials and defrauding motorists.

The Chairman of OYRTMA, Mogaji Akin Fagbemi, who paraded the suspects in Ibadan on Tuesday, said they were arrested on Monday, August 22.

He said, "Earlier today, we caught in the act some impostors parading as our officials and defrauding the motoring public in and around Akobo, Akala and General Gas axes of Ibadan metropolis.

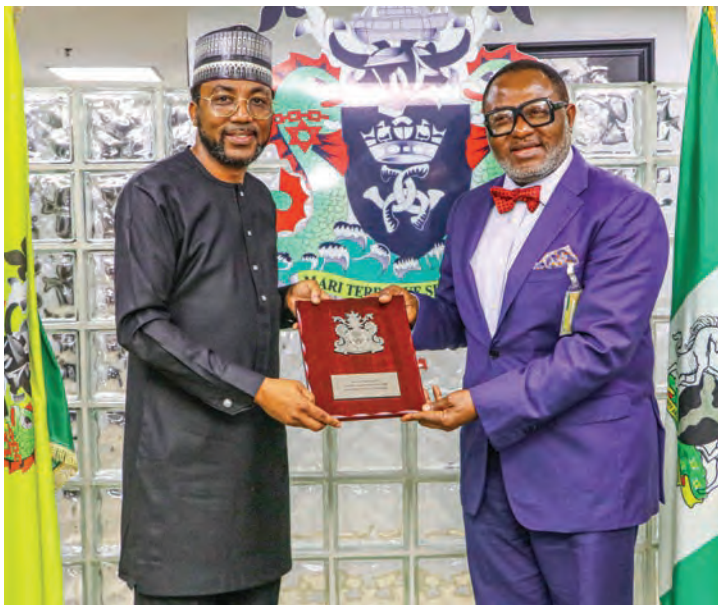
"This followed series of public complaints from the area and our coordinated covert operations with other security agencies."

According to him, the suspects have been handed over to the police.

PORTS AUTHORITY WEEKLY

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NPA MANAGEMENT SYNERGISES WITH EXCO OF NIGERIA CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (NSC) IN LAGOS



■ L-R: Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mohammed Bello Koko presented the Authority's plaque to the President of Nigeria Chamber of Shipping (NSC). Andy Isichei during a working visit to the Management of NPA at the Corporate Headquarters, Lagos.



■ Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mohammed Bello Koko (6th left), President of Nigeria Chamber of Shipping (NSC). Andy Isichei (7th left) and other senior officers of NPA and NSC during the visit. PHOTOS BY NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA)

Lekki Deep Seaport to employ 112,000 youths - *Minister*

The Lekki deep-sea port project would create 112,000 jobs for Nigerians upon its completion.

The Minister of Transportation, Alhaji Muazu Sambo, disclosed this to journalists on Sunday in Jalingo, the headquarters of Taraba state

The Minister who stated that the importance of the project is huge maintained that it would impact positively on the nation's economy adding that, the Premier Deep-Sea Port in Nigeria would bring more tonnage, and revenue both to the port and the country.

Sambo also said the Lekki port project is the first of its kind to be in operation in Nigeria.

"It is significant because the largest ships in the world can berth at the Port. That means, more tonnage, more cargo, more revenue for the port and for the country, more economic activities.



■ Muazu Sambo, Transportation minister

"And above all more jobs like I said, over 112, 000 both direct and indirect jobs will be created as a result of the creation of the Lekki deep-sea port.

"This will be in the first few years and as time goes on and as activities expand, the number of the jobs will even multiply and that is what is good for us," he said.

The minister said the closure of the unemployment gap is pivotal to ending poverty.

Sambo stated that,"For as more jobs we have, the more our ability to put food on the table of many Nigerians".

NPA, Dangote, partner LAGS to rehabilitate Mile 2-Tin-Can expressway

The Management of the Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA, and Dangote group are currently partnering the Lagos State Government to ensure that the ongoing rehabilitation of the Mile 2-Tin Can highway is completed in due time.

Special Adviser to the Lagos State Government on Transportation, Mr Sola Giwa, said the state government had intensified efforts to remove bottlenecks hindering the completion of Tin-Can Island-Mile 2 road.

Giwa said this at a round table meeting with the management of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Dangote Group and the Hitech Construction Company Ltd in Lagos.

According to him, the Lagos State Government was optimistic of the completion of the road and was ready to fix the challenges facing the contractor.

"Motorcycles are not supposed to ride on the expressway and we will continue to arrest them until we get rid of them from the roads.

"Before now, we have collaborated with NPA, seeing that the parks are there and it is not possible to use the port without passing through the parks.

"The truckers and tankers queuing on the port road were trying to engage in another second leg of business which was constituting traffic along the port road.

"We are engaging the truckers and the tankers drivers this week at a stakeholders' meeting to see how we can achieve ease of doing business in the ports area.

"Truckers or tankers drivers need not stop other people from using the road as the road is constructed for everybody to use," he said.

He said that in going forward, the state wanted to partner with the construction company to direct the traffic manager to support in traffic diversion while the construction is going on.

Also speaking, the Tin-Can Island Port Manager, Mr Jubril Buba, said that the collaboration between the state government and stakeholders was yielding positive results.

He said the authority would improve on collaboration to enable business flourish at the port.

Buba explained that operators faced the challenge of bad roads, saying that completion of the road would improve revenue earned by the government.

He advised Lagos State officials to carry along the Controller of the Federal Ministry of Works in charge of the roads to enable them work on the same page.

The Project Manager, Hitech, for the Tin-Can-Mile 2 road, Mr Wills Barkhuisen, said that the company had been able to fix three sections of the road and was left with one section of the road.

"Our challenges are the indiscriminate parking of the trucks and the issue of getting materials to the site every day.

"We are on the fast track system to enable us to finish the remaining work.

"We have been able to complete sections four, three and one, remaining section two, which is 9km from Beach bridge to Cele area," he said.

The General Manager GDNL Terminal, a subsidiary of Dangote Group, Mr Akin Omole, who was represented by the Head of Engineering, Mr Bolaji Akinsanya, said that Dangote company was financially responsible for the fixing of the Tin-Can Island -Mile 2 road.

Akinsanya commanded the efforts of the Lagos State Government in its assistance to ease the traffic congestion along Apapa port.

He urged the government to continue his effort in ensuring that Tin-Can Island road was motorable and seamless for port operations.

Akinsanya mentioned extortion, illegal checkpoints and illegal operation of miscreants along the carriage way as some of the challenges.

Stevedores give situation reports, slam IOCs for partial cooperation

The National Association Stevedoring Operators, NASO, last week gave situation reports with regards to their being engaged by the International Oil Companies in On-Shore operations and called for more cooperation from IOCs.

Speaking at a meeting in Lagos, the President of the group, Mr. Bolajil Sunmola said that the struggle to get the IOCs fall into line is not over, adding that until operations in the Stevedoring sub-sector is put in the right perspective, the fight will continue.

Sunmola disclosed that some of Stevedores have received their letter of contract and entered into agreements with some of these IOCs but are to move to site more than two months after.

He further disclosed that some of their members have commenced operation while others have been given dates to start work.

He commended the management of the Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA, for tirelessly mid-wifing the process of engaging the IOCs to this point.

He said: "The compliance has been on the increase, like I said in my earlier remarks some companies have commenced work since December but discussion and agreement between stevedoring firms and the IOCs are still ongoing.

"We still need much more to be done and I do not want to mention names so that we do not seem to be unfair to them and I know the NPA, the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency and the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria, MWUN are not sleeping because they have been part of the negotiation and mid-wifying process and have been helpful in this struggle and I know jointly we will get there shortly.

"About two or three companies have signed agreement with the IOCs and the good news I am hearing is that some are starting next week but it is not about agreements. We want the agreement to be operationalized and until when they get to site that we can say Uhuru.

He also disclosed that a stevedoring desk has been created in the Nigerian Ports Authority with a view to attending to issues and challenges being faced by stevedores, adding that the desk has been like the clearing for stevedores in helping the management in taking decisions.

Meanwhile, officials of the NPA and NIMASA who spoke on the condition of anonymity warned stevedore to ensure that the ten percent and 0.5 dues and taxes are paid promptly as non-compliance will meet with severe sanctions.

BUSINESS

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	US DOLLAR	Pound STERLING	EURO	YUAN/ RENMINBI	RIYAL	CFA
Buying	415	540.4	540.4	448.2 64.92	110.6	0.66
Central NGN	415.5	541.1	541.1	448.7 65.00	110.7	0.67
Selling NGN	416	541.8	541.8	449.3 65.08	110.9	0.68

COMMODITIES PRICE (April 19, 2022)	
CRUDE OIL BRENT	$107.17
GOLD	$1,953.40
SILVER	$22.60
NATURAL GAS	$7.92

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

	Dollar	Euro	Pound S.
BUYING	N588	N630	N773
SELLING	N590	N632	N776

Int'l airfares triple over $464m blocked funds

- Lowest economy ticket to London crosses N1.2m
- Aviation workers warn of job losses

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

International airfares in Nigeria have virtually tripled on account of the blocked $464m belonging to foreign airlines with a one-way economy ticket selling for more than N1.5m, checks by *Daily Trust* have shown.

As at today, Nigerians now pay higher than what other countries even with longer travel hours pay on major international carriers as stakeholders express dismay over the perceived rip-off of passengers amidst threats by operators to quit Nigeria.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) carrier, Emirates, has said it would suspend all Nigerian flights from September 1 citing difficulty in repatriating its $85m from Nigeria while more airlines are said to be exploring similar moves as their funds remain trapped without access to the foreign exchange to repatriate to their home country.

One of the consequences of the trapped funds is the exorbitant prices of international flight tickets, it was gathered with stakeholders decrying the development, saying flights are not that outrageous in other countries with trapped funds.

Though Nigeria is holding the bulk of foreign airlines' funds in Africa, other countries with blocked funds as at June 2021 include Zimbabwe – $100million; Algeria – $96 million; Eritrea – $79 million, Ethiopia, $75 million and Ghana, which was not listed by IATA in June but had not allowed airlines to repatriate their earnings due to paucity of foreign exchange.

Checks by *Daily Trust* on the websites of some international airlines show that an economy ticket for a Lagos-London flight, one of the most lucrative routes for foreign airlines, costs between N1.2m to N1.4m for one way.

Checks on British Airways indicate that the cheapest economy fare on the Lagos-Heathrow route cost $2,698 (over N1.7m at the parallel market rate) where some of the airlines' source dollars. Lagos-London direct flight is about six hours, 30 minutes. The same fare was around N400,000 at the start of the year.

But on Harare (Zimbabwe) to London direct flight, which is over 10 hours costs $1,669 on the same BA.

Business Class passengers would need over N4 million for a one-way ticket to the UK and over N7m for a return trip.

On Turkish Airlines, a Lagos-London flight costs $3.044;


■ Sirika


■ Emefiele

Lagos to New York on Delta costs $4,029 for one way.

Also, the Lagos-Dubai flight advertised on Emirates Airlines' website is N1,064,141 while Air Peace, a Nigerian carrier, sells the same route for N400,100.

IATA Regional Vice-President, Africa and the Middle East, Kamil Alawadhi had recently said airfares charged by international carriers are three times higher than what is obtained in other countries that do not retain airlines' revenues.

Industry Expert and the Secretary-General of Aviation Round Table (ART), Group Captain John Ojikutu (retd) lamented that Nigeria is not keeping to the spirit and letter of the Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) where foreign airlines are required to pay royalties for their operations.

He also challenged the aviation industry to account for over $1 billion it earned from passenger service charges (PSC) and earnings by aviation handling companies.

He said, "What has been happening over the years in the Nigerian commercial aviation policies, regulations and administration are nothing but what I call unilateral exploitation of the systems.

"We are going to be the loser if the foreign airlines withdraw their services of flights to our country because about 70 to 80% of our earnings in commercial aviation are from the foreign airlines.

"What will happen further will see Nigerians going to Accra, Cotonou, Lome, etc to connect the flights of these foreign airlines making them hubs over Nigeria."

Director of Research, Zenith Travels, Mr. Olumide Ohunayo said, "We are being charged the higher rate because we have the highest figure among the debtors. Secondly, we do not have the capacity to reciprocate those routes so the dominant carriers determine the fares.

Aviation Consultant, Babatunde Adeniji said, "I hope the government will respond quicker since it has now escalated before it reaches a breaking point."

On the allegation of rip-off, he added, "I think we need to have more robust and rigorous investigations on these matters in depth before reaching controversial conclusions and our emphasis should be on the root causes of the problems, how to resolve them, rather than the tendency to demonise foreign carriers while playing victims."

Aviation workers fear job losses

The National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE) in a letter to the Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika warned that the consequence of the foreign airlines leaving Nigeria would be catastrophic.

General Secretary of the union, Comrade Ocheme Aba said, "The ugly situation of hundreds of millions of dollars earned by foreign airlines operating into Nigeria, but which they have been unable to repatriate due to Nigeria's foreign exchange challenges has already been blown out by local and foreign media, bringing colossal collateral damage to Nigeria's image.

"We feel obliged to mention the threat to the employment and livelihood of thousands of workers of these foreign airlines should there result in further significant reductions, or outright shutdown, of operations of these airlines. We must also mention the concomitant losses (not excluding jobs) that would accrue to several service providers who are dependent on, almost entirely, foreign airlines – ground handling, inflight catering, logistics, aviation security, etc. This, unfortunately, is already visible from the reductions of operations that have come into effect in the past weeks resulting from the impasse."

President of Aviation Roundtable (ART), Dr. Gbenga Olowo said it is high time Nigeria developed three strong airlines to reduce reliance on foreign airlines for Nigerian travelers and address the

"Government must as a matter of urgency develops its own airlines to reduce the volume of businesses done here. The Nigerian government should be very serious about the issue. The demand for travel is high and when the demand is high, develop three strong airlines."

Issue would have a reputational effect on Nigeria-Expert

Founder, Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise, Dr. Muda Yusuf in a chat with *Daily Trust* said the issue would have a reputational effect on Nigeria and its business partners, saying investors would now be wary about investing in the country.

He however attributed the challenge to the distortion in Nigeria's foreign policy regime which he noted is temporary.

He said, "This is a temporary problem. I'm optimistic that at some points this matter would fade off. It is largely a policy problem. The fundamentals of our economy are not as bad as to create this kind of embarrassment for us. This is a distortion created by policy.

"Once we normalize our foreign exchange policy regime. Secondly of course it will create a problem for us as a country. It has a reputational effect on our country. You can imagine the perception this will give. This is a kind of news that travels fast, that airlines are unable to repatriate their funds. That means the investors coming here are not able to take their money out. Nothing can be more negative than that especially for an economy that needs investment.

"So it will affect the perception of our country by foreign investors, it will also affect the perception of those who do business with us. It will disrupt a whole lot of business relationships between Nigeria and their international partners. So it has a very serious impact on our reputation as a country and the business relationships that foreigners or suppliers have with their Nigerian counterparts because anybody doing business in Nigeria now will be extremely cautious."

Yusuf, a former Director-General of Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) advised the Central Bank of Nigeria to abandon the administrative allocation of foreign exchange.

"The CBN should embrace a market approach to the management of our forex. The CBN should stop fixing exchange rate. The E&I window. It should allow the market rate to prevail from that official window. If you allow that, there will be liquidity."

Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed had told Reporters in Lagos on Monday that relevant authorities are working hard to resolve the issue.

When contacted yesterday, Dr. James Odaudu, the Special Assistant on Public Affairs to the Minister of Aviation Hadi Sirika reiterated Mohammed's assertion and assured that the Aviation Minister has been making frantic efforts despite that the issue does not fall under his purview.

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Wednesday, August 24, 2022

NNPC Ltd assets worth N25trn – Kyari

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Group Chief Executive officer of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, Mele Kyari, has said the assets of the newly reformed company are worth $60 billion (about N25.27 trillion).

Kyari stated this at the Nigeria-India Business Forum held in Abuja, said a statement from NNPC Ltd.

Kyari, who was represented by the Chief Finance Officer of the company, Umar Ajiya, said Nigeria boasts of vast investment opportunities that any investor in the world can look for across the entire energy value chain.

He said, "With an asset base in excess of 60 billion dollars and with the largest gas reserves in Africa and 10th in the world, Nigeria remains a destination of choice for would-be investors.

"Our focus at @nnpclimited is on gas development. The objective is to energise Africa and other countries, including India. Most importantly, the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021, today has created an enabling environment for us to thrive as a business," Kyari noted.

The Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Shri Gangadharan Balasubramanian, said Nigeria is poised to play a critical role in international affairs due to current unfolding global realities and its immense natural resources as well as its policies.

NNPC Ltd was commercialised last year in line with the PIA. The company was incorporated by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) with the major holders being the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and Ministry of Finance Incorporated.

It was officially inaugurated and branded as a limited liability company by President Muhammadu Buhari on 19th July 2022.



■ From left: Executive Director, Services/CFO, Jaiz Bank Plc, Ahmed Alhaji Hassan; HTML Champion in Jaiz Bank's Kids Can Code training and competition, Usman Ayatullah; Managing Director/CE, Hassan Usman; Plotagon Champion, Aliyu Aliyu Usman and Executive Director, Business Development (North), Dr Salisu Sirajo, during presentation of gifts to winners at the end of the 3rd edition of Jaiz Kids Can Code in Abuja

Zenith Bank gross N405bn in H1 2022

From Abiodun Alade, Lagos

Zenith Bank Plc has announced its audited results for the half-year ended June 30, recording an astounding double-digit growth of 17% in gross earnings from N346 billion reported in H1 2021 to N405 billion in H1 2022.

According to the bank's audited half-year financial results presented to the Nigerian Exchange (NGX), the growth was underpinned by a 19% YoY growth in interest income from N204 billion to N242 billion and an 18% YoY growth in non-interest income from N127 billion to N149 billion. The growth in interest income was driven by the modest increase in the loan book and improved interest margins. The increase in non-interest income attests to the group's success in its income diversification strategy.

Profit before tax (PBT) grew 11% year-on-year (YoY) from N117 billion to N130 billion. Earnings per share (EPS) also grew from N3.38 to N3.55 over the same 6-month period.

The group also recorded an 11% year-to-date (YtD) increase in total customer deposits to close the period at N7.15 trillion. The retail strategy of the group continues to deliver outstanding results as retail deposits grew by 17% YtD from N1.82 trillion to N2.13 trillion. Retail activities also supported the growth recorded in fees on electronic products, which grew by 45% YoY from N17 billion to N25 billion.

Despite the elevated yield environment, the cost of funds increased only marginally from 1.3% in June 2021 to 1.4% in June 2022. The increase in the cost of funds was lower than the increase in yields on interest-generating assets, giving rise to an improved Net Interest Margin (NIM) of 7.1% from 6.4% in June 2021.

Total assets rose to N10.12 trillion at the end of June 2022 from N9.45 trillion at the end of December 2021. Despite the headwinds imposed by the operating environment, the group grew its risk assets as gross loans grew by 5% YtD, from N3.5 trillion to N3.7 trillion. This was achieved at a moderate NPL ratio of 4.4% (FYE 2021: 4.2%) and a cost of risk of 1.4% (June 2021: 1.3%). Prudential ratios such as liquidity and capital adequacy also remained stable and well-above regulatory thresholds at 60.5% and 21.0% respectively.

Nigeria exports N1.77trn products in 6months – NEPC

By Philip Shimnom Clement

The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) has disclosed that the country exported products worth N1.77 trillion from January to June 2022 to different parts of the world.

Executive Director of the NEPC, Dr Ezra Yakusak, stated this in Abuja yesterday at a press briefing to announce the half-year performance report of the agency as well as the non-oil sector.

Reeling out the report, Yakusak said, "The non-oil sector recorded a significant growth in non-oil export as a total of 4.146 billion metric tons of products worth $2.593 billion were exported between January and June 2022 and the figures were culled from the non-oil export performance reports of various shipment inspection agents who are appointed by the federal government to determine volume, value and destination of Nigeria's non-oil exports"

The executive director added that Urea and fertiliser as well as cocoa beans were some of the top products exported.

"Of the top 15 exported products in the first half of 2022, Urea/Fertiliser recorded 32.49% of the total export while cocoa beans, sesame dead and aluminum ingots contributed 12.65%, 7% and 5.07% respectively within the same period.

"In the same period under review, about 572 companies participated in exporting Nigerian products to 112 countries. Some of these products were exported to America, Asia, Europe and Oceania regions while Brazil, USA and India were the top three export destinations based on the value of exports," he said.

On exports reject, the ED noted that a committee was set up by the federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment which has concluded its sitting and will soon submit the report on how to tackle the challenges of export reject from Nigerian exporters.

Osinbajo to launch energy transition plan for improved power in 8 years

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

Vice-president Yemi Osinbajo is set to launch Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP), a set of strategies for the country to attain universal access to energy by 2030, about eight years from now, and a carbon-neutral energy system by 2060.

A statement signed by Director of Communications, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), Sherry Kennedy, on Tuesday, said Osinbajo will lead other stakeholders to launch the energy transition plan in Abuja on Wednesday.

The plan will also map out strategies for Nigeria to provide enough energy to power industry and other productive uses.

The plan is supported by Sustainable Energy for All, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet.

The launch will also feature remarks from prominent officials from Nigeria, Rwanda, Egypt and Senegal as well as international community leaders from the United Nations, Sustainable Energy for All, World Bank, African Development Bank, IRENA, The Rockefeller Foundation and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet.

Reps ask NEPZA to refund N13.3bn to FG

By Itodo Daniel Sule

The House of Representatives on Tuesday asked the Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) to refund to the sum of N13.3 billion unremitted funds to the federal government's treasury.

The House adhoc committee on unclaimed funds, which gave the directive at the resumption of its hearing in Abuja, asked NEPZA to provide copies of validated receipts of financial transactions including its remittances to the government.

But the Director, Finance and Administration, NEPZA, Oyesola Oyekunle who appeared for his organisation maintained that the agency was not indebted to the federal government saying, all revenues generated over time have been paid to the government up to date.

Oyekunle however told the lawmakers that since NEPZA is not fully funded, it remits only 25 per cent of generated revenues to the government, adding that the agency has so far remitted N3.93 billion to the government, making it to be up to date in payment within the period under review which is the year 2000 to date.

But the probe panel headed by Rep Idem Unyime insisted that the N13.3 billion arrived at was calculated based on the 80 per cent revenue remittance provisions to the government as contained in the Financial Act and not based on the circular as claimed by NEPZA.

Buhari warns MDA boards against interference, contract awards

By Zakariyya Adaramola

President Muhammadu Buhari has warned members of the governing boards of agencies and parastatals against undue interference, generating rancour and acrimony over awards of contracts, saying the government would not tolerate such.

President Buhari gave the warning on Tuesday in Abuja while inaugurating the boards of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), and the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST).

Buhari, who was represented by the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Ali Pantami, inaugurated the 44-member boards, calling for national interest on the part of board members.

He said awards of contracts had nothing to do with their mandate, urging them to carry out their responsibilities based on the acts establishing the agency and the commission, as well as that of NIPOST.

BORNO STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD

P.M.B 1233, NO. 1 JOS ROAD MAIDUGURI.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

The Borno State Government through State Universal Basic Education Board in compliance with Public Procurement acts 2007 and Borno State Bureau on Public Procurement Law 2019, wish to invites, interested, reputable and competent contractors to submit tender for UBEC/SUBEB/BESDA 2021 projects.

The projects are for the following Lots:

Lot 1: Construction of 12 No workshops with offices (one storey Building) at vocational enterprise institute Biu Local Government
Lot 2: Construction of 12 No workshop with offices (one storey Building) at vocational enterprise institute Shani Local Government.
Lot 3: Construction of Technical workshops at vocational enterprise institute at Biu Local Government:
- i. Construction of Technical Workshop (Block A)
- ii. Construction of a block of workshop (Block B)
- iii. Construction of a block of workshop (Block C)
- iv. Construction of a block of workshop (Block D)

Lot 4: Construction of technical Workshops at vocational enterprise institute Shani Local Government
- i. Construction of Technical Workshop (Block A)
- ii. Construction of a block of workshop (Block B)
- iii. Construction of a block of workshop (Block C)
- iv. Construction of a block of workshop (Block D)

Lot 5: Construction of 4 No Ventilated improved pit toilets at Vocational institute Biu Local Government.
Lot 6: Construction of 4 No Ventilated improved pit toilets at Vocational institute Shani Local Government
Lot 7: Construction of a block of 3 – Block of 16 - Classrooms storey building at Kwaya kusar Islamic School, Kwaya kusar Local Government
- i. Construction of a block of Block of 16 - Classrooms storey building (Block A)
- ii. Construction of a block of Block of 16 - Classrooms storey building (Block B)
- iii. Construction of a block of Block of 16 - Classrooms storey building (Block C)

Lot 8: Construction of administrative block at Kwaya Kusar Islamic School, Kwaya kusar Local Government.
Lot 9: Construction of (2) Two blocks of 2 – bedroom staff Quarters at Kwaya kusar Islamic School, Kwaya kusar Local Government.
Lot 10: Construction of 4 No Ventilated improved pit toilets at Kwaya kusar Islamic School, Kwaya kusar Local Government
Lot 11: Construction of VIP Toilets at 534 integrated Almajiri/tsangaya centres across the State.
Lot 12: Construction 0f Temporary learning shelter {TLS} to 204 integrated Almajiri/tsangaya centres across the State
Lot 13: Construction of perimeter block wall fencing with security wire at Kwaya Kusar Islamic School, Kwaya kusar Local Government
Lot 14: Construction of perimeter block wall fencing with security wire at vocational enterprise institute Biu Local Government
Lot 15: Construction of perimeter block wall fencing with security wire at vocational enterprise institute Shani Local Government
Lot 16: Drilling Solar powered Borehole with overhead tank at vocational enterprise institute Biu Local Government
Lot 17: Drilling Solar powered Borehole with overhead tank at vocational enterprise institute Shani Local Government
Lot 18: Drilling Solar powered Borehole with overhead tank at Kwaya kusar Islamic School in Kwaya Kusar Local Government
Lot 19: Provision Of 5,760 units of 2 - seater Desk for integrated schools at Ngala, Dikwa and Damboa Local Governments.
Lot 20: Provision of Office furniture and fittings for 9 Number existing vocational training centers, 3 – number newly constructed Tsangaya schools and kwaya kusar Islamic school.
Lot 21: Procurement of 3 in 1 mats for 3,068 Almajiri Centres across the State.
Lot 22: provision of a set of Almajiri learners Uniforms 3,068 Centres male and female across the State.
Lot 23: Procurement of non-formal literacy materials (NEI+) Coloured for Almajiri centres across the State.
Lot 24: Procurement of Customized exercise books for 3,068 Almajiri Centres across the State.

1. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- i. Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Reliable list of similar work executed (letter of Award/ certificate of completion photo copy).
- iii. Tax clearance certificate for the last three years.
- iv. Evidence of VAT registration / VAT remitted.
- v. Technical capability of the company.
- vi. Audited financial statement of account for the last three years.

List of pre-qualified bidders will be placed on the notice Board of the BESDA Office.

2. TENDER / BIDDING DOCUMENT

i. The tender document will be available for collection upon the payment of non-refundable fee of N20,000.00
ii. Pre-qualification document are to be submitted as from Today 24th August, 2022 and close on 29nd August, 2022 and will be opened immediately.

3. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENT

iii. Tenders are to be deposited in the tender Box at the conference Hall of the Board Head quarter SUBEB No. 1 Jos road Maiduguri, Borno State from 2nd September, 2022 and will close on Friday 9th September, 2022 between 8:00am – 3:30pm.

The documents should be clearly marked "tender" for specific lot and must be addressed to the:
Project Coordinator,
Borno BESDA, Borno State Universal Basic Education No. 1 Jos road shall be opened immediately after the dead line for Submission.

iv. Note

- Tenders submitted after dead line of submission will be returned unopened.
- Borno BESDA will not be liable for improper submission or unregistered tenders.
- Any tender that does not comply with the above requirements or any form of deviation from the requirements will be rejected.

Signed:
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,
BORNO SUBEB

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (MLSCN)

(National Medical Laboratory Accreditation Agency)
Federal Statutory Body Established by Act 11 2003

MLSCN Headquarters,
Plot 1166 Mohammed N. Umar Lane,
Durumi Phase II Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 08058150005, 07026100004
Website: www.mlscn.gov.ng **E-mail:** info@mlscn.gov.ng

Registrar/CEO: Dr. Tosan Erhabor

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) has, in line with Act 11 of 2003 section 4, sub-section (e) which states that: "The Council SHALL regulate the production, importation, sales and stocking of diagnostic laboratory reagents, chemicals and equipment (IVDs)", set up a robust and effective structure to enhance the regulation of the IVD market.

Apart from setting up the MLSCN Public Health In-vitro Diagnostic Control Laboratory - an ISO 17025:2017 Accredited Laboratory- the Council also set up the National In-vitro Diagnostics Technical Committee (NITC) to boost the Regulation of IVDs in Nigeria.

In light of the foregoing, MLSCN validates all rapid test kits imported into the country and the outcome relayed to the citizens by the Registrar/CEO through the media, the Council's social media handles, as well as its website. The aim is to provide accurate and reliable laboratory reports to Nigerians.

Thus, MLSCN validates the following Laboratory diagnostic kits:

- Malaria test Kits
- HIV test Kits
- Covid-19 test kits
- Widal test kits
- Hepatitis B test kits
- Hepatitis C test kits

Consequently, all importers and dealers of the above-listed laboratory diagnostic kits are hereby advised to submit them to the MLSCN Public HealthIn-vitro Diagnostics (IVD) Control Laboratory, 8 Harvey Road, Yaba, Lagos, **8 weeks** from this publication.

Signed
Management

GOVERNMENT OF ENUGU STATE OF NIGERIA

Lion Building, Government House, Independence Layout, Enugu



His Eminence
Alhaji (Dr.) Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR, mni
Sultan of Sokoto

Rt. Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi
Governor, Enugu State

ENUGU STATE IS IN THE HANDS OF GOD.

Rebuilding
NORTH-EAST

CO-CREATED CONTENT



■ From left: President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR), MD/CEO, North East Development Commission (NEDC), Mohammed G. Alkali, Borno State governor, Prof. Babagana Zulum and Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouq inspecting Food and Non-Food items at the NEDC Stand during the 2022 World Humanitarian Day, held in Maiduguri, Borno State on Thursday 18th August, 2022.

WHD: Leaders bring hope to North East as NEDC impacts more lives

As the world once again commemorates World Humanitarian Day, the North East Development (NEDC) has continued its intervention to provide succour to the people.

This year's theme is 'It takes a Village to Raise a Child'. The North East zone played host to high-calibre officials who came to celebrate with the people who have been victims of years of terror.

Among them were President Muhammadu Buhari, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Hajiya Sadiya Farouq, United Nations Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for Nigeria, Mr Matthias Schmale, and the Managing Director of NEDC, Mohammed G. Alkali. They presented messages of hope and extolled the resilience of the people in the face of terror.

Speaking at the event, President Buhari harped on the need for the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and its agencies to proffer ideas on ways to avoid threats posed by explosive remnants in the North East region which, he said, were increasing the number of orphans and widows.

"From our experience in the unfortunate civil war, I know the threat that unexploded ordnance can pose to returnees even after the conflict has ended



■ Food and Non-Food items donated by NEDC

as we saw in the latest IED incident in Bama just last week.

"I urge the ministry and its agencies as well as state governments and the special committee I have set up under the chairmanship of the vice president to come up with specific programmes and projects that respond to these emerging challenges of explosive ordnance as well as that of children orphaned by insurgency," Buhari said.

He stated that "The men and officers of Operation Lafiya Dole, security agencies, and the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) were very much appreciated for their commitment to the fight against insurgency.

"I commend their professionalism and tactical penetration to the hideouts of the criminal elements, leading to appreciable improvement of the security situation in this North East region, without which the resettlement of the IDPs would not be possible.

"I, therefore, implore you not to relent in your efforts; continue to take the fight to their hideouts and ensure they are completely eliminated.

"I also implore you to ensure adequate security for farmers in their farming activities. Agricultural activities are most needed for settlement and development of the rural areas and this can only be achieved if the farmers are sure of their safety."

The president led other guests at the event in Maiduguri to observe a minute's silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in disasters and humanitarian workers who died in the line of duty.

"On this 2022 World Humanitarian Day and every other day, we stand and shall continue to stand in solidarity with humanitarian aid workers and recognize their tremendous service and sacrifice.

"We celebrate their tireless efforts to save lives, preserve human dignity, and alleviate suffering. Their selfless commitment and actions stand as an example to us all.

"We will also make sure that they have our backing by ensuring that the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Social Development facilitates their work," he pledged.

President Buhari also used the occasion to appreciate General Theophilus Danjuma (rtd) for his support to the Borno State Government in rehabilitating many IDPs in the North East.

In his welcome address, the Governor of Borno State, Babagana Zulum, said the state is enjoying relative peace and stability, thanks to the sacrifices of gallant soldiers, security agencies, local vigilantes and the MNJTF.

He commended the president for his leadership and the successes recorded so far in the war against terror in the region.

The governor also hailed the establishment of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) and the ongoing installation of a 50MW power generation plant to provide electricity in the state.

He also thanked the president for the recent approval of N15 billion for the repatriation of citizens from the North East living in Chad, Niger and Cameroon as a result of the displacement caused by the insurgency.

Citing figures from the Aid Worker Security Database, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Sadiya Umar Farouq, disclosed that since 2016, 35 aid workers have died, 22 wounded and 28 kidnapped.

She added that since the beginning of this year, six aid workers have been kidnapped in the country.

On the choice of Borno for this year's event, the minister explained that it was meant to highlight the humanitarian situation and plight of IDPs in the region and to inspire much-needed change.

NEDC's interventions

Recall that the NEDC has been at the forefront of rebuilding and restructuring the region for the people to resettle in their homes and also live in an environment endowed with opportunities.

To fulfil that, the NEDC has completed several projects and implemented numerous policies for the region.

The commission has distributed hundreds of thousands of food and non-food items in all the North East states, among them bags of rice, cartons of spaghetti, gallons of vegetable oil, wrappers for women, mosquito nets, pairs of slippers, brocade for men, antiseptic soaps, blankets, mattresses, mats, children's wear, mats and matrasses.

Also, over 500,000 households have been reached with various relief materials across the states, while 30,000 returnees were reached with return kits of food and non-food items.

Health

Having access to affordable healthcare system has also been a priority of the commission, thus, over the years, 4,500 displaced persons have benefited from emergency health intervention projects.

Similarly, 28 medical outreaches have been conducted, with 21 in IDP camps and seven in host communities. Also, two burn centres were established in Borno and Adamawa states, while six molecular labs were established in all six states.

COVID-19 intervention

There is no gainsaying that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic touched every part of the world. To ease the impact on the region, the commission implemented a response to ameliorate the effect on the people.

It provided advanced health facilities, ventilators, hospital beds, ambulances, consumables and basic therapeutic capabilities to the tertiary health institutions.

Capacity building

Over the years, building the capacity of residents in the zone has been an inclusive project to ensure they are empowered in every aspect of life. In this regard, 500 stakeholders were trained on alternative dispute resolution, with 150 youth trained on livelihood skills as automobile mechanics.

Also, 300 community leaders were trained on the dangers of improvised explosives, while 1,830 beneficiaries were engaged under the NEDC's Environment Protection Plan, with 600 participants in a climate change workshop; 300 participants for train the trainers on waste management, and 600 trained in waste management and recycling.

Also, 30 people were trained in the fabrication of energy-efficient stoves and the production of briquettes from agriculture and domestic solid waste while 300 were trained in the use of energy-efficient stoves and the distribution of the stoves to women.

Similarly, peacebuilding and social cohesion messaging through mass media (radio) programmes in the North-East Zone was embarked upon and training of 150 auto mechanics is ongoing on vehicular diagnostics expertise.

World humanitarian day intervention

Meanwhile, as part of the activities to mark the 2022 World Humanitarian Day, the commission distributed 70,000 bags of 25kg rice, 35,000 blankets, 20,000 gallons of vegetable oil, 35,000 pieces of women's wrappers, 20,000 pieces of men's fabric and 20,000pcs children wears.

Daily Trust
Wednesday, August 24, 2022

King Salman Centre, in collaboration with Albasar International Foundation, offers free eye surgery to 400 patients in Kano





The King Salman Humanitarian Relief and Aid Center, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with Albasar International Foundation (Makkah Specialist Eye Hospital), has offered free cataract eye surgery to 400 patients in Kano State. The free eye surgeries, which took place at Makkah Specialist Eye Clinic in Kano, were part of the effort of the foundation and the centre towards the control of blindness in Nigeria and across the world through humanitarian aid and relief in the health sector. In an interview with newsmen during the eye surgeries, the Director of Administration and Finance of the Makkah Eye Clinic, Malam Yusuf Ahmad, said the patients, who included men and women, were drawn from various local governments within the city and rural areas of the state. He said after undergoing successful screening by agents of the hospital at selected LGAs, the people were then invited for the surgery at the hospital and that the services were free of charge.

"These humanitarian activities are part of an expression of the feelings of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the noble direction of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Highness the Crown Prince, towards its pioneering role of supporting communities across the world. "The gesture is part of commitments of the two centres to offer humanitarian assistance and ensure that people in the immediate society continue to benefit from the tremendous contributions we are offering. This surgery is free and as we always said, is open to everybody, especially the masses with eye problems who cannot afford to pay for surgeries. "We also give them medicine free of charge, and for those that need glasses, we also give them," he said. He appreciated the two centres for their contributions to saving people's sight and thanked King Salman of Saudi Arabia for his immense support to humanity. He also urged the patients and residents to continue to pray for them to prosper. Albasar International Foundation is a non-governmental charitable organisation working for the prevention of blindness with particular emphasis on Africa and Asia. Established in 1990, Albasar International Foundation operates in three ways; free mobile eye camps, the establishment of specialised eye hospitals, and training institutes. Through the eye camps, which are usually co-sponsored by a donor/sponsor and the foundation, medical eye services are taken to the doorsteps of the patients who may not afford to come to specialised eye hospitals. Also speaking at the closing ceremony of the event, the Executive Secretary of the Primary Healthcare Management Board in the state, Dr Tijjani Hussaini, said the state government is partnering with the Makkah Eye Clinic towards eliminating blindness and supporting people with eye services. One of the patients, Alhaji Gambo Lawan Roni, 65, who underwent successful surgery, said he has been battling with eye problems for over 15 years, "but with support of this people, my problem is over. I can see clearly now, something that I missed and gave up on 15 years ago." For Hajiya Halima Hamza Brigade, 60, her appreciation is unquantifiable as she has benefitted from the free eye surgery twice in her life. "I can't thank these people enough as they have saved my life. This is the second time they are doing this for me. Last year it was my left eye and now my right eye and all free of charge. I really appreciate them for this gesture. Now I can see even better than before," she said.

EXPLAINER

More money for bank customers as CBN increases interest on deposits

By Philip Shimnom Clement

Bank customers are expected to start enjoying more interest on their savings following a directive by the Central Bank of Nigeria to all deposit money banks to increase interest rate on deposits from 10 to 30 per cent.

Daily Trust reports that the CBN recently directed banks to pay savings deposit accounts an interest rate of at least 4.2%; from the 1.4% that previously obtained.

In a circular dated August 15, 2022 titled "Review of Interest Rate on Savings Deposits", signed by Haruna B. Mustafa, Director of Banking Supervision, the apex bank explained that the hike in interest rate on savings, which is effective from August 1, was made in light of the return to complete normalcy and after taking into account the current macroeconomic conditions.

The circular reads in part: "It will be recalled that as part of the efforts to ameliorate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Bank of Nigeria reduced the minimum interest rates payable on local currency savings deposits from 30% to 10% of the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR). This was aimed at stimulating growth in the larger economy following the economic slowdown occasioned by the pandemic."

CBN added that, "Following the return to full normalcy and considering the prevailing macroeconomic conditions, it has become necessary to effect an upward adjustment of the interest rate payable on local currency savings deposits.

"Accordingly, effective August 1, 2022, the negotiable minimum interest rate on local currency savings deposits shall be 30% of MPR. This supersedes our letter dated BSD/DIR/GEN/LAB/13/052 on the subject. September 1, 2020."

The directive followed the recent hike in monetary policy rates by the CBN by 100 basis points, from 13 per cent to 14 per cent.

What is monetary policy rate?

The Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) is the rate at which the CBN lends money to banks. It is a benchmark rate for lending in the financial services sector. Savings deposit rates are default rates banks pay customers for keeping their money in the banks.

MPR is currently benchmarked at 14% by the CBN and 30% of that is 4.2%, which is the deposit interest rate currently being administered by the CBN.

The MPR is an economy's base interest rate. It serves as a benchmark for lending in the financial services industry.

What is savings deposit rate?

Savings deposit rate is the interest rate that accrues to



■ Emefiele

customers for keeping their money with banks.

An increase in the interest rate on a savings deposit is typically expected to increase savings and serve as a form of contractionary monetary policy.

According to data obtained from the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System Plc (NIBSS), Nigeria has about 191.4 million bank accounts as at the end of December 2021.

A breakdown of the total bank accounts showed that there are 120.4 million savings accounts, 49.8 million current accounts, and 8.9 million corporate accounts.

These figures show that about 70 per cent of bank customers hold savings deposit accounts in the country.

Implication on customers' deposit

Checks by Daily Trust show that with the new directive, bank depositors will see their savings rise as the interest rate on their savings account is expected to increase by over 200 per cent.

Also, with the new development, many Nigerian depositors could be encouraged to ignore various fintech firms that reward savings with higher interest than the banks.

Similarly, interest rate on savings accounts is seen as a deliberate move by the CBN to reduce money supply in the economy amid rising inflation rate and also increase the saving habits of Nigerians.

On the other hand, low interest rates often encourage investors and companies to invest their money in the economy rather than having it stocked in bank vaults to grow in value without having to spend it.

However, if the increased interest rate manages to curb inflation as expected by the central bank, it will also cause the rising cost of living in Nigeria to drop, as they currently struggle with a 19.64% headline inflation rate.

The latest deposit and lending rates in the banking industry published on the CBN website showed that eight banks paid 1.40 per cent savings interest rate.

The banks are Access Bank, Citibank, Ecobank, Globus, Polaris, Stanbic IBTC, Sterling Bank and Zenith Bank.

Others offered between 0.88 per cent to 4.20 per cent.

Banks affected by the directive

Daily Trust checks on the website of the CBN show that there are 24 commercial banks currently operating in Nigeria.

The directive means that customers with any of these banks will henceforth benefit from the directive by the CBN.

The banks are Access, Citibank, Ecobank, Fidelity, First Bank, First City Monument Bank, Globus Bank, Guarantee Trust Bank, and Heritage Bank.

Others are Keystone Bank, Parallex Bank, Polaris Bank, Premium Trust Bank, Providus, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Standard Chartered Bank of Nigeria and Sterling Bank.

Also on the list are SunTrust, Titan Trust, Union, United Bank for Africa, Unity Bank, Wema Bank and Zenith Bank.

As such, it is expected that with the directive by the CBN which took effect on August 1, bank customers will begin to see more benefits for saving their money in commercial banks.

This Explainer is produced in partnership with the Centre for Democracy and Development.

Buhari orders prosecution of soldier that killed Yobe Islamic cleric

● JNI charges FG as children get employment

By Muideen Olaniyi Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna & Faruk Shuaibu, Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday condemned what he called the unprovoked and cold-blooded murder of a Yobe State based Islamic cleric, Sheikh Goni Aisami, by a soldier he had offered a lift as confirmed by the police.

The president, in a statement issued by his media aide, Garba Shehu, said the "barbaric murder of a compassionate man" by a soldier he had assisted had no place in the military training as soldiers.

He said the act negated the entire ethos of military life anchored on discipline and respect for the sanctity of innocent lives.

"By our training, we are guided by a code of conduct that frowns on this kind of reckless and criminal act. It is not in our character and training to put innocent citizens in harm's way. Of course, the action of this soldier is an isolated incident involving an individual, but it is capable of staining the collective image of our military.

"This incident is capable of making our fellow citizens to be fearful of assisting soldiers, thereby destroying the bond of trust between our military and the civilians," the president said.

While condoling with Yobe, the people of the state, and the family of the victim, Buhari called on the military authorities to punish the perpetrators of the heinous crime without delay, and flush out other elements with such criminal tendencies.

Meanwhile, the Jama'atu Nasiril Islam (JNI) has called on the federal government and the leadership of the Nigerian Army to as a matter of fairness and justice hasten the prosecution of the culprits.

The JNI in a statement issued yesterday by its Secretary General, Dr Khalid Abubakar Aliyu, said the same thing should apply to all similar cases in the country to serve as a deterrent for many bad eggs within the system.

It expressed the conviction that the unwarranted killings were well thought-out.

The statement recalled that sometime in 2018, Major General Idris M. Alkali was brutally killed in Plateau State and his remains thrown into a pond, "yet nothing was reportedly done as punishment against the perpetrators."

"Same with the Rukuba Road carnage, which resulted in the massacre of about 22 innocent, defenceless Muslims returning from Bauchi State on their way to Ikare, Ondo State en route Jos, in addition to a series of such brutalities and impunities against innocent Muslims. Yet, the Nigerian Muslims have repeatedly remained patient, despite a series of lies, hate campaigns and even outright provocations," it added.

The body stated that the killing of the cleric demonstrated that crime had permeated the fabric of Nigerian society and to some extent, even security agencies.

Meanwhile, the governor of Yobe State, Mai Mala Buni has directed automatic employment to two sons of the late Islamic cleric.

Buni gave the directive when members of the family visited him to express their gratitude for his concern for the family.

The governor, in a statement by his Director General, Press and Media Affairs, Mamman Mohammed, assured that the state government would ensure investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of the cleric.

He also assured that the government would continue to support the family as it has lost its breadwinner.

Malam Ibrahim Aisami, who expressed appreciation on behalf of the family, said the employment would cushion the sufferings of the family following the demise of the cleric.

SERAP, NGE ask court to stop FG from shutting 53 broadcast stations

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) have filed a lawsuit against President Muhammadu Buhari and the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) over the purported shutdown of 53 broadcast stations in the country for allegedly failing to renew their licenses.

Joined in the suit as a defendant is the Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed.

NBC had last week revoked the licenses of the 53 broadcast stations and threatened to shut down their operations within 24 hours over alleged N2.6 billion debt.

NBC later asked the stations "To pay all outstanding licence fees on or before August 23, 2022, or shut down by 12am on August 24."

In the suit number FHC/L/CS/1582/2022 filed yesterday at the Federal High Court, Lagos, the plaintiffs asked the court to determine "Whether section 10(a) of the Third Schedule to the National Broadcasting Act used by NBC to threaten to revoke the licenses of 53 broadcast stations and shut them down is not inconsistent and incompatible with freedom of expression and access to information."

SERAP and NGE asked the court for "A declaration that section 10(a) of the Third Schedule to the National Broadcasting Act used by NBC to threaten to revoke the licences of 53 broadcast stations and to shut down the broadcast stations is unconstitutional and unlawful, as it violates freedom of expression.

Why it is difficult for LGs to enjoy financial autonomy - Soludo

From Titus Eleweke, Awka

Governor of Anambra State, Professor Charles Soludo, has said local governments must employ and pay their staff for financial autonomy to be strictly implemented.

He also said the state government owed pensioners over N14 billion.

The governor stated this while inaugurating a nine-member committee for the state and local governments' Joint Account and Allocation Committee (JAAC) on Monday.

"I hear people talk about autonomy. If you want to implement strict autonomy, it will mean that each local government will employ and pay its staff. That's what it will mean but this is not the case. That's why you find someone in Idemili working in Ayamelum and someone from Ayamelum working in Nnewi South because they have a pool system," he said.

Soludo also stated that the government was going to employ over 4,000 teachers to rejig teaching and learning in the state.

The governor, who decried scarce resources in the state, asked the committee members to assist in finding solutions to the financial crisis in the government.

He pointed out that the infrastructure in the various local government areas, including those burnt down by arsonists, needed to be repaired to enable council staff to go to offices and perform optimally.

The committee is chaired by the state Commissioner for Local Government, TonyCollins Nwabunwanne, with the state Commissioner for Finance, Ifeatu Onejeme; and Dr Arinze Nwankwo-Ikwueto, as vice chairman and secretary, respectively.



■ From left: Chairman, Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria (MCSN), Orits Williki; Director-General/CEO, MCSN, Mayo Ayilaron; and Music Icon , Bongos Ikwe, shortly after Ikwe registered as a member of MCSN in Abuja yesterday

Strike: ASUU counters education minister, says no issue resolved yet

● ABU chapter supports indefinite strike

From Sani Ibrahim Paki (Kano) & Isa Sa'idu (Zaria)

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has faulted the Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu, saying no contentious issue that led to the strike has been resolved.

Adamu had last week claimed that all the major contending issues of the strike have been resolved except the withheld salaries of the striking lecturers.

ASUU in a statement signed by the Bayero University Kano chapter chairperson, Haruna Musa; and his Secretary, Kabiru Haruna Isa, on Tuesday, said the minister's claims were aimed at misinforming Nigerians about the true status of the industrial action.

"ASUU-BUK vehemently condemns the FG's mishandling of the protracted industrial dispute that has kept Nigerian universities shut since February 14," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria chapter of the union on Tuesday voted for the indefinite continuation of the ongoing strike until the government meets their demands.

Reading the resolution of the congress, the chairman of ABU-ASUU, Professor Haruna Jibril, said the congress also frowned on how government agents were using propaganda to blackmail the union, despite fighting a genuine cause that would ensure the survival of the public university system.

"Look at how they mischievously told the public that they have met all our demands and that we refused to call off the strike because we insist on receiving our six months' salary. This is an outright lie. In fact, payment of the backlog of salaries is not part of our core demands."

Kauran Katsina, Alhaji Nuhu Abdulkadir, dies at 80



From Tijjani Ibrahim, Katsina

The death has occurred of Kauran Katsina, District Head of Rimi, Alhaji Nuhu Abdulkadir, who died at the age of 80.

Abdulkadir, who was the most senior council member and one of the kingmakers of Katsina Emirate, passed on yesterday at his home in Rimi after a brief illness.

He has since been buried in his hometown of Rimi after a funeral prayer held at his palace.

He was survived by four wives, 20 children and many grandchildren.

In his condolence message, Governor Aminu Masari said his wisdom and valuable advice would be greatly missed.

Fake news demoralising security agencies — Buhari

● As NIPR identifies causes of Nigeria's challenges

By Maureen Onochie

President Muhammadu Buhari says fake news and misinformation is fuelling apprehension among Nigerians and demoralising the security agencies.

He said this in Abuja yesterday during the Citizens Summit for National Integration, Peace and Security organised by the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR).

Buhari, represented by Information and Culture Minister Lai Mohammed, also reiterated his call on the security agencies to take the battle to terrorists and bandits.

He recalled that his government had in 2017 decided to tackle fake news and misinformation as it devoted the entire National Council on Information to the issue.

"I'm glad that many CSOs have taken up this challenge of tackling fake news and misinformation, just like I'm delighted that a number of newspapers have set up fact-checking desks," he said.

Buhari noted that he had directed the military to take the battle to the terrorists.

He said just as his administration had put the seemingly intractable farmers-herders crisis under control, it would also successfully crush the terrorists and bandits.

"As our security agencies put them on the run, they'll no longer be able to carry out their

deadly attacks as well as kidnappings. Peace and security will return to our country, and our unity will be strengthened," Buhari said.

President, NIPR, Mukhtar Zubairu Sirajo, said the summit was a product of research conducted by the governing council of the NIPR to identify factors responsible for the current situation in Nigeria.

He said: "The outcome revealed a widening trust deficit at three levels - between government and the citizens, between and among the various ethnic and socio-cultural groups, and generally among the citizens as communication among them has taken a nosedive because even where and when it happens, it largely appears to be of the violent variant."

"The research also revealed a collapse of core national values, citizens' despondency and apathy on issues of national development. These have tended to weaken the fabrics that have held us together as a people."

Nigeria to receive fresh $23m Abacha loot from US

By Aliyu Jalal

The Federal Government and the United States yesterday in Abuja signed an agreement to repatriate $23m Abacha loot to Nigeria.

The US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mary Leonard, signed for the US; and the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, for Nigeria.

Malami said the decision to return the stolen funds, tagged 'Abacha-5', was a product of a series of negotiations and meetings between Nigeria, the US Department of Justice and the UK National Crime Agency.

The AGF said the loot, when repatriated, would be used for the completion of the Abuja-Kano and Lagos-Ibadan Expressways as well as the Second Niger Bridge under the supervision of Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority.

Leonard said: "The US Department of Justice and the FBI seized these funds in response to General Abacha and his associates' violation of US laws when they laundered these assets to the US and into accounts in the UK.

"These actions were a flagrant breach of the Nigerian people's trust. But today is the result of an extensive and high level corporation between the US, UK and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"This agreement is also a kind of collaboration that our government must continue in order to right the wrongs committed under the previous regimes.

"Combined with a $311.7m seized and repatriated with the assistance of the Bailiwick of Jersey and the government of Nigeria in 2020, this repatriation brings the total amount of funds repatriated in this case by the US to more than $334.7m."

She said the recovered criminal proceeds, like the $311.7m previously seized and repatriated, would be transformed into a visible and impactful representation of the possibilities of government assets that directly improve the lives of average Nigerians.

We'll partner Nigeria on 2023 elections — India

By Muideen Olaniyi

India as the largest democracy in the world is willing to partner with Nigeria towards successful general elections in 2023.

Indian Minister of State for External and Parliamentary Affairs, Vellamvelly Muraleedharan, said this Tuesday at State House, Abuja, when he was hosted by President Muhammadu Buhari.

He was in Abuja to take part in the Nigeria-India Business Council, and described Nigeria as "centre of our engagement with Africa."

He said Buhari was a "worthy alumnus of our Defence Services College."

Muraleedharan, who brought greetings from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said Nigeria and India had robust relations in business, defense, education and many other areas.

Buhari went down memory lane on his one-year training in India as a military officer at Defence Services College, Wellington, recalled the 1973 visit.

He said: "It was a very good experience. I think I was a Lt Colonel then, and I spent a year in India. We traveled and met international people from different countries. It became part of my success story in the military."

The president said the Nigerian Defence Academy was established by Indians.

He said both countries had firm relationship economically, politically and in the area of security.

Buhari said Nigeria and India must continue to build on the longstanding relationship to the benefit of both countries.



■ From left : Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire; Ooni of Ife, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja 11, and the Executive Director/CEO, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Faisal Shuaib at the inaugural meeting of the Southwest Traditional Leaders' Committee on PHC in Abuja yesterday

UK donates £15m to tackle food insecurity, malnutrition in N/East

By Zakariyya Adaramola

The United Kingdom will spend £15m of emergency humanitarian funding to provide vital food and nutrition assistance for vulnerable people in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States.

A statement by the British High Commission yesterday said the money would fund the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme to deliver life-saving activities to respond to crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity and malnutrition for vulnerable people, including malnourished women and children.

This funding is part of the UK's wider commitment to prioritising life-saving humanitarian aid to communities around the world who are most vulnerable due to the ongoing combination of crises, the statement added.

Acting British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Gill Atkinson, said: "As conflict continues, 4.1 million people are facing a food crisis in North-East Nigeria. Through this emergency funding, the UK has allocated £15m of humanitarian assistance to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition among the region's most vulnerable people, including women and children.

"This life-saving aid will help stave off starvation and support people to become more resilient."

Cholera kills 91 in 31 states as 12 die of monkeypox

By Ojoma Akor

A total of 3,610 suspected cases of cholera, including 91 deaths, have been recorded in 31 states this year, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has said.

The Director-General, NCDC, Dr Ifedayo Adetifa, disclosed this Tuesday during the ministerial press briefing by the Ministry of Health.

He said of the suspected cases since the beginning of the year, the age group less than five years was the most affected age group for male and female

"We've intensified our surveillance and risk communication efforts and made ongoing plans to review the National Cholera Plan. We are also working to develop state-level preparedness and response plans," he said.

He said from January 1 to August 14, there were 530 suspected cases of monkeypox, 220 confirmed cases and four deaths from 29 states.

While saying that there was currently no case of Marburg virus disease in Nigeria, he said Nigeria had the capacity to test for the virus at the National Reference Laboratory in Abuja and the University of Lagos Teaching Hospital laboratory Centre for Human and Zoonotic Virology.

On COVID-19, Dr Ifedayo said 5,441,162 samples had been tested, 262,748 confirmed cases recorded with 256,518 discharged cases and 3,147 deaths.

He added that top five states with the highest cumulative number of cases are Lagos, FCT, Rivers, Kaduna, and Oyo.

The Secretary of the Oversight Committee of the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr Chris Isokpunwu, speaking on the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHPF), said as at yesterday about 7, 447 health facilities were receiving decentralised facility funding in 35 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He said only Rivers state was not currently on board.

He said the Fund had engaged 2800 midwives across 26 states and 27 states have accredited more than 70 percent of their PHC facilities.

INSIDE POLITICS

"The 2023 presidential election will not be about tribe, religion, connection, entitlement, but it must be about competence, capacity and commitment to deliver — Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi

INEC, EFCC differ on Reps' move to establish electoral offences commission

By Balarabe Alkassim

- We can't arrest, prosecute offenders — INEC chair
- Functions performed by existing agencies — EFCC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (INEC), yesterday, differed on the quest by the House of Representatives for a National Electoral Offences Commission (NEOC) to investigate and prosecute electoral offenders.

While INEC queued behind the parliament to establish the body, the anti-corruption body has kicked against it, saying the functions of the proposed agency are performed by existing institutions.

The House of Representatives yesterday organised a one-day public hearing on a bill to establish the electoral offences commission.

Speaking at the public hearing, the Chairman of INEC, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, stressed the need for the establishment of the commission.

"It is clear that the reform of our electoral process cannot be completed without effective sanctions against violators of our laws. At present, INEC is saddled with the responsibility of prosecuting electoral offenders under the Electoral Act.



■ Prof Yakubu

"This has been very challenging for the commission. For instance, since the 2015 general elections, 125 cases of electoral offences have been filed in various courts, of which 60 convictions have been secured so far, including the most recent one in Akwa Ibom State," he said.

He said the bill is a critical legislation and has been part of all national conversations on constitutional and electoral reforms for the last 13 years.

According to him, the Justice Mohammed Uwais Committee on Electoral Reforms recommended the



■ EFFC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa

establishment of the commission in 2009, which he said was re-echoed by the Sheikh Ahmed Lemu Committee following the post-election violence of 2011 and recently, by the Senator Ken Nnamani Committee on Constitutional and Electoral Reform in 2017.

"Similar recommendations are contained in reports of police investigations, INEC administrative enquiries, court judgments, reports by the National Human Rights Commission, as well as several accredited election observers," he said.

However, in its presentation, the EFCC opposed the establishment of the commission.

The EFCC's position, which was conveyed by an assistant commander of the agency, Deborah Ademu-Eteh, said there was no need for the creation of an agency solely for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting electoral offences when the electoral process is seasonal as elections are held once in four years in the country.

According to EFCC, a holistic review of the contents of the proposed bill showed that the offences contained in part (iv) (sections 13-32) largely constituted offences that have already been criminalised by extant laws such as the Electoral Act, 2022 (see sections 114-129); the penal and criminal codes, the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Act, 2000; and the Economic and Financial Crimes (Establishment) Act, 2004.

"It is our suggestion that the existing law enforcement agencies should be strengthened to achieve maximum output instead of creating a new agency of investigation and prosecution of electoral offences," the agency stated.

On his part, the Speaker, House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, who was represented by his deputy, Ahmed Idris Wase, said the public hearing would bring forth new ideas for the establishment of the commission and, by extension, provide the means for free, fair and credible elections in the country.

"In truth, electoral crimes lead to low quality, corrupt and violent political leadership. Election riggers and offenders take control of governments against the democratic will of the electorate. Electoral offences are self-inflicted injuries to be avoided at all cost," he said.

Similarly, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Electoral Matters, Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya (APC Kano), stressed the need for the establishment of the commission to investigate and prosecute offenders.

In a submission, CLEEN Foundation supported the establishment of the commission, saying it would facilitate the prosecution of electoral offences committed on or before elections.

YIAGA Africa, represented by Yetunde Bakare, also supported the establishment of the commission, while calling for some amendments to certain provisions of the bill.

The bill proposes 20 years' imprisonment or N40 million fine for an electoral offender.

Court convicts man for destroying PDP billboards

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

A chief magistrates' court sitting in Makurdi on Tuesday convicted a 30-year-old man for destroying billboards belonging to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Benue State.

The suspect, Ternenge Peter, was caught on Monday destroying a billboard mounted at Wurukum roundabout in Makurdi metropolis and handed over to the police.

Presiding magistrate, Kadoon Gbasha, who convicted the 30-year-old, warned youths in the state to deist from the habit of alcoholism and mischief and engage themselves in useful ventures to secure their future.

Gbasha sentenced the man to one month community service which in default he will go to jail for two months.

The magistrate also stated that the community service will be carried out at the court premises for 30 working days between 9am and 2pm each day.

The magistrate convicted the suspect after he pleaded guilty to the charge levelled against him. He explained that he committed the offence under the influence of alcohol after being instructed by an official of the All Progressives Congress (APC) which he didn't mention the name.

The convict had begged the court to forgive him, saying his wife left him with a two-year-old baby girl to cater for.

Earlier, the prosecuting police officer, Inspector Kuegh Abugh, told the court that the Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Bemgba Iortyom, in company of the Chairman, Task Force on Illegal Motor Parks, Bobby Uper, had arrested the convict and took him to the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Makurdi , while destroying PDP campaign billboard at Wurukum roundabout.

Why election results can't be manipulated — INEC

By Abbas Jimoh

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said that the electronics transmission of results cannot be manipulated, due to the nature of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS).

Prof. Mohammad Kuna, the Special Adviser to the INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, said this on Tuesday in Abuja, during a panel discussion at a two-day workshop organised by the National Peace Committee (NPC) headed by former Head of States, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd) and The Kukah Centre.

The event held on Tuesday in Abuja, has the theme, 'The role and impact of Digital Technologies in facilitating Peaceful Elections in Nigeria'.

Daily Trust reports that the BVAS is an electronic device designed to read Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) and authenticate voters.

"With the nature of the BVAS, the uploaded polling units (PUs) results cannot be manipulated. The machine was not designed to edit the photographic result uploaded and sent to the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IReV); and once sent cannot be recalled" Kuna said.

Also speaking, the Executive Director of the Yiaga Africa, Samson Itodo, urged INEC to subject the BVAS, IReV and other electronic devices to 'stress test'.

Be accountable, Ogun gov tasks new commissioners

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

The Ogun State governor, Dapo Abiodun, has sworn in seven new commissioners and deputy chief of staff, charging the new appointees to be accountable and efficiently utilize resources in their care for the realization of the ISEYA mantra of the administration.

At the swearing-in ceremony at the Executive Chamber of the Governor's Office, Oke Mosan, Abeokuta, he also charged the new appointees to always be conscious of the fact that the responsibility of taking the state to an unprecedented height now rested on their shoulders.

2023: Kwakwanso promises to reform maritime sector

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

The presidential candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Sen. Rabiu Kwakwanso, has promised to transform the nation's maritime sector, which he said, had been neglected by previous administrations.

He stated this in Lagos on Tuesday at a meeting with stakeholders in the maritime sector

The former governor of Kano State also vowed to place the control of the nation's maritime sector in the hands of stakeholders.

The meeting was organised by the Prime Maritime Project ahead of the 2023 general elections.

"The maritime industry gave birth to our great party, the NNPP, so my being here is largely to listen, appreciate and understand the expectations of maritime operators from me and our party should we eventually emerge winners of the 2023 general elections.

"A port system originally designed for a population of less than 50 million people in the 1950s with less than 2.0 million cargo throughput has remained almost the same for over 200 million population in 2022.Our government will look into constructing a rail line from both Apapa and Tin Can Island ports to a dry port area outside Lagos," he said.

Muslims urged on active participation in politics

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

Muslims have been urged to participate actively in politics as the 2023 general elections draw near.

The National Coordinator, Standard Bearers Islamic Organisation, Dr Abdulhafeez Bello, gave the charge at a press conference in Ile-Ife, Osun State.

He said Islam encourages Muslims to be part of governance as unanimously agreed by reputable Islamic scholars.

Bello appealed to the federal government to address myriad of issues bedevilling the nation, including economic hardship and insecurity.

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Lagos Office: No. 10, Acme Road, (Textile Labour House), Agidingbi - Ikeja, Lagos
Kano Office: Plot 56, Behind Kano International Trade Fair Complex, Off Zoo Road, Kano
Kaduna Office: Abdussalam Ziza House, A9 Mogadishu City Center, Kaduna

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LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

LOLA: I, formerly known as LOLADE YEMI ERINOSO-ODUSANYA, now wish to be known and addressed as LOLA ERINOSO-ODUSANYA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ABISOLA: I, formerly known as ABISOLA ERINOSO-ODUSANYA, now wish to be known and addressed as ABISOLA ODUSANYA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MUAZU: I, formerly known as MUAZU DALHA A, now wish to be known and addressed as MUAZU DALHA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

DEBORAH: I, formerly known as MARYAM SALEH, now wish to be known and addressed as DEBORAH DANLADI. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

FATOYINBO: I, formerly known as MISS. FATOYINBO OLUWATOSIN ESTHER, now wish to be known and addressed as MISS. FATOYINBO OLUWATOSIN. All former documents remain valid. General Public should please take note.

HALIMAT: I, formerly known as MISS. HALIMAT OMOTATO ABDULGANIYU, now wish to be known and addressed as MISS. HALIMAT ABDULGANIYU. All former documents remain valid. General Public should please take note.

BAWA: I, formerly known as Mrs. LADI MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. LADI MUSA BAWA. All former documents remain valid. General Public should please take note.

HUSSAINI: I, formerly known as ADAMU MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR HUSSAINI. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TUKUR: I, formerly known as NI'IMA MOHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as NI'IMA MUHAMMAD TUKUR. My date of birth was wrongly captured as 12/09/1992 instead of 2/06/1998. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ADENIKE: I, formerly known as ADENIKE OMOLOLA ADETAN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ADENIKE ORYA ADOM. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

DEBORAH: I, formerly known as DEBORAH JOSEPH OJOCHENEMI, now wish to be known and addressed as DEBORAH JOSEPH. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TIMIPRE: I, formerly known as YOUDIOWEI TIMIPRE, now wish to be known and addressed as TIMIPRE YOUDIOWEI OBRUCHE-OTOBOR. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

FATIMA: I formerly known and called FATIMA AHMED now wish to be name and call FATIMA AMADU all my former Documents remain valid authority and general public should take note please.

I, formerly known and called as EMEKA OPARA, Now wish to be known and called as EMEKA MICHAEL NZEOPARA. All Former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and General public should please take note

ISA: I, formerly known as ISA MUSA.O, now wish to be known and addressed as ISA MUSA. All fomer documents should remain valid. General public should please take note.

AUDU: I, formerly known as AUDU MAMMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as AUDU MIKO. All fomer documents should remain valid. General public should please take note.

EVANS: I, formerly known as ENEBELI DIKEMYE, now wish to be known and addressed as ENEBELI DIKEMEYE EVANS. My date of birth was wrongly captured as 3/06/1980 instead of 3/07/1990. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

UMAR I Formerly known and address as IBRAHIM SHEHU now wish to be known and address as YAHAYYA SHEHU UMAR all former documents remain valid general public should take note

UKAMAKA I Formerly known and address as IKEGHAGU GLORIA UKAMAKA now wish to be known and address as OKAKPU GLORIA UKAMAKA all former documents remain valid general public should take note

MRS I formerly known as FATIMA JAMILU now wish to be known and addressed as MRS FATIMA JAMILU.All former documents remain valid and general public should take note

MUSA I formerly known as AMODU MUSA now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA AMODU.All former documents remain valid and general public should take note

FATIMA I formerly known as FATIMA SULAIMAN now wish to be known and addressed as FATIMA GAMBO.All former documents remain valid and general public should take note

MRS I formerly known as HAFSAT MUJITTABA RABEH now wish to be known and addressed as MRS HAFSAT MUJITTABA RABEH. All former documents remain valid and general public should take note

I formerly known as Umar Sakinbauchi now wish to be known and addressed as umar Sarkin Bauchi. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS NUHU IDRIS Date of birth 08_09_1962 NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS NUHU IDRIS DANJUMMA Date of birth 08_07_1962. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ONWU EVERESTUS HUSTIEBEE NOW WISH TO BE CALLED AND ADDRESS AS UBA EVEREST. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I formally known and addressed as: FIRST NAME: MATHEW, MIDDLE NAME: ELLIJA, LAST NAME: OPALUWA now wish to be known and addressed as: FIRST NAME: OPALUWA, MIDDLE NAME: ELIJA, LAST NAME: MATHEW. all former documents remains valid *Authority concerned and general public place take note

KABIRU: I formerly known as Kabiru Musa, now wish to be known as Kabiru Musa King. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public please take note.

FADI: I formerly known as Kauna Buntausa, now wish to be known as Fadi Sanusi. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public please take note.

OLALEKAN: I formerly known as Miss Oladokun Shukurat Adeola, is now wish to be known as Olalekan Shukurat Adeola. All former documents remain valid, authority concerned and general public please note.

MOHAMMED: I formerly known as Mohammed Aminu Lami Aishatu, now wish to be known and addressed as Mohammed Aishatu. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public please take note.

REMOVAL AND CORRECTION OF NAME: MYAORNYI: I, FORMERLY KNOWN CALLED AS MYARNYI JAPHET AONDOAKULA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS MYAORNYI JAPHET. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

COMPANY REGISTRATION

I formerly known and addressed as EMMY UMARU now wish to be known and addressed as FATE EMMY ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

SALAMATU : I formerly Known as, SALAMATU USMAN. Now wish to be known and call as, SALAMATU SHUAIBU, D.O.B. 01/01/1968. All former documents remain valid. General public to please take note

I formerly known and addressed as HAWAWU ABDULRAHMAN now wish to be known and addressed as HAUWAU NUHU. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

My name was wrongly captured in my Bank Verification Number as KOLAWOLE SHEFIU BADMOS and the correct name is GBADAMOSI SHEFIU KOLAWOLE. The First Bank of Nigeria and other banks, note.

I formerly known and addressed as IWU CHISO RICHEAL with date of birth 24/05/ 1991 now wish to be known and addressed as IKWUEZE RACHAEL OLUMMA with date of birth 24/05/1992. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known and addressed as SAMINU ASMAU ABDULRAUF now wish to be known and addressed as SAMINU ASMAU KILA. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

SUNDAY: I formerly known and addressed as. ABDULRAHMAN AMINU. Now wish to be known and addressed as. ABUDU SUNDAY. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

SALUFU: I formerly known and addressed as. MISS DANJUMA NETIFAT. Now wish to be known and addressed as. MRS SALUFU NETIFAT. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

MOHAMMED: I formerly known and addressed as. SULEMAN MUTALA. Now wish to be known and addressed as. MOHAMMED SAFULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

PEACE: This is to notified the general public that. ANOSIKE FAVOUR PEACE and GAIUS F PEACE. Refer to me and same person. Now wish to be known and addressed as. MRS GAIUS F PEACE. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

ALIYU: My name was wrongly captured on my BVN as ALIYU DANGI with date of birth 01/01/1983 whereas my correct is ABUBAKAR ALIYU and date of birth 12/08/1973. All former documents remain valid. First Bank, and general public should please take note.

ABDULMUMINI: I formerly known and addressed as ABDULMUNIN TUKUR now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULMUMINI TUKUR. All former documents remain valid. First Bank Nig. Plc and general public should please note.

I formally know and addressed as UMMUKHULTHUM LAWAN and now wish to be call and addressed as UMMUKHULTHUM LAWAN DANLAMIDO All my documents a valid authority and public should be considered.

I formerly known as NTIENO JAMES ROBERT now wish to be known and addressed as ROBERT NTIENO JAMES. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I formerly known as MASUD USMAN, now wish known as MASUD USMAN MIKO, all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public to take note

CHANGE OF NAME

I formally know and addressed as HAJJA YA GAJI and now wish to be call and addressed as HAUWAU ADAMU All my documents a valid authority and public should be considered.

I formally known as HAMZA ISAYAKA MUSA. I now wish to be known and addressed as HAMZA ISIYAKA MUSA. All my documents remain Valid. Authority concerned and general public should take note.

I, formerly known as IBRAHIM K. SANI now wish to be known and addressed as *SANI IBRAHIM All my documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should take note.

I formally know and addressed as DAUDA MOHAMMED TSOHO and now wish to be call and addressed as MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR. All my documents a valid authority and public should be considered.

OWUALA: I formerly known as GOODNESS CHINELO OWUALA now wish to be known and addressed as GOODNESS SPLENDOR OWUALA. All other documents remain valid. All authorities concerned and the general public should take note.

I formerly known and addressed as EZEKIEL RUTH ONYINYECHI now wish to be known and addressed as EZEKIEL RUTH ONYINYE. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known and addressed as ELIJAH OJO now wish to be known and addressed as ELIJAH OJO ADEWALE. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known and addressed as ENABA MUSA now wish to be known and addressed as MOMOH BELIKISU. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as LUKUMANU ABDULLAHI now wish to be known and addressed as LUKMAN ABDULLAHI With D.O.B 01/01/1990. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as UMARU MAI ALO now wish to be known and addressed as BELLO UMARU. All former documents remain valid. Taj Bank plc and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as MISS PATIENCE OCHANYA ODEH now wish to be known as MRS PATIENCE OCHANYA ODEH AGBO. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I formally known and addressed as MUSA IBRAHIM HINNA now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA IBRAHIM HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known and addressed as ELIZABETH BABANGIDA ALTI now wish to be known and addressed as BABANGIDA MUSA. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

AIMAN : I formerly known as ALMAN DANAZUMI and AIMAN DANAZUMI now wish to be known and addressed as AIMAN ALHAJI DANAZU. All former document remain valid authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

CORECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH : This is to inform the general public that SULE ALHAJI SULEIMAN my correct date of birth is 27-4-1984 not 25-1-1980. All former document remain valid, W A E C, authorities concerned and the general public to please take note.

JONAH : I formerly known as JONAH RUTH LADONGO now wish to be known and addressed as JONAH RUTH All former document remain valid authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

LEGAL NOTICE

SERAH : I formerly known as, ASTABARKA HAMMANSHEHU now wish to be known as, SERAH HEMAN, STANDARD MICROFINANCE BANK AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO PLEASE TAKE NOTE

I, Formerly known and addressed as AMINA DAURA. Now want to be known and addressed as AMINA SANI ZANGON DAURA. All former document remain valid and the general public should take note

SABO : I formerly known as MUSA AYA, now wish to be known and addressed as HASSAN SABO, All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note

MAHMOOD : I formerly known as MUHAMMAD ADAMU MAHMOOD, now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD ADAM MAHMOOD . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

DISHI : I formerly known as HAPPINESS MU'AZU , now wish to be known and addressed as MU'AZU DISHI . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

WILLIAMS : I formerly known as JOSEPH WILLIAMS, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH JESSE WILLIAMS . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

NUHU : I formerly known as ALIYU NUHU , now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU BALA NUHU . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

GARBA: I formerly known as JAMILU ADAMU, D.O.B 01/01/1996 now wish to be known and addressed as BILYAMINU GARBA, D.O.B 01/01/2004. All former documents bearing former names remain valid.All concern authorities and general public should take note

GABRIEL : I formerly known as MAGRET GABRIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as MAGRET AYISA GABRIEL . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

RABIU : I formerly known as FATIMA RABIU , now wish to be known and addressed as FATIMA MOHAMMED RABIU . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

OZOH : I formerly known as CHUMA SANI OZOH, D.O.B,01/06/1998, now wish to be known and addressed as SANI MUSA OZOH, D.O.B,01/10/2002 . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

SYLVESTER: I formerly known as SYLVESTER SIMON, now wish to be known as ABAH SYLVESTER SIMON. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note

ELIZABETH: I formerly known as MISS. ELIZABETH BASHAM PETER, now wish to be known as MRS. JEPHTHAH ELIZABETH FRIDAY. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note

BECKY: I formerly known as HARUNA BECKY MANGAI, now wish to be known as DAVOU BECKY GIDEON. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note

MUIBI: I formerly known as OLADAPO MUIBI, now wish to be known as OLADAPO OLATOKE MUIBI. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note

WUNDOWE: I formerly known as LEO WUNDOWE FREDERICK, now wish to be known as IDI WUNDOWE FREDERICK. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note

UMAR: I formerly known as UMAR IBRAHIM, now wish to be call and address as IBRAHIM UMAR MUSTAPHA. All documents remain valid, general public should please take note

TOM: I formerly known as TOM MOHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as AISHA TOM MOHAMMED. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

PETER: I formerly known as CHINEDU PETER OKOR, now wish to be known and addressed as CHINEDU PETER ABRAHAM. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

ALI: I formerly known as ALH BABA GANA ALI, now wish to be known and addressed as BABA GANA ALI. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

ABDULHAMID: I formerly known as ZUWAIRA ABDULHAMID ABDULHAMID, now wish to be known as ZUWAIRA ABDULHAMID. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note.

ZAINAB: I formerly known as ZAINAB MUKTAR, now wish to be known as ZAINAB MUKTAR BADAMASI. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note

AKAWU: I formerly known as KURA SADA, now wish to be known as AKAWU AUWAL M. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note

I formerly known and addressed as FRANCIS JULIET NKECHI wish to be known and addressed as EZEORA JULIET NKECHI all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly known and addressed as ABDULLAHI MUAZU wish to be known and addressed as ABDULAZIZ MUAZU all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I, formerly known as MARYAM BARAZAKI, now whish to be known and addressed as BILKISU IBRAHIM, All former documents remain valid, General public and the authority concerned should take note

I formerly known and addressed as KHADIJA YAHAYYA wish to be known and addressed as HAUWAU DANLADI all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly known as SANUSI AUWAL AMINU now wish to be called and addressed as AMINU AUWALU SANUSI All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as UMAR MUHAMMAD,01-01-1996 now wish to be called and addressed as USMAN IBRAHIM GARBA ,16-01-2001 All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

. I formerly bear both Ishaq Ammani Ammani and Ishaq Abubakar. I therefore want to retain only Ishaq Ammani Abubakar. All former documents remain valid.

IBRAHIM: I formerly known as IBRAHIM IBRAHIM now wish to be called and addressed as IBRAHIM IBRAHIM HUDU All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

AMINU: I formerly known as AMINU USMAN UMAR now wish to be called and addressed as AMINU USMAN All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

Classifieds made easy

CHUKWUEMEKA: I formerly known as EZEKIEL JUDITH now wish to be called and addressed as CHUKWUEMEKA OGECHI JUDITH. All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as UMMAHANI HUSSAIN ADO now wish to be called and addressed as UMMAHANI ADO HUSSAIN. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note DOB 05/03/1982

I formerly known as MATO IRO now wish to be called and addressed SALIM BUKHARI All former documents remain valid Authorities concerns and general public should take to note

CYNTHIA: I Formerly known as DIWAH AHMADU UBALE Now wish to be called and addressed as CYNTHIA AHMADU UBALE All Former documents remain valid Any Authority concern and the General public to please take note

SHOK: I, formerly known as ANDREW BEGE SHEBI , now wish to be known and called SHOK ANDREW SAIDU.All former documents remain valid.The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

ADELAKIN: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss DUROJAYE ADESIKE CHRISTIANAH. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs ADELAKIN ADESIKE CHRISTIANAH. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as DARAJA MUHAMMAD BOYI now wish to be known and addressed as HAJJARA ABUBAKAR TURMI all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly known as NASIBA IBRAHIM MAIBARGO now wish to be called and addressed as NASIBA ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

I formerly known as MUHAMMAD YAU now wish to be called and addressed MUHAMMAD MUHAMNAD YAU All former documents remain valid Authorities concerns and general public should take to note

REJOICE: I Formerly known as SARAH BULUS Now wish to be called and addressed as REJOICE SILAS All Former documents remain valid Any Authority concern and the General public to please take note

KINUM: I formerly known as LUKA BUSHI now wish to be called as KINUM AKAWEN all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note

OREKOYA: I, formerly known and addressed as IWEAKO ONYEDIKACHUKWU OGOCHUKWU . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as OREKOYA ONYEDIKACHUKWU JESSICA. All former documents remain valid. University of Nigeria Nsukka and General public please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as UMMA NASIRU MU'AZU now wish to be known and addressed as UMMI NASIR MU'AZ. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly known as AISHAT SULAIMAN now wish to be called and addressed as AISHA SULAIMAN ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

I formerly known as MUHAMMAD AMINU BUZU now wish to be called and addressed MUHAMMAD AMINU All former documents remain valid Authorities concerns and general public should take to note

AISHA: I Formerly known as RAKIYA LIMAN Now wish to be called and addressed as AISHA IDRIS All Former documents remain valid Any Authority concern and the General public to please take note

UMMULKULTHUM: I formerly known as UMMUKHULTHUM IBRAHIM now wish to be called as UMMULKULTHUM MAGAJI all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note

ONWUKA: I, formerly known and addressed as ONYINYECHI UCHENDU . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as ONWUKA ONYINYECHI UCHENDU. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

RABIU, I formerly known as RABIU MUHAMMAD KURA YARO now wish to be called and addressed as RABIU MUHAMMAD KURA ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as ISAH BELLO 6-5-85 now wish to be called and addressed as ISAH BELLO MUHAMMAD 6-5-93. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

I formerly known as ABUBAKAR MOHAMMED now wish to be called and addressed ABUBAKAR MAIDAMMA MUHAMMAD All former documents remain valid Authorities concerns and general public should take to note

IDRIS , I. FORMALY KNOWN AS MOHAMMED. IDIRIS NOW WISH TO BE CALLED AND. ADDRESSED AS MOHAMMED IDRIS ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

HASSAN: I, formerly known and addressed as HASSAN BOLAJI . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as HASSAN SHAKIRUDEEN BOLAJI. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

JOSEPH: I, formerly known and addressed as NWOKPO VALANTINE CHIBUEZE . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as JOSEPH VALENTINE CHIBUEZE. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

HAUWA : I formerly known and called HAUWA TUKUR now wish to be known and addressed as HAUWA HASSAN TUKUR. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

I formerly known as BINTA IBRAHIM ABBAS now wish to be called and addressed as FATIMA HASSAN ALIYU. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

ABDULLAHI, I formerly known as ABDULLAHI AUWAL now wish to be called and addressed as ABDULLAHI AUWAL BATURE. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

IDRIS: I formerly known as IDRIS YUSUF now wish to be called as IDRIS IDRIS KARAYE all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note

CONFIRMATION OF NAME SADIQ: I, formerly known and addressed as Mr. SADIKU KAZEEM . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mr. SADIQ KASSIM. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

AMZAT: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss OLADOSU KARIMAH BOLANLE . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs AMZAT KARIMAH BOLANLE. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

ZAHRA, I formerly known as ZARA MUSA ABUBAKAR now wish to be called and addressed as ZAHRA ABUBAKAR MUSA. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as HAUWA ABDULLAHI MURTALA now wish to be called and addressed as HAUWA LAWAN ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

I formerly known and addressed as BASHIR DISO wish to be known and addressed as BASHIR GARBA DISO all former documents remain valid general public should take note

BARA'ATU: Formerly known as BILKISU AHMED TANIMU now to be addressed as BARA'ATU DAHIRU . All former documents remain valid. The general public takes note.

AKINMADE: I, formerly known and addressed as AKONI GOODNESS ANUOLUWAPO . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as AKINMADE GOODNESS ANUOLUWAPO. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

AFOLAYAN: I, formerly known and addressed as MUSTAPHA RAHINA . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as AFOLAYAN RAHINA. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

HAUWAU, I formerly known as HAUWAU MUHAMMAD SOJA now wish to be called and addressed as HAUWAU SOJA MUHAMMAD . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as SHA'AIBATU MUSA now wish to be called and addressed as SHA'AIBATU ABDULKAREEM. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

: I formerly known and addressed as MUKTAR YUSUF AT. wish to be known and addressed as MUKTAR YUSUF all former documents remain valid general public should take note

HUSSAINA: I formerly known as HUSSAINA ISAH MURTALA now wish to be called as HUSSAINA ISAH DALO all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note

ABDULLATEEF: I, formerly known and addressed as ABDULATEEF IBRAHIM DAMILARE. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as ABDULLATEEF IBRAHIM OLUWADAMILARE. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

GLORIA: I, formerly known and addressed as GLORIA INNOCENT . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as GLORIA IYEOWOICHOFIE ABAH. All former documents remain valid. Authorities Concerned and General public please take note.

I formerly known as ASIYA ABDULLAHI now wish to be called and addressed as ASIYA BASHIR NASIR. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

I formerly known as IBRAHIM ALASAN now wish to be called and addressed as NURA ADAMU. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

SHALOM:I, formerly known as SHALOM AARON ASHIA, now wish to be known and addressed as SHALOM AARON.All former documents remain valid. Registrar of WASSCE, Kaduna Polytechnic and the general public to please take note

Confirmation of name: This is to inform the General public that HAMIDU MUSA ABDULLAHI and ABDULLAHI MOHAMMED referred to one and the same person, now wish to be known and called HAMIDU MUSA ABDULLAHI.All former documents remain valid.The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

AKINTOLU: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss AYODELE GBEMISOLA MOJISOLA . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs AKINTOLU GBEMISOLA MOJISOLA. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

ADEGBENJO: I, formerly known and addressed as BAMIGBADE TOMIWA OLATOPE . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as ADEGBENJO TOMIWA OLATOPE. All former documents remain valid. Authorities Concerned and General public please take note.

I formerly known as Hula Alhaji, Alhaji Maihula now wish to be called and addressed as UMAR IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

ALI, I formerly known as ALI ABACHA ALHAJI, now wish to be called and addressed as ALI ABATCHA ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

ISIYA: I, formerly known as LAWAL ABUBAKAR,now wish to be known and called ISIYA NURA. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

ANTENYI; I, formerly called and addressed as TONY FRANCIS ANTENYI wrongly born 27/11/1989 now wish to be addressed as ANTENYI FRANCIS correctly born 19/6/1995 with Mobile Phone 08127579951. All former documents remain valid. GTB and general public should take note

LADIPO-BABATUNDE: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss AYODELE OLOLADE HAMUDALAT . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs LADIPO-BABATUNDE OLOLADE HAMUDALAT. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

SHITTU: I, formerly known and addressed as OTITOJU OLUBUKOLA OLURONKE . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as SHITTU OLUWABUKOLA OLUWATOYIN. All former documents remain valid. Authorities Concerned and General public please take note.

I formerly known as ABDULLAHI ABUBAKAR now wish to be called and addressed as ABDULLAHI ABUBAKAR MAIRIGA. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

ABDULBASHIR, I formerly known as BASHIRU ABUBAKAR now wish to be called and addressed as ABDULBASHIR ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

MOHAMMED: I formerly known as MUHAMMAD KABIR ABDULHAMID,now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED KABIR WADA . All former documents remain valid.The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

EGORAH: I, formerly known as CHIOMA JACKLYN DURU, now wish to be known and addressed as EGORAH CHIOMA DURU.All former documents remain valid.The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

GBAJUMO: I, formerly known and addressed as Mrs ODUYEMI ABOSEDE ELIZABETH . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Ms GBAJUMO ELIZABETH. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

OKAIGBUAN : I, formerly known and addressed as OKAIGBUAN ANSWER ANUOLUWA, now wish to be known and addressed as OKAIGBUAN ANSWER SHINA. All documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

I formerly known as JAMILU YAHAYA 03/06/1985 now wish to be called and addressed as AHMAD SAMINU. DOB: 07/07/1999. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

I formerly known as Sulaiman Abdullahi 25/2 /1992 now wish to be called and addressed Abdullahi sulaiman Idris 7/9/1997 All former documents remain valid Authorities concerns and general public should take to note

HELEN: I formerly known as Miss HELEN OBIAGELI EZE now wish to be called as Mrs HELEN OBIAGELI IHESIABA all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note

DENNIS: I, formerly known as DENINI KAYE GOWON, now wish to be known and called DENNIS KAYE GOWON.All former documents remain valid.The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

OLUWASEUN: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss OLUWASEUN ONI JAYEOLA . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs OLUWASEUN CHRISTIANA SANNI. All former documents remain valid. Authorities Concerned and General public please take note.

ADEGOKE: I, formerly known as AJAYI OLUWASEYI COMFORT, now wish to be known and addressed as ADEGOKE OLUWASEYI COMFORT. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADDITION OF NAME My name was registered as MARCUS BONIFACE instead of MARKUS BONIFACE HARUNA. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as MARKUS BONIFACE HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

WILLIAMS : I was formerly known and addressed as FOLA-MOSAKU BOLUWATIFE OMOBONIKE, now to be known and addressed as WILLIAMS BOLUWATIFE OMOBONIKE. All former documents remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should take note.

LATEEF: I, formerly known and addressed as AWEDA KABIR LATEEF. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as LATEEF KABIR ADUAMIGBA. All former documents remain valid. Bank Authority and General public please take note.

ANIFOWOSHE: I, formerly known and addressed as RAHAMAN STEPHEN JOHNSON . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as ANIFOWOSHE STEPHEN JOHNSON. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Letter of Grant **Plot No. 40 File No. RES/2003/3802**, situated at K/Waika Quarters **RDKN 102**, bearing the name of **KABIRU SULAIMAN NASS** K/Waika Quarters Kano. All efforts made to trace the original Letter of Grant proved abortive. Members of the general public to note. If found please return to the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, ABUBAKAR ADAM 'M' of Sabon Pegi Area, Damaturu wish to inform the general public of the loss of his Original Grant of Right Occupancy of plot No. BO147139, Plot No. 27, BOTP/178 Abbaganaram layout, Borno state bearing the same named on his resident as Sabon pegi, Damaturu.

The said document was discovered burnt as result of the fire outbreak on his resident.
All effort to trace the aforesaid pieces of plot of land proved abortive. The Ministry of Land Maiduguri, Borno state and the general public should take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Letter of Grant **Plot No. 10 File No. RES/2001/5031**, situated at Kawo Quarters **RDKN 132**, bearing the name of **YAHAYA SHA'AIBU** Kawo Quarters Kano. All efforts made to trace the original Letter of Grant proved abortive. Members of the general public to note. If found please return to the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Letter of Grant Plot no. 288, File No.Res/87/2915/TP/UDB/130C/ situated at Gadon Kaya in Gwale Local Government Area Kano state belonging to Alh Umaru Allah ya Yarda Sold to Hamza Na IRO .All efforts made to trace same proved abortive. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Letter of Acknowledgment of a Property Covered by **File No. CON/RES/2020/270 (KNML 08034)** at Rijiyar Zaki Quarters in Ungogo local government of Kano state on 20th 5-2022. Belonging to **DR. ABUBAKAR BALA MUHAMMAD**. All efforts made to trace it proved abortive. Members of the general public to note. If found please return to the nearest police station.

FARMAWARE COMMUNITY NETWORK

The general public is hereby notified that the promoters of the above organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) under the Companies and Allied matters Act 2020 for registration as Incorporated Trustees.

TRUSTEES:
1. UBUR MARTIN AINGE
2. NIYANG ANGMUN SUZZY

OBJECTIVES:
1. TO ERADICATE POVERTY AMONG SMALLHOLDER FARMERS BY USING TECHNOLOGY AND PARTNERSHIPS TO ENABLE DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE, INPUTS, AND OTHER RESOURCES THAT OPTIMIZE PRODUCTIVITY, ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY, ELEVATE LIVING INCOME, AND IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS.
2. TO PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE BY FARMERS WITH A VIEW TO ADAPT AND MITIGATE THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.
3. TO EDUCATE AND STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, AGRIBUSINESS, AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES, LITERACY, RIGHT ISSUES, HEALTHY LIVING, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, WATER, HYGIENE, AND SANITATION, TO MAKE THE ACTIONABLE DECISIONS THAT LEAD TO IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS.

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

SIGNED:
UBUR MARTIN AINGE

ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN MINING ENGINEERS

This is to notify the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (Abuja) for registration under Part F of Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) 2020.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1. JACOB TITILOPE ADEYEMO
2. FRANK O. ODOOM
3. ZACHEUS OLANIYAN OPAFUNSO
4. SULEIMAN ABDULLAHI
5. ADEDEJI ABDULGHANI ADETUNJI
6. GARBA DANLAMI
7. MERCY A. EKE

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
(i) To promote, foster and develop the general advancement of practice relative to all aspects of mining engineering for the benefit of humankind.
(ii) To network with relevant organisations and stakeholders globally for sustainable and responsible mining.
(iii) To protect the interests and general welfare of its members through appropriate policy formulation and implementation.
(iv) To act as a veritable pressure group to influence government policies in favour of its members and general populace.
(v) To promote the public image of the mining and minerals industry.

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

SIGNED: SECRETARY

PRIME INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named foundation applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Head Quarters Abuja under the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020.

TRUSTEES:
1. MOHD ABDU DUTSE
2. HUSSAINA ABDULLAHI.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES:
TO PARTICIPATE/FACILITATE/ADVOCATE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY ACTIVITIES

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

Classifieds made easy

PUBLIC NOTICE

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JOLAOSHO-BARUWA : I was formerly known and addressed as YUSUF MORIAM OMOTOKE, now to be known and addressed as JOLAOSHO-BARUWA MORIAM OMOTOKE. All former documents remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should take note.

ADEMAKINWA : I was formerly known and addressed as OGUNYEMI AISHAT OLUWAKEMI, now to be known and addressed as ADEMAKINWA AISHAT OMOLAYO. All former documents remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should take note.

RE-ARRANGEMENT/CORRECTION OF NAME I, AYENI SALAMOTU OPEYEMI. That my name was wrongly arranged as AYENI OPEYEMI SALAMOTU instead of AYENI SALAMOTU OPEYEMI. That on my Bank Account details my name was wrongly written as AYENI SALA OPE instead of AYENI SALAMOTU OPEYEMI. That this affidavit is to confirm my correct name as AYENI SALAMOTU OPEYEMI. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

I, AYODELE TAYE OLUWABUKOLA. That I am the Biological Mother of AYODELE TEMITOPE EMMANUEL. That he was formerly called, known and addressed as ATAIKU EMMANUEL. That I now want his name to be called, known and addressed as AYODELE TEMITOPE EMMANUEL. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

ONUKAFOR: I, formerly known and addressed as GODSON GODTIME JEMMIAH . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as ONUKAFOR OGECHI GODSTIME. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

OLORUNFEMI: I, formerly known and addressed as OLORUNFEMI HELEN FOLASHADE . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as OLORUNFEMI HELEN MOSUNMOLA. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

CORRECTION /ADDITION OF NAME I, DEHUMO ESTHER OLUFUNMILAYO MAUSI. That on my Bank Account Details my name was wrongly written as DEHUMO ESTHER FUNMILAYO instead of DEHUMO ESTHER OLUFUNMILAYO MAUSI. That I confirm my correct name is DEHUMO ESTHER OLUFUNMILAYO MAUSI. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

KEHINDE: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss FAGBERO ABOSEDE . Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs KEHINDE ABOSEDE. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

SHAHIDA : I formerly known as ADAMU SHAHIDA ABDULLAHI now wish to be known as SHAHIDA SANI. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, ALHAJI IBRAHIM MARU do solemnly declare that: The names ALHAJI IBRAHIM MARU and MARU MALLAM IBRAHIM are referred to me, as i used to answer either of the names. Now i wish to be known and called ALHAJI IBRAHIM MARU with 14/05/1989 as D.O.B. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

MARYAM I formally known as MARYAM YUSUF, that I now wish to be call and address as MARYAM HAMZA. Henceforth, all my former documents remain valid. I want all authorities concern to take note.

ALIYU: I formerly known as ALIYU NEDALNI DZIVAMA, now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU NEDALNI MODA DZIVAMA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ABBA I formerly known as ABBA SADA DIKKO now wish to be called and addressed as ABBA DIKKO SADA. All former document remain valid. Authority concern and general public to take note.

FATI: I formerly known as FATI BUKAR BUNU now wish to be known as FATI BUNU. All former document remain valid. General public should take note.

BELAU: I formerly known as BELA'U SHEHU now wish to be known and addressed as BELA'U MOHAMMED. All former documents remain valid authorities concerned and general public should take note.

ZAINAB I formerly known and addressed as ZAINAB ANFADA MOHAMMED now wish to be known and addressed as ZAINAB MOHAMMED ANFADA All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

MUHAMMAD I formerly known and addressed as MOHAMMED SALISU now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD SALISU All former documents remain valid DOB 07/01/1995 to 01/01/2000 All concern and authority General public should please take note.

ABUBAKAR I formerly known and addressed as ABUBAKAER BABA now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR BABA All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

SALEH: I formerly known as BUKAR ALHAJI BUKAR, With DOB 30/12/1999, now wish to be known as SALEH BUKAR. All former document remain valid. With DOB 08/10/2002 General public should take note.

MUHAMMAD: I formerly known as MOHAMMED WAZIRI HAMMA now wish to be known as MUHAMMAD WAZIRI HAMMA. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

LADIDI I formerly known and addressed as LADIDI MOHAMMED ADO now wish to be known and addressed as LADIDI ADO All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

MUHAMMED I formerly known and addressed as MOHAMMED MOHAMMED now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMED MUHAMMED ZANNA All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

MUHAMMAD I formerly known and addressed as SANI ALHAJI JAURO now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD ALHAJI JAURO All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

ADAM: I, formerly known as AMINA TIJJANI BAKO ABUBAKAR, now wish to be known and addressed as AMINA TIJJANI ADAM . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

ZAINAB: I, formerly known as ZAINAB TIJJANI BAKO, now wish to be known and addressed as ZAINAB TIJJANI ADAM . All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

YAHAYA I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR JIBRIN now wish to be known and addressed as YAHAYA MOHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

. IBRAHIM: I formerly known as IBRAHIM YUSIF now wish to be known as YUSUF. IBRAHIM. SULAIMAN All former documents remain valid Authority concerned and general public should please take note

TIJJANI: I formerly known as. BELLO. MUSA now wish to be known as ABUBAKAR. TIJJANI All former documents remain valid Authority concerned and general public should please take note

SHATU: I formerly known as SHATU. ABDULLAHU now wish to be known as SHATU DAUDA All former documents remain valid Authority concerned and general public should please take note

CLEMENT: I formerly known as FAVOUR DENNIS now wish to be known as CLEMENT FAVOUR. DENNIS All former documents remain valid Authority concerned and general public should please take note

KOLOMI : I formerly known as MADAMA MUSTAPHA now wish to be known as KOLOMI MUSTAPHA MADAMA. With D O B 03/4/1987. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

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SALEH: I formerly known as SALEH HASSAN, now wish to be known as SALEH ABDULSALAM. All former document remain valid. General public should take note.

I, LUCKY ISAAC NWAJAH do solemnly declare that: The names LUCKY ISAAC NWAJAH and ISAAC LUKY are referred to me, as i used to answer either of the names. Now i wish to be known and called LUCKY ISAAC NWAJAH. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

. MAI I, formerly known as USMAN YAKUBU now wish to be known and called MAI GANA FANTAMI. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

MRS. IGBINOVIA = I, formerly known as MISS. EBONG, SIFON EMEM. Now wish to be known as MRS. IGBINOVIA , SIFON MARTIN . All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

FRIDAY = I, formerly known as EDEM HARRIET HASSAN. Now wish to be known as FRIDAY QUEEN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

MRS. HANSON = I, formerly known as MISS. OBI PRINCESS CHINWE. Now wish to be known as MRS. HANSON PRINCESS CHINWE All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

VERACIOUS: I, was formerly known called and addressed as MISS. VERACIOUS UCHECHI NNOKA, now wish to be known called and addressed as MRS. VERACIOUS UCHECHI CHUKUNDAH. All documents bearing my former name remains valid general public should take note.

FAITH I, formerly known as *FAITH UJUNWA ONUH*. Now wish to be known as *FAITH OBIANUJU ONU*, and my date of birth was wrongly written as 2nd January, 1990 instead of 2nd February, 1984. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

IZUCHUKWU: I, formerly known and addressed as EKEH KENNETH, now wish to be known and addressed as EKEH KENNETH IZUCHUKWU. All documents bearing my former still remain valid. General public please take note.

CHUKWU: I, formerly known and addressed as DIM CHIAMAKA LILIAN, Now wish to be known and addressed as CHUKWU CHIAMAKA LILIAN. All documents bearing my name still remain valid. General public please take note

WONDER: I, formerly known, called and addressed as Oluchi Comfort Israel, now wish to be addressed as OLUCHI ISRAEL WONDER. All documents bearing former name still remain valid. Banks, schools and general public take note.

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known, called and addressed as DIRI EVA DIMABO, BRIGGS FRANKBA EVA, now wish to add my names together so as to reflect and tally with my documents. That my full and correct name is DIRI EVA DIMABO FRANKBA BRIGGS. All documents bearing my former name remain valid general public should take note.

MRS. NWOGA: I, formerly known and addressed as MISS EZE UGOCHI IMMACULATA, now wish to be called and addressed as MRS. NWOGA UGOCHI IMMACULATA. All former documents remain valid. Roseville Primary School, Enugu (Project of Ugbuazu Foundation), Fidelity Bank, Stanbic Bank and Pal Pension, please note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAME: That my name was captured on (WAEC) as MAKATAA, STEPHEN IFEANYI , captured as MAKATA STEPHEN IFEANYICHU on my (NECO) and captured as MAKATA IFEANYICHUKWU STEPHEN on (NYSC), now wish to be known and addressed as MAKATA, STEPHEN IFEANYICHUKU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as SADIYA TASI U, Now wish to be known and addressed as SADIYA MAMUDA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as FATIMA LAWAL now wish to be known and addressed as FATIMA ABUBAKAR With D.O.B 01/01/1962.All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as ADAMU GAZALI With D.O.B 14/12/1987 now wish to be known and addressed as GAZALI ADAMU UMAR With D.O.B 26/04/1996. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

. I, formerly known as HADIZA ABUBAKAR now wish to be known and addressed as HADIZA UMAR. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as BASHIR GARO now wish to be known and addressed as BASHIR SALISU GARO. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

Requirement for Change of Name Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SPORTS

Office: National Stadium, Surulere, P.O. Box 145, Lagos.
For further enquiries call: 08023034630, 08033859591

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Signed
ADENEYE, M. A.
REGISTRAR

SPORT



■ President Muhammadu Buhari flanked by the sports minister, Sunday Dare (L); chairman, Presidential Committee on 10-year Football Development Masterplan, Ibrahim Galadima and NFF's second Vice President, Barr Seyi Akinwunmi during the submission of the masterplan yesterday

Pinnick's NFF received N15bn in 7 years – Dare

. . . as Buhari declares football a national asset

By Jide Olusola and Muideen Olaniyi

The Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare has revealed that the federal government has given the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) fifteen billion naira (N15bn) since 2015.

He made this known while submitting the 10-year Football Development Master plan to President Muhammadu Buhari at the Aso Rock Villa, yesterday.

In his remarks, the sports minister announced that the Buhari-led administration has disbursed over N15 billion to the NFF through budgetary appropriations and Presidential interventions in the last seven years.

In the same vein, Buhari described football as ''Our passion and a major tool for unity", saying it was the responsibility of the government to safeguard the sport, which had brought Nigeria many laurels.

''We have seen attempts to disrespect and undermine the institutions supervising our sports. We have seen attempts to subjugate national interest for narrow interest or disrespect the laws of Nigeria. Nigeria will not take lightly any attempt to inflict injury on its football fortunes," he said in a statement issued by his spokesman, Femi Adesina.

President Buhari, who spelt out his expectations from the two-volume report, directed the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to commence its implementation in phases, within the fine lines of relevant sections of the Nigerian laws on sports development and the statutes of the world soccer governing body, FIFA.

He expressed happiness that the Nigeria Football 10-Year Masterplan (2022-2032) identified 15 key areas of challenge and provided practical recommendations to address these fundamental problems that had bedeviled football development in the country.

''This government is interested in developing a football culture that will accommodate global best practices that will also help the nation to lay a solid foundation for her domestic football, put in place professionally and efficiently run leagues, entrench a consistent and stable football calendar and create a value chain which will boost the sports ecosystem."

Tinubu, Atiku, others to feature in Keffi polo tournament — Wadada

APC and PDP Presidential Candidates, Sen. Bola Tinubu and ex-Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar, respectively, are expected to feature in the forthcoming National Unity Polo Tournament, in Keffi, Nasarawa State.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the four-day event is being organised by Keffi Polo Ranch, supported by Heritage Bank.

Founder and promoter of the Ranch, Mr Ahmed Wadada explained that the tournament scheduled to hold from Sept. 8 to 11, would serve as a veritable platform that will deepen understanding among the presidential candidates of all the political parties and their running mates.

This, Wadada said, was with a view to ensuring rancour-free campaigns for the 2023 general elections.

The tournament will bring together presidential flag bearers of all the political parties and other political gladiators across the country.

"I have reached out to Tinubu and Atiku and they have promised to participate alongside their running mates.

"We have also extended invitation to the Labour Party's Presidential Candidate, Mr. Peter Obi, the Presidential candidate of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Sen. Rabiu Kwankwaso, and the Presidential candidate of Action Alliance (AA), retired Maj. Hamza Al-Mustapha.

Algeria 2023: Onazi backs Eagles B to overpower Ghana's Galaxies



Nigeria's World Cup midfield star, Eddy Ogenyi Onazi is fully backing the Super Eagles B to overwhelm the Black Galaxies of Ghana when both teams clash for a spot at the 7th African Nations Championship coming up in Algeria early next year.

Onazi, who enjoyed quality training time with the 2018 CHAN runners-up in Abuja says he is comfortable with the quality of players and their fitness, as well as the quality of the coaching crew.

He said: "I think the coaches have put together a very strong team that is capable of nicking the ticket at the expense of Ghana. I have seen the players are very fit and good enough to make Nigeria proud. I know Coach Salisu Yusuf is well-informed in the domestic league and has assembled the best players in the league, and I can also see that the other members of the technical crew are positioned to help the Head Coach."

The former Lazio player featured in the team's first friendly match against Mahanaim FC, in which the Eagles came from two goals down to win 3-2.

"It was a very good test for the Eagles. They are preparing for a very big game and I liked the level of the game. We had to fight back to win," he said about the game.

Onazi is warming up in Abuja for another club outside the country.

"I am actually here to collect my passport to travel and then I heard the team was training here. I like the opportunity to train at this high level and so I grabbed it. It is the best way to stay fit."

The Eagles B have continued their build-up for the matches against the Galaxies of Ghana billed for Sunday, 28th August in Cape Coast and Saturday, 3rd September in Abuja. The winner on aggregate will qualify for Algeria 2023.

Former NFF scribe, Amadu presents 22-point agenda to rescue Nigerian football

By Jide Olusola



A Nigeria Football Federation presidential aspirant, Barr Musa Amadu has presented his 22-point agenda aimed at restoring Nigeria's lost football glory.

The former General Secretary during the world press conference held yesterday in Abuja while announcing his intention to succeed the outgoing president, Amaju Pinnick, said he wants "To bring back the glory triumphant days of Nigeria football in terms of global and continental silverware while earning the respect and regard of the international community through actions and performances on the pitch.

With his campaign slogan, 'Getting It Right '22', Amadu said he would give life-defining experiences that will be unforgettable.

He said he would go to the grassroots, work closely with the State Football Associations, and unearth the best talent in the game and give them a future as well as work closely with the State FAs to enhance the principle of sport and fitness in the schools, finding the best talents not only on the playing field but also in all other areas of football management and operations.

He also said he seeks to see Nigeria become the best African nation on the FIFA rankings, winning trophies as well as off the pitch while setting up an Elite Advisory Board that will comprise all past chairmen, presidents and general secretaries of the old NFA and the current NFF.

"My focus is not on what is wrong as my focus is on what we can do to make it right. We want to build an image of Nigerian football that will make Nigerians proud anywhere in the world. We want to create job opportunities that will take people off the streets and empower every sector of the society," he said.

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BEYOND THE SURFACE

with
Gimba Kakanda
misterkakanda@yahoo.com

The Shettima challenge

The Nigerian is that person who laughs even in a funeral house and at his tragedy. Such dark humour has to be his coping mechanism because it plays out even where he's expected to appear contemplative. It's even more so when the source of their jokes is inspired by a hilarious event, and Senator Kashim Shettima's unusual dress sense at the ongoing NBA Conference, a three-piece suit worn with Converse sneakers, has sparked a mimicry trend on which even his party's campaign spokesman, Mr. Festus Keyamo, has jumped.

This is the scrutiny to which the senator must be used in the race to Aso Rock. This won't just be his life as an aspiring co-pilot in flying 200 million people to higher altitudes, but also in withstanding their bile and humour. And there's nothing peculiar in the backlash sparked by his outing at the Eko Hotel, Lagos, this week. It's a fashion style caricatured even in the headquarters of Western values from someone with his public profile.

When, as Vice President-elect of the United States in early January, Kamala Harris appeared on the cover of Vogue magazine wearing a suit with Converse sneakers she was fiercely ridiculed on social media, and the disapproval was massive and crude. The magazine had to suspend the cover idea, settling for an image of her in a formal suit that, according to the critics, wasn't disrespectful to the office she's waiting to occupy. Her team too was alarmed because the photograph wasn't their favourite—or perhaps that's just to calm the media storm.

The then US President Barack Obama also drew the ire of a section of his countrymen in 2014 when he appeared on live TV to hold a press conference wearing a tan suit, which, to his critics, was too casual wear and unpresidential. The partisan camp believed that the choice of suit belittled his office and the gravity of the topic addressed—the American military's anti-ISIS campaign in Syria. For the vocal Democrats, though, it was a non-issue, "a slow-news day" and they dismissed it as another Republican obsession with the trivial.

Shettima couldn't have been unaware of the expectations and even the absurdities of the profession he's chosen, and the dress style that triggered the trending Shettima Challenge is inescapable in being held to a higher standard. This is democracy at work. Only that this annual conference of lawyers by the Nigerian Bar Association was intended to spark conversations around the question of the 2023 presidential election. That some treat it as a fashion show, preferring to scandalise his dress style instead of interrogating the invited politicians' diverse ideas at the event, is a miscalculated sabotage of national dialogues.

Unfortunately, the fashion policing has evolved into a predictable opportunity to mischaracterise Shettima, damning the eloquence and perspicacity of his views as a representative of his principal at the conference. Even the ideas of other candidates have been drowned by this aim. The most mischievous has to be the recurring political marketing catchphrase, which is a curious agenda to portray him—a top bank executive, two-time governor, five-time commissioner, and now senator—as inexperienced to run a country. "Vote Tinubu, Think Shettima" has been serially dispensed by the hostile political camp to warn about the risk of having the running mate of APC's presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in the vicinity of the seat of power—and the sentiment they set out to stir is ambiguous and ridiculous.

The first sentiment, which is an attempt to question Shettima's capability, defies the logic fiercely advertised by the same character—the yearning that the nation's leader must, at least, hold a qualification above a secondary school certificate. This was deployed to drive the image crisis that has haunted Buhari since he registered his interest to run for office and was characterised as illiterate despite rising to the rank of a Major-General in the Nigerian Army and despite, of course, having previously served as military Head of State 30 years before his second coming in plainclothes.

With his bachelor's and master's degrees in Agricultural Economics, Shettima has escaped every objective bid to be painted in Buhari's academic hue, even though the partisan urge to minimalise his education too seems obvious. Perhaps, then, the catchphrase was intended to gloss over his career history, which again is an untenable bid.

With his bachelor's and master's degrees in Agricultural Economics, Shettima has escaped every objective bid to be painted in Buhari's academic hue, even though the partisan urge to minimalise his education too seems obvious. Perhaps, then, the catchphrase was intended to gloss over his career history, which again is an untenable bid.

Having risen fast through the ranks to become a General Manager at Zenith Bank, one of the most successful financial institutions in the country, and left to head, first, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in Borno State Government, and then the ministries of Local Governments and Chieftaincy Affairs, Education, Agriculture and, finally, Health, under the then Borno Governor Ali Modu Sheriff, it's going to be a difficult job to force him into the box being designed by the opposing partisans.

The second interpretation of the catchphrase is reminiscent of the scaremongering before Buhari's election in 2023. The contesting Buhari was marketed as bound for death in the high office and the irony now stares everyone in the face. The then Governor of Ekiti State, Ayo Fayose, in one of his bursts of toxic politics, sponsored death-wishing adverts on the front page of national newspapers with the photographs of Nigerian presidents who died in office published to hint about a lingering repeat of a state-house funeral.

Five years later, fate would have Buhari condoling with Fayose for the loss of his "immediate elder sister, Mrs. Moji Ladeji." A benign Fayose, perhaps after learning was that episode, was seen patronising Tinubu when he shared their photograph on Twitter on October 12, 2021, to say, "Today, I was at Bourdillon to wish Asiwaju Bola Tinubu soonest recovery. Health issues know no political party and in this part of the world, we seldom celebrate people when they are alive. Rather, we like to sign condolence registers. To me, that is not the best way to live."

On the eve of the APC presidential primaries, Fayose also shared a statement to say that "I equally read the reactions of your political allies both in the North and in the South," adding "The reactions gave me great cause for concern for you and your life. Again, I see danger! (sic)."He cited the antecedents of other Yoruba national figures who died in their bids to run for office, weaving a conspiracy theory that Tinubu was being targeted.

The danger of dirty politics or obsessing with the trivial is losing our focus to ask the questions that matter, and scrutinise every ticket objectively. There are a thousand and one issues to raise in de-marketing or marketing the Tinubu - Shettima ticket, but the running mate's competence isn't one of them. After managing a terrorist-ravaged state, a first-rate commercial bank, and pivotal state ministries in his state, warning Nigerians to be wary of the senator is even more trivial than the trending challenge.

SPORT REPORT

Wimbledon fan to take legal action against Kyrgios



■ Nick Kyrgios

A fan who Nick Kyrgios said was "drunk out of her mind" during the Wimbledon final is taking legal action against the Australian tennis player.

Kyrgios, who lost the final to Novak Djokovic in July, said the woman looked "like she has had about 700 drinks" as he complained to the umpire about her.

Anna Palus has now instructed solicitors to bring defamation proceedings against Kyrgios.

She accuses Kyrgios of a "reckless and entirely baseless allegation".

Kyrgios, the world number 26, reached his first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon and is preparing to play at the US Open, which starts in New York next week.

Liverpool's Keita facing further spell on sidelines



■ Naby Keita

Liverpool have suffered a fresh injury blow with midfielder Naby Keita facing a further spell on the sidelines.

Keita is yet to feature this season having been ill for the league opener at Fulham and an unused substitute against Crystal Palace last week.

The 27-year-old's absence compounds Klopp's selection problems with Curtis Jones, Ibrahim Konate, Joel Matip, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Diogo Jota, Thiago Alcantara, Calvin Ramsay and Caoimhin Kelleher all sidelined through injury.

The Reds are yet to win in the Premier League with the 2-1 loss at Old Trafford leaving Klopp's side with just two points from three games.

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