

STILL IN CAPTIVITY ▶ 11 SCHOOLGIRLS OF FGC, BIRNIN YAURI **571 DAYS** 1 STUDENT OF BETHEL BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL, KUJAMA **543 DAYS**

ENCOUNTER



Sefiyat Owuri: Mum of 3 blazing the trail academically

Page 10 >>>

NEWS

Appeal Court reinstates Lawal as Zamfara PDP guber candidate

Page 8 >>>

PROMOTIONAL

We'll make you job creators, not seekers, Tinubu assures Nigerian youths



Story on Page 8 >>>

14 years after:

Govt has no direction on Boko Haram leader's enclave

- Keep his belongings as lesson for future — Dons
- Thieves, drug addicts flock neighbourhood
- We monitor area, make arrests — Police




■ Baba Usman Mele pointing at four bedrooms flat of Mohammed Yusuf's family, where the criminals smoke indian hemp

Page 6 >>>

ENTERTAINMENT

Artistes, albums, movies to look out for in 2023

Page 13 >>>



Doctors on edge over attacks by patients' relatives

- 1 killed in Delta, many assaulted in Kwara, Ogun
- Authorities mull armed security in health facilities
- NMA links trend to brain drain

Pages 4 >>>

SPORTS

Major sporting contests for Team Nigeria in 2023

Page 19 >>>

FEATURE

Bauchi highway markets endanger lives

Page 26 >>>



63 days to poll: Who succeeds Ortom in Benue? Page 25 >>>

QUOTE UNQUOTE

Every family is dysfunctional, whether you want to admit it or not.

— Shailene Woodley



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Just because something is familiar, doesn't mean it's safe. And just because something feels safe, doesn't mean it's good for you

— Brittany Burgunder



PHOTO OF THE DAY



■ Harbin, China
Siberian tigers are fed by visitors from a bus at a tiger park

Photo: Héctor Retamal/AFP/Getty Images

PRAYER TIMES

City	Fajr	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Ishah
ABUJA	5:32	12:40	3:54	6:25	7:30
ENUGU	5:32	12:41	3:55	6:26	7:31
KADUNA	5:35	12:41	3:55	6:23	7:28
KANO	5:34	12:36	3:50	6:14	7:21
KATSINA	5:39	12:40	3:54	6:19	7:24
LAGOS	5:49	12:58	4:12	6:44	7:49
MAIDUGURI	5:17	12:19	3:33	5:59	7:04
P/HARCOURT	5:32	12:44	3:58	6:30	7:35
SOKOTO	5:48	12:48	4:02	6:30	7:35

Source: Islamic Research and Timing Organisation, Kaduna.

WEATHER

STATES	DAY	NIGHT
Abuja	37	20
Kaduna	33	15
Kano	30	11
Katsina	31	13
Maiduguri	31	12
Jos	28	12
Ibadan	37	20
Enugu	38	19
Port-Harcourt	32	18
Lagos	34	23

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Lagosians react 4 months after Okada ban



■ Cross section of okada riders

Yvonne Ugwuezuoha, Lagos

Four months into the ban of commercial motorcycle (Okada) operations in 10 LGAs and 15 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) by the Lagos State government, residents have expressed their feelings on the action.

While some of the residents have commended the development as it has helped to curb road accidents, others expressed displeasure about the difficulties the development has brought in commuting daily.

The ban has witnessed stricter enforcement than previous ones which were often relaxed after a few weeks.

However, some Okada riders still ply the restricted areas under difficult circumstances which have led to cases of clashes with security operatives.

During a seven-day warning strike embarked upon by Lagos commercial bus drivers under the aegis of the Joint Drivers Association of Nigeria (JDWAN) to protest against extortion by officials of the Lagos State Parks and Garages Management, it was observed that the Okada riders were permitted to operate in some of the restricted areas without harassment by security operatives.

A commuter in Oke-Aro, Ogun State, who works in Apapa, Lagos, Martins Egbadon, who noted that plied the road every day, connecting through Iju-Ishaga to Oshodi-Apapa, commended the development, saying it had reduced road accidents.

He said, "In a way it is a good development because those riders ride recklessly. I know what I see along the Agege to Ikeja axis; different kinds of motorcycle accidents. If you even tell them to drive carefully, that is when they intensify the rough riding. Today, the accident rate has reduced."

"On the other hand, it is not a good development because roads are being

constructed in every part of Lagos and this is causing serious traffic."

Damola, an entrepreneur who plies the road from Ikotun to Mushin, where he buys materials for shoe production, said the ban made him spend longer hours on the road.

He said, "I go to Mushin from Ikotun at least three times a week to buy materials. I spent N1,000 on Okada going and coming with a maximum of 40 minutes on the road. Since the ban, I have spent the same amount, with two to three hours on the road; depending on how heavy the traffic is. We usually board motorcycles because of traffic, which is usually as a result of the bad roads and impatience."

Mercy Amaechi, a makeup artist who resides in Alaba but has most of her clients on Lagos Island, said the ban often made her go late for appointments.

She noted that in her area the traffic was mostly caused by trailers heading to Badagry.

She said, "I don't really like sitting in commercial buses because of the discomfort, holdup and stress that come with it. Okada is expensive but it's the fastest means of transport here in Lagos," adding that, "Also, as a makeup artist, when I have jobs, I have loads to carry and carrying them into a commercial bus is risky. Conductors don't handle my bags with care which can damage my products and equipment. The only alternative is using a taxi which is very expensive."

A resident of Ikorodu, Ayobami Okerinde, said, "Lagos is synonymous with heavy traffic, and Okada has been the fastest way to move considering 8am as the resumption time in most places of work."

"The effect has made people leave their homes very early, putting them at risk of attacks and robbery. Also, the prices of bus fare have skyrocketed over the last few months of the ban. People now have to pay more and up to 100 per cent of what they paid earlier, and most people now have to trek."

Oluwaferanmi Caleb lamented on the amount of hours he spends going to work in the morning and returning home in the evening alongside the extra cost incurred due to traffic jam.

He said, "People have to go to work and go home. Since Okada has been banned, we now have more people struggling for buses at bus stops. In an area like mine, booking Uber is even out of the question because the fee is as high as N10,000 for one trip."

"Even when I leave my home around 5:30am or 6am, I still get to work late depending on the traffic situation. In the last five months, I spent almost N4,000 daily on transportation from Mainland to Island, feeding not inclusive. I also get to work late because there are no bikes to manoeuvre the traffic."

"The effect has made people leave their homes very early, putting them at risk of attacks and robbery. Also, the prices of bus fare have skyrocketed over the last few months of the ban. People now have to pay more and up to 100 per cent of what they paid earlier, and most people now have to trek."

NUMBERS

COMPILED BY Abbas Jimoh

166 People that died in 867 fire incidents with N358m worth property destroyed in Kano State in 2022

1.3trn Naira 12.792m consumers paid for electricity to 11 DisCos in 23 months (November 2020 to September 2022)

21.83trn Naira 2023 budget President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law

250 Beneficiaries of a free medical services by a serving lawmaker in a Nasarawa State constituency

Infographics KEHINDE O. OMOTOSHO

WHOSAIDWHAT?

IN THE NEWS

Compiled by Abbas Jimoh

"It is our responsibility as custodians of extant rules and policies to continue to provide professional and ethical counsel to our political leaderships in a manner that would ensure the stability of the service and sustain the confidence the executive and other arms of government have reposed in the service."

— Dr Folasade Yemi-Esan
Head of Civil Service of the Federation



"We charge EFCC and ICPC to ensure that all efforts by politicians to buy votes during 2023 general elections, beginning from February, were unsuccessful in line with presidential directive to all security to ensure free, fair and credible elections this year."

— Chief Willy Ezugwu
Conference of Nigeria Political Parties Secretary General



Doctors on edge over attacks by patients' relatives

- 1 killed in Delta, many assaulted in Kwara, Ogun
- Authorities mull armed security in health facilities
- NMA links trend to brain drain

Attacks on medical doctors and other healthcare service providers by relatives of patients who die in hospitals have become prevalent. Cases in Kwara, Ogun and the recent incident that claimed the life of a doctor in Delta State have become a source of concern for the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA).



■ Minister of health, Dr Osagie Ehanire



■ Late Dr Uyi Iluobe



■ NMA President, Dr Uche Ojinmah

Mumini Abdulkareem (Ilorin), Peter Moses (Abeokuta) and Meluwa Kelvin (Asaba)

Even though stories of many medical doctors found wanting in the discharge of their duties which led to tragedies such as death or permanent incapacitation of patients are not new, recent happenings have also put the doctors on edge as families who suspect foul play react violently.

As such, managements of hospitals are considering stationing armed security operatives as part of efforts to safeguard the lives of healthcare providers, specifically doctors, who face increasing attacks by relatives of patients.

Coming amid increased shortage of doctors due to brain drain, the attacks have worsened the plight of doctors in various hospitals who say they are overwhelmed by workload amid poor remuneration, as well as poor or inadequate facilities.

Daily Trust Saturday reports that instances of assault on doctors took a new dimension when the NMA recently confirmed the killing of its member, Dr Uyi Iluobe, by relatives of his patient at a hospital in Oghara, Delta State, on New Year's Eve. Dr Iluobe was shot dead allegedly by the relatives of a patient who died of a gunshot wound in the hospital, even though the Delta State Police Command dismissed the allegation. The command's

spokesman, Bright Edafe, said the crime was committed by cultists, a conclusion the NMA in Delta State described as "worrisome", especially since it accused the police of failure to interview the nurses who witnessed the incident.

However, the incident in Delta has forced hospital managements to consider more stringent security measures to protect health workers, with the NMA in Kwara State suggesting the deployment of armed security men at hospitals. The state has witnessed several attacks on doctors by relatives of patients who die in hospitals, with the latest incident forcing doctors to commence a five-day strike to protest the attacks.

The death of a blood cancer patient, Alhaji Saliu Elekuro, at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH) had led to an assault on a doctor by the deceased's son who accused him of nonchalance to his father's condition. UITH's management subsequently denied access to the corpse in protest and arrested the son.

Daily Trust Saturday reports that the corpse was released a day later after the intervention of influential Kwarans from the traditional institution.

The President of the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD) in UITH, Dr Mubaraq Ijaiya, therefore, called for armed security personnel at all emergency points within the hospital for the safety of their lives.

He also suggested the provision of posters and banners in the hospital to discourage any form of assault on health workers.

Speaking on the incident, the Head, Corporate Affairs Unit of UITH, Mrs Elizabeth Ajiboye, said the patient in question was presented late with severe complications, adding that health workers on duty swung into action but that the patient had started convulsing.

She said, "He was then stabilised, prompting the doctors to take over another case requiring emergency attention."

She explained that when the patient later died, three of his relatives pounced on one of the doctors and pinned him to the wall while punching him severely before he escaped.

She noted that there had been similar instances that led to serious injuries on healthcare givers, adding that the hospital's management would no longer tolerate any of such harassment and assault.

In Ogun State, two cases of assault on medical workers at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Idi-Aba, Abeokuta, were recorded in December, 2022. In one of the cases, one Ayodele Falomo (56) and his son, Ayoola Falomo (23) assaulted a female doctor, Pelumi Somorin, and a nurse following the death of his 53-year-old wife at the emergency ward of the hospital.

It was learnt that father and son descended on the medical workers

when they were informed that the 53-year-old woman was dead.

Following the attack, father and son were arrested and arraigned the following day before an Abeokuta magistrates' court on a two-count charge of conspiracy and assault. The defendants pleaded not guilty and were granted bail till February 16, 2023.

But just before the dust settled on the incident, a female patient's

The death of a blood cancer patient, Alhaji Saliu Elekuro, at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH) had led to an assault on a doctor by the deceased's son who accused him of nonchalance to his father's condition. UITH's management subsequently denied access to the corpse in protest and arrested the son.

relative attacked a medical worker after she died at the same hospital.

When contacted, spokesman of the FMC, Segun Orisajo, told *Daily Trust Saturday* that the management had put in additional measures to forestall attacks on its medical workers.

He said the management had resolved to involve security agents in the arrest of any relative caught in the act.

NMA links attacks to brain drain

The Kwara State Chairman of NMA, Dr Ola Ahmed, said the association recorded physical and verbal attacks on its members on a weekly basis, stressing that there had been several engagements and letters written to the hospitals' board and the state government without any "remarkable improvement."

Ahmed said the attacks were causing psychological trauma to his members.

He said, "Posting security operatives to hospitals is not ideal because people should be free to enter the hospital. But if our lives are in danger, then we will have no choice because we don't know when somebody will bring a knife or gun to stab or shoot a doctor."

On the reason for the attacks, Ahmed linked it to brain drain occasioned by poor remuneration and condition of service amid inadequate infrastructure for doctors to perform their duties.

He said, "Many of our colleagues have left their states and the country, and many more are leaving. The few of us left are struggling to cope with the difficult working environment and ever-increasing patient load while taking care of our families."

Ahmed, who appealed for understanding, advised people to channel their grievances to appropriate quarters irrespective of the challenges or dissatisfaction in the course of receiving care in hospitals.

On his part, the Kwara State Commissioner for Health, Dr Raji Rasaki, said the issue had become worrisome, noting that, "People always expect miracles."

While disclosing that the state government was working on improving communication between health workers and patients, he said, "Brain drain is a global problem occasioned by the dearth of doctors abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a critical moment, but it will get to saturation point."

"Meanwhile, we need to improve the condition of service, retaining of medical workers and employment of more hands to cushion the overwhelming effects of those that have left, among other motivations and salary increment."

However, the Ogun State Chairman of NMA, Dr Kunle Ashimi, warned Nigerians to desist from assaulting healthcare givers, vowing that anyone found guilty would be brought to book.

He said, "We want to make an appeal and a warning to all those who use hospital services in Ogun State; that the NMA, as well as its affiliates and each individual doctor, will not henceforth accept this. We will go to any length to prosecute such persons, and we will not accept the pleading of anybody no matter how highly placed the person is."

Live broadcast on



Theme:

Interrogating the 2023 Presidential Agenda

..... Panelists



Mrs. Ibukun Awosika
Former Chairman,
First Bank of Nigeria (FBN).



Prof. Jibrin Ibrahim
Professor of Political Science and
member of the Board of the Centre
for Democracy and Development (CDD).



Dr. Yetunde Anibaba
Lecturer, Analysis of Business Problems,
Lagos Business School



Dr. Eugene Enahoro
Human Capacity Development Specialist
and CEO, Heltoni Services Limited.

Date: Thursday, January, 26, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

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COVER

14 years after:

Govt has no direction on Boko Haram leader's enclave

Hamisu Kabir Matazu,
Maiduguri

The abandoned home and administrative headquarters (markas) of late Boko Haram founder, Mohammed Yusuf, near the Railway Terminus in the heart of Maiduguri, Borno State, is fast fading from the history of insurgency in Nigeria.

The markas was where Boko Haram terrorists fired the first shots that placed Nigeria on the world terrorism map.

The relic was once the sacred shrine of Yusuf which was demolished by authorities in 2009 shortly after he and his followers declared war against the Nigerian state, an event that claimed thousands of lives and is still counting.

Fourteen years on, the ruins of the markas which harbours criminals and with no clarity of what the government wants to do with the place have remained a haunting landmark for families of people killed in the insurgency.

However, experts say that the relics of death and destruction like in the markas in other climes are preserved to mark turning points in history and avail governments the opportunity to change the narratives.

"In other climes, the place will not be abandoned. The federal government should collaborate with the Borno State Government and convert the place into a monument. They should find a way of preserving the rubble for tourists and researchers. People from all over the world will like to come and see where the notorious Yusuf lived," said a lecturer at the University of Maiduguri.

Dr Ismaila Suleiman of the History Department, Bayero University Kano (BUK), is of the opinion that that memory is usually dislodged "because you don't want to memorialise or commemorate your enemy."

He said, "If you want to commemorate wars for lessons to avert similar occurrences, then you can keep that, but then frame the narrative and the monument in such a way that it will highlight your own part of the story so that you don't memorialise criminals."

Citing an example with the September 11, 2001,

- Keep his belongings as lesson for future — Dons
- Thieves, drug addicts flock neighbourhood
- We monitor area, make arrests — Police



■ The kitchen

attack in New York, he said, "The US has invested a lot of money to memorialise the September 11 incident, and you know what that stands for the US foreign policy, American democracy and the victims."

Suleiman advised that the structure should be demolished "but some of his belongings can be kept in a museum so that his memory will not be completely eroded because our children will be interested to see them after reading history books; but not preserving his whole quarters.

"I don't think it is strategic as far as state policy is concerned. There are war museums and memorials all over the place to immortalise veterans' sacrifices."

Another expert said, "It's the same thing that led us to the situation of Biafra, because the government didn't know how to take that history into good perspective. If you don't know how to manage the past, then you are bound to repeat it again and again.

"Can't you see, even in 2022, there were films on World War II that happened in 1945, telling the history in ways that fit into present circumstances, into present narratives or into how they want the whole issue to be remembered."

The rubble

When Daily Trust Saturday visited the area, residents complained that criminals have

now taken over the demolished markas, unleashing terror mostly at night on passers-by.

A resident, Sadiq Ibrahim, complained that the major challenge facing them in the area was the moral decadence among youths and children, which he noted was breeding another nuisance.

He said, "You will see little boys with bad haircuts, some taking drugs and attending night clubs and all of that.

"Once it's 8pm, people don't follow the markas area because hoodlums will attack you and seize your valuables. That's why many people are calling on the government to build a school there.

"But for me, let the government establish a company that will employ the youths to take them off drugs and other social vices. If you establish a school there, many of us that still live with the trauma of what happened will be afraid to send our children."

Another resident, Bakura Modu, said the markas boys targeted evening and night commuters near the sharp bend of the enclave.

He said, "They lurk around the rubble of the structure to take drugs, smoke Indian hemp and attack people. Not quite long, they attacked a man and injured him."

Adam Tela, a resident, said, "They will brandish a knife and ask you to surrender your

belongings. If you resist, they will injure you and take what they want. My house is nearby but I always make sure I go back home before 5pm."

Falmata (21) said the miscreants also harassed women.

She said, "I don't want to talk about this, but there is a need to clear the place. They once collected my phone and money. They have done this to some of my friends and to many visitors. They are committing many atrocities."

Babagana Makinta, a community

Leader, decried that the place had been turned into a den of criminal activities and advised the government to establish a school there.

Makinta said, "The genesis of the Boko Haram crisis was lack of good education. Most of the people that joined the sect were illiterates who lacked backgrounds of both religious and Western education.

"We thank Gov Zulum for constructing roads and boreholes close to the area for the traumatised residents to rebuild their lives, but we don't have a good school; which is very critical considering the situation we are in right now."

Also commenting on the situation, Muhammad Bukar, who was born and brought up in the area, said he did not go into exile throughout the crisis period.

He said, "I stayed back even when people deserted this place. The only time I slept outside my house was when a deadly attack caught up with me in the town and a curfew was imposed. That was how I spent two days in my friend's house.

"Now, the Boko Haram crisis has ended and peace is gradually returning. That is why we want the government to pay much attention here."

He noted that apart from the criminals that constituted threats around the markas area, a night club was booming close to the place and had been a bad influence on many youths.

He further said, "We want the government to intervene and relocate them elsewhere because it's ruining the characters of our young girls while feeding the markas area with criminals.

"Not only the markas, we also want the government to convert the moribund railway station to a hospital or police station so as to avoid a repeat of the situation we found ourselves in."

Chukwuemaka

Emmanuel Ani, another resident who has a school in the area teaching Western and Islamic education, said, "If we educate them and disabuse their minds, they would be the ones to help us in future."

Markas before demolition

Baba Usman Mele, a security guard at the railway station, described the situation as terrifying and that it needed urgent action.

He said, "We have had enough from 2009; blood spilt everywhere. Our women, children and many breadwinners were caught up and died in that avoidable crisis.

"We have really suffered. There is no resident in this area that does not have a bitter story to tell. We all went into exile but returned later when the situation subsided because this is the only place we call home.

"We are appealing to the government to come and do something here."

When asked whether they have reported the ugly trend to the government, he said, "We have not because most of those doing these things are not strangers. They live with people here as good people in the day and turn into monsters at night."

Mele, who claimed he fought the Biafra war, further said his security background was enough to tell him that the activities of the hoodlums were a potential threat to the relative peace being enjoyed in Maiduguri.

Folding up his trousers, Mele pointed to a scar on his leg, saying it was pierced by a bullet during the Biafra war.

He added that, "I have nothing to fear, but I don't want anything to happen to my wife and eight children."

Mele took our correspondent around the structure, painting a picture of how the markas looked before it was demolished by the authorities.

Pointing to a lone pillar, Mele said it's the only symbol of the mosque's area where Yusuf brainwashed his disciples and ignited the fire that consumed him, his followers and other lives.

He said, "A lot of lives were lost here. You see this ditch, it's still scary to me knowing the kind of horror and decomposed bodies I saw inside. Bodies littered everywhere. All these rags you see are the clothes worn by those killed."

Leading this reporter to a large hall and a block of four rooms painted pink, Mele said, "This was where the family of Mohammed Yusuf lived. The hall was a kitchen where food was cooked for the family and his disciples.

"Now, all these places have been converted to criminal hideouts."

Speaking further, Mele said aside Yusuf he knew Abubakar Shekau, Mamman Shitta and other Boko Haram leaders before the crisis.

He said, "I was only spared to live here when they discovered that I was an uneducated old soldier."

When contacted, the police spokesman in Borno State, Muhammad Shatambaya, said they received complaints from residents of the area when the new Commissioner of Police (CP) arrived in Maiduguri and that they made some arrests.

He said, "Our surveillance team went into the place and made arrests. Some were paraded while others were taken to court.

"I'm also calling on the residents to contact us through our control room numbers whenever they need our help."

While some of the residents are optimistic about the future of the area, calling for infrastructural development, others call for the establishment of a police station to defuse the network of bad people already posing a threat to the relative peace being enjoyed in the town.

FEATURE



PHOTOS: Usman A. Bello



The aged-grade father leading the procession to the chief palace

The aged-grade dancing during the initiation

Day Edo community ushered youths to adulthood

It was a fulfilling moment for some youths of Uzairue clan in Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State when they were officially initiated into adulthood by elders of the area, *Daily Trust Saturday* reports.

Usman A. Bello, Benin

The Onoshioze age grade of Ikabigbo, one of the 21 communities in Uzairue Clan in Etsako West LGA of Edo State, recently initiated its youths into adulthood.

The young boys and girls of the aged grade, numbering over 60, thronged the initiation arena on December 27, 2022, to celebrate their transition to adulthood.

The initiation, based on *Daily Trust Saturday's* findings, enables the young men and women to sit with the elders at the community square and chief's palace to discuss issues.

The tradition, it was gathered, bestows on the newly inducted young men and women a sense of responsibility and recognition by the community.

The age grade consists of young men and women born within a period of three or four years.

It was learnt that when the tradition started several decades ago it was the responsibility of parents who brought their first sons to the palace and the chief and elders admitted them into an age grade.

However, this was said to have changed in the late 80s when the process of constituting the age group was now done by the youths themselves based on play groups and years in school, but it still does not exceed the period of between three or four years and subject to the acceptance of the elders.

On the initiation day, the young men and women file behind their chosen father (guardian) in a procession amid drumming, singing and praises of the celebrants to the traditional ruler for

royal blessing and prayers, as well for a traditional name for the age grade to be pronounced by the traditional ruler.

On December 27, 2022, the age grade also visited the homes of four most elderly men in the community to seek prayers for a successful initiation before moving to the traditional ground for the initiation.

An Uzairue Clan elder, Mallam Usman Egbakhime Bello, noted that the tradition conferred on the age grade responsibility and recognition by the elders and the traditional ruler.

He explained that, "The manhood ceremony has been in existence in the community for over a century. Once you perform the initiation, you would be recognised as a full grown man and be given responsibilities.

"The youths cannot

reject whoever is brought to the age grade by their parents. If they reject anyone admitted by the traditional ruler and the elders, such rejected youths would be admitted into the age grade ahead of them and would automatically become their senior in the village."

He noted that it was in the late 80s that women were introduced into the age grade, noting that the women held separate meetings and would only join their male counterparts during initiation.

He further said, "On the initiation day, the age graders appear in the same attire, beads, red cap and horse tails and begin a procession from their chosen father's house and move round the entire community, visit the palace, as well as houses of four elderly men, to seek prayers and blessings from them.

"The males line up behind their 'father' during the procession while the women do so behind them with their chosen mother, and upon completing the procession, they move to the initiation arena where a musician is waiting to entertain them.

"They later dance with friends and relatives who spray them with money, but the event doesn't exceed 4:30pm."

Last December, the traditional ruler of the community, Chief Braimah Alegeh, while naming the age grade in his palace, prayed for a successful initiation and prosperity

of the members and the community.

He said, "You are the first age grade to be initiated since I was crowned as the traditional ruler of the community. Your name is Onoshioze (one chosen by God) and as you are going to the initiation ground you would come out successfully without any harm.

"Today, you are now recognised in the community as adults, you can now sit with the chief and elders in the palace, discussing community affairs and any responsibility

can be assigned to you. I pray for long life and prosperity for the age grade and the entire community."

On his part, the father of the age grade, Bashir Usman, commended the traditional ruler and the elders for prayers and their support towards the success of the initiation.

One of the age graders, Hamza Usman, said they were happy that they were now qualified to sit with the elders at the community square and the chief's palace to discuss issues affecting the community.



Chief Braimah Alegeh praying for the aged-grade after giving them a name

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Buhari orders speedy transformer production

Muideen Olaniyi

President Muhammadu Buhari has given a directive that the project to establish a world-class transformer production plant in Nigeria in collaboration with China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) of China be fast-tracked to accelerate stable power supply in the country.

The Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), Prof Mohammad Sani Haruna, disclosed this yesterday after briefing the president at the presidential villa, Abuja, on the agency's third quarter report.

Prof Haruna, who noted that the project for the establishment of the transformer manufacturing

plant in the country was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic in China, said that Buhari who doubled as chairman of the governing board of NASENI "is anxious to see the output of this product, its impact on the availability of power because our power supply will never be stable until we produce some components locally, including transformers."

He said the plant when established would produce between 6.5 and 10 megawatts transformers of all sizes and different capacities to meet local demand and Nigerian standard.

On revenue generation, he said Nigeria had received requests from Uganda, Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire for the supply of school laboratory equipment, adding that payments for such supplies

went directly to the consolidated revenue account.

On collaboration with state governors, the NASENI boss said the agency worked with state governments, adding that he briefed them at a National Executive Council (NEC) meeting on its activities.

Haruna further said that almost all the states had asked NASENI to repair their grounded tractors.

Media Trust gubernatorial debate to hold at BUK's hall

Salim Umar Ibrahim, Kano

The management of Bayero University, Kano (BUK) has communicated its approval for the use of the Musa Abdullahi Auditorium for the maiden Media Trust, Kano State gubernatorial debate on February 4.

The university's vice chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, informed about the approval for the 1,000-capacity venue through a communication by the Registrar, Jamil Salim.

In the communication, the university management also agreed to waive the cost of renting the venue for Media Trust Group as part of its contribution to the success of the event.

The VC had earlier said the university as a public institution is open to partnerships and developmental initiatives, and as such, the debate will not come at a better time as the candidates need to be scrutinized for the interest of the

public.

While receiving the Media Trust Group's delegation earlier, the VC said "I will advise you to clearly tell whoever is going to participate that they are not going to troop into the campus with supporters because this is an academic environment and students are here."

Responding to the approval from BUK to use the 1000-seater hall, the Chairman of the MTL Debate Planning Committee, Dr. Suleiman A. Suleiman thanked the university management for their magnanimity in not just approving the use of the institution but also for giving the venue free of charge.

Suleiman said the debate, which is to be organised by Media Trust Group, the parent company of *Daily Trust*, *Aminiya*, and *Trust TV*, is tagged "Trust Nigeria 2023 Elections Debate", and is expected to give political parties and their candidates for the upcoming election the opportunity to get their plans and agenda across to the voters.

Appeal Court reinstates Lawal as Zamfara PDP guber candidate

Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

The Sokoto Division of the Court of Appeal yesterday reinstated Dr Dauda Lawal-Dare as the validly elected governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Zamfara State.

The appeal court set aside an earlier judgment of the Federal High Court, Gusau, which barred PDP from participating in the governorship election in the state.

The case was instituted by Lawal-Dare, Adamu Maina-Waziri

- the chairman primary election committee, and Col Bala Mande (Rtd), with Dr Ibrahim Shehu-Gusau, Alhaji Wadatau Madawaki, Hafiz Nahuche and IINEC as 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th respondents.

In a unanimous judgment read by Justice Abubakar Talba on behalf of others, the appeal court held that the appellants succeeded in proving all the seven grounds of appeal canvassed by their counsels and as such resolved in their favour.

Justice Talba said the trial judge of the lower court was wrong to discountenance documents

submitted from INEC, adding that the lower court did not stipulate the period within which the fresh primary was to be conducted and notices of participation.

He added that they perused all the arguments presented by different counsels, citations of court judgments and other judicial considerations and arrived at the decision.

"Their appeal is therefore meritorious and allowed," he held.

Justice Talba awarded N200,000 as cost to appellants against the respondents.

We're not in court against INEC chair – DSS

Idowu Isamotu

The Department of State Services (DSS) yesterday clarified that it is not in court with the Chairman of INEC for any reason as reported.

The secret police, in a statement by its spokesman, Peter Afunanya, was reacting to a *Daily Trust* story with the title: "Court stops DSS from arresting INEC chairman".

Daily Trust had on Thursday reported that an FCT High Court had stopped the DSS, the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), the police and other security agencies from arresting or harassing the INEC Chairman, Prof Yakubu Mahmood,

following an application by one Somadina Uzoabaka alleging false assets declaration against him.

Afunanya explained that the clarification became important to guide public understanding and perception about what happened in court.

He maintained that the service was desirous to tame any element fomenting crisis in the country and those creating unnecessary controversies around the forthcoming general elections.

He said, "This statement, however, becomes important to guide public understanding and perception, especially that the said report is misleading."

Retrace your steps, support Atiku, PDP urges G-5

Baba Martins

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has called on the Nyesom Wike-led G-5 governors of the party to retrace their steps and support the presidential candidature of Atiku Abubakar.

The party also commended the people of Oyo State for their support for Atiku, saying, "Our party commends the tenacity of our members and supporters in Oyo State for expressing their support for Atiku Abubakar at the flag off of the PDP governorship campaign in Oyo State in defiance of attempts to dictate their electoral preference."

National Publicity Secretary of the party, Debo Ologunagba, in a statement yesterday, said, "The people of Oyo State have again demonstrated their sobriquet as pacesetter in the politics of Nigeria by establishing that power lies in the will of the people and not the endorsement or dictates of any person or group of persons."

"The PDP counsels those seeking to dictate to Nigerians on their electoral preferences to retrace their steps, especially now that it is clear that the people are not ready to be swayed by personal, group or sectional considerations in their support for Atiku Abubakar and the PDP"



■ Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State during the the Tinubu-Shettima National Youth Town Hall Meeting, held in Abuja yesterday

PHOTO: Youth Wing of Tinubu Campaign Organization

We'll make you job creators, not seekers, Tinubu assures Nigerian youths

Saawua Terzungwe

The Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, has assured Nigerian youths that they will play key roles in steering the affairs of his administration if he is given the mandate to lead the country.

Tinubu specifically promised to make youths in Nigeria job creators and not job seekers through infrastructural development that would create opportunities for them to explore all the sectors of the economy.

Tinubu, who spoke at a Tinubu-Shettima National Youth Town Hall Meeting in Abuja yesterday, noted that he would also invest in the electricity sector to power small and medium-scale businesses.

While commending Nigerian youths for their resilience, Tinubu described them as a source of inspiration, stressing that if he emerged as president he would create opportunities for them to thrive.

He said, "There is no single sub-sector of our population that is more important than you the youths; you outnumber all of us, you are strong, you are intelligent and your support is the key to unlocking the economic prosperity and progress of our nation. I am very proud of the Nigerian youths."

"I will bring you hope from the darkness of hopelessness. God forbid, we are not going to allow them back. We are going to use our PVCs, we are going to vote our values, our expectations, we are going to vote our today and restore our tomorrow."

"My running mate and I are giving you assurance to renew your hope. I promise that you will play a vital role steering the wheels of my administration. You will have enough electricity to power your home and investment."

On his part, the National Youth Coordinator of the Tinubu-Shettima Presidential Campaign Council and Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, assured the APC presidential candidate of landslide victory at the

election.

He charged Nigerian youths not to allow those who mismanaged the country for 16 years to return to power.

He said, "We have the youths' mandate to deliver our candidate from top to bottom in this general elections."

"This election is not about you (Tinubu), it is about our generation and the children unborn. Your Excellency, God has blessed you. We need you (Tinubu) more than you need us. The younger generation needs you, Nigeria needs you, we all need you, don't trouble yourself sir."

"The Nigerian youths asked me to tell you that you have won. This election, we are going to win it in a landslide, because we are determined to take the bull by the horn and take our future in our hands."

"We are not going to allow those that have mismanaged this country for 16 years to return again. That will never happen. This election has been won from top to bottom, from the leaders to the youths, to women, to people living with special needs."

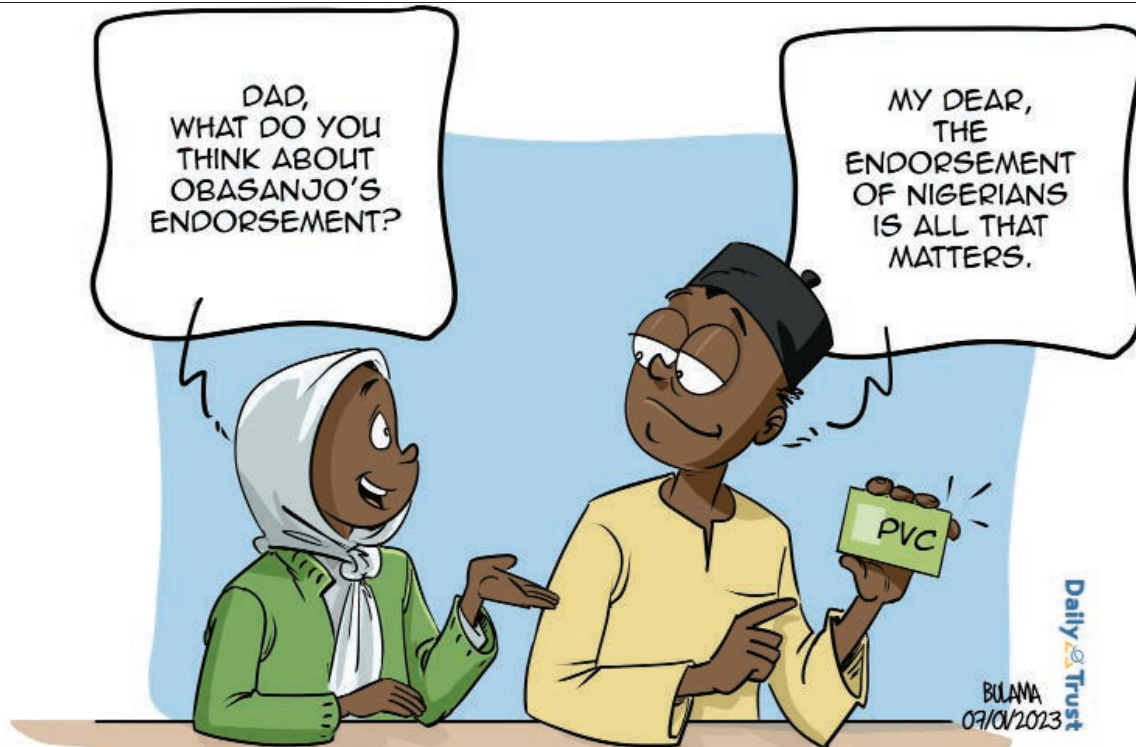
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CARTOON



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

New educational language policy a misconceived idea

The new educational language policy proposed by the federal government is a misconceived and impracticable policy whose time has not come.

Education is undoubtedly the bedrock of national development. No country can become technologically and economically advanced without having functional educational systems. That is the reason leaders of first world countries do not treat matters which affect their schools and educational systems with levity.

In the First Republic when our political leaders were people who had passion for education, our standard of education was high. Then, foreign students would come to the first and foremost Nigerian university, which is in Ibadan to do academic programmes so as to earn university degrees. In the succeeding years, the second generation universities were established. And they became Mecca of sorts for other education-thirsty African students seeking educational pilgrimage.

But like other things in Nigeria that were destroyed owing to the prevalent bad political leadership in the country, our educational system was bastardized and commercialized. So, the glory days of our universities are gone and far behind them.

They are no longer the bastion of scientific and humanistic knowledge; neither are they places where good morals are inculcated into students. As a result, today, a great majority of people who graduated from Nigerian universities are found wanting in both learning and character.

But the assault on our schools' educational systems did not start today. In the past, the soldiers who held sway over Nigeria carried

out measures to suppress and repress the intellectual elite to avert their criticisms and prevent them from carrying out revolts. Do you still remember how Patrick Wilmot, a university lecturer at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, was deported from Nigeria?

And, after the exit of the military from power in 1998, successive political leaders we had in Nigeria did little or absolutely nothing to revitalize and revamp our dysfunctional educational system. That is the reason our universities produce half-baked graduates, who cannot carry out humanistic, scientific, and technological researches that can aid our national development.

Littered across the states of Nigeria are government-owned primary and post-primary schools whose buildings are decrepit and tumbledown with roofs blown off. And those schools lack science laboratories; and their libraries suffer from a dearth of books. In those schools, their teachers moonlight to augment their poor salaries.

Also, at the highest level of our educational architecture, the story is not different.

The incessant industrial actions embarked on by our university lecturers have wreaked havoc on our universities.

It is amid these evils and problems bedeviling our educational system that the government of Nigeria announced that our pupils will be taught in their native tongues in the foreseeable future.

The new education policy - using native languages to teach in our primary schools - appears to be a laudable, noble, and patriotic initiative in that it will prevent our native languages from going into extinction.

But this new educational language

policy appears to be a misconceived and impracticable policy for now based on some factors. Which Igbo language dialect should be used in teaching the pupils and students in schools in the Southeast? I am not unaware about the existence of the touted central Igbo language and the controversies surrounding some Igbo language usage(s). And do we have enough language teachers, who have facilities for speaking and teaching our more than two hundred and fifty indigenous languages?

And there are some concepts that hitherto are not translatable to our many indigenous languages. How can we expeditiously surmount that problem? And which indigenous Nigerian language should be used to teach pupils in a school in a cosmopolitan city that has a mixed population of Igbo people, Yoruba people, Hausa/Fulani people, Ijaw people, and others? Should an urban primary school employ more than 250 language teachers to ensure that each pupil is taught in his or her mother tongue?

And if the three major languages are approved as the languages of instruction in urban primary schools, then, pupils whose native languages are different from our three major languages will be shortchanged. Is it fair?

Language nationalism will lead to the preservation of our native tongues. But we should weigh the pros and cons of an idea before making it a national policy.

So, I urge our political leaders to urgently tackle the many problems bedeviling our educational system before romanticizing an educational moonshine that is not implementable for now.

Chiedu Uche Okoye wrote via writerlyadichie@gmail.com

Short&Sharp

Aftermath of ASUU strike, fees increment

The Academic Staff Union of the University (ASUU) embarked on an indefinite strike on February 14 2022, following years of unresolved issues with the federal government.

The prolonged ASUU strike was this time around followed by a heavy price as the federal government insisted on a "no work no pay" policy.

Having tried but failed to convince the FG to pay the arrears of the eight months owed ASUU members, the management of some universities in what looks like making up, decided to increase fees.

It's no longer news that some universities have deliberately increased fees to more than 100%.

It's crystal clear that this increment will affect many students because their parents cannot afford to pay such a whopping amount of money as school fees.

In the meantime, mass exodus of students out of the universities most especially in the North is imminent.

Safiyanu Ladan wrote from Zaria

2023: Nigerians must be wary of fake promises

Political gladiators have been dishing out promises since the outset of campaigns. Nigerians must be very careful and should not fall for the usual gimmicks by politicians. Let's make the right decision come 2023.

As the general elections draw closer, all eligible Nigerians must be ready to cast their votes for the right candidates for us to enjoy the desired dividends of democracy.

For you to be able to exercise your franchise, you must have your PVC. I therefore, urge all Nigerians who have registered but yet to collect their PVCs to do so now that the opportunity is still.

We must avoid waiting until the last minutes before rushing out to collect our PVCs. The best time to do it is now.

I am confident that the 2023 elections will be free, fair and credible. Let us vote for credible leaders who will take Nigeria to greater heights.

Onazi John wrote from Abuja

Drugs, new year, entertainers

Illicit drug use, abuse, trafficking is no doubt at an alarming rate in Nigeria to the extent that every week, we hear news of drug offenders arrested by NDLEA agents in various parts of the country.

This development has rendered a lot of the victims especially the youths useless not just to their families but the society as well.

Importantly, the drug abuse trend amongst the youths especially is greatly attributed to the entertainment industry with the help of media platforms.

Music videos displayed on the TV and lyrics of most songs by artists clearly portray that use of illicit substances like cannabis is "cool" and using such makes one feel accepted by one's peers in the society.

In my opinion, I believe the entertainment industry can join hands in the fight against the drug menace by censoring the kind of contents they push out because, these contents glorifying substance use by celebrities/ social influencers negatively influence the youths who see these entertainers as their role models.

A drug free society is achievable and possible, not by mere words but action.

Adekunbi Lawal wrote from FCT, Abuja

ENCOUNTER

Sefiyat Owuri: Mum of 3 blazing the trail academically

Sefiyat Ahuoiza Owuri was a first class student in her days at the Kaduna State Polytechnic (Kadpoly) and the Federal University, Lokoja (FUL) where she read Estate Management and Economics, respectively. In this interview, the 38-year-old indigene of Adavi LGA of Kogi State who is pursuing a masters in Economics while working as land surveyor gives an insight into her life, motivation and study routine.



■ Sefiyat

Maryam Ahmadu-Suka,
Kaduna

Why survey which seems a male-dominated field?

Actually, growing up in the 1990s every science student wanted to study medicine and since I was good in the science subjects and one of the people that topped the class I also considered medicine.

But after I graduated from secondary school in 2000, being the eldest child, I did not have an elder sibling to guide me. There was no one to tell me that I did not need to study only medicine as a science student. I wrote the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) examination twice to study medicine and surgery at the University of Jos (Unijos). For two years I stayed at home but I was unsuccessful. I would have gotten admission into Kadpoly because I had an uncle that kept asking me to apply, but I did not want to study at a polytechnic because of the dichotomy between Higher National Diploma (HND) and degree.

I had no option than to apply to Kadpoly. When I was filling the form I was not happy. I was just filling it anyhow. My uncle studied urban and regional planning, so he suggested I study

estate management. I applied for estate management and was given admission in 2004. Now I believe that anything worth doing is worth doing well. When I got to the polytechnic I took my studies seriously and it paid off when I graduated with distinction. But I still had the urge to go to the university. So, I applied for direct entry at the Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna, Niger State, to study estate management. I wrote the Post-University Matriculation Examination (Post-UME) and was given admission. But then, the HND admission list was out and I had registered. I had to forfeit the FUT admission and went for the HND because my mother was footing the bills since my father died and I did not want to overburden her. In all this, I wanted to be a lecturer; I used to organise tutorials for my course mates and others, but it was not meant to be as I got married and went back to Kogi State and kept looking for employment.

I had an uncle that was working in the Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF). He told me they were recruiting junior staff and since my course was related to surveying I should apply. I applied with the ND since it was junior staff and I was employed on Grade Level 6,

but the surveyor general said the field was mainly for land surveyors and not estate managers. So, we were taken back to Grade Level 4 and we had to tender our school leaving certificate. I was posted to Kogi where they have a field office.

After that, I enrolled for a one-year Post-Graduate Diploma (PGD) in education at the National Teachers Institute (NTI) in Kogi. After that, I still felt I had time in my hands.

Meanwhile, FUL had just started but were not admitting Direct Entry (DE) candidates. I thought that instead of waiting, why not start the course afresh. That was how I picked a JAMB form 15 years after I graduated from secondary school and with two kids to start a degree in economics. I passed with distinction from my first semester till I graduated.

While in my second year at FUL, I gave birth to my third child. I cannot thank God enough for the husband he gave me because if not for his support and encouragement I could not have succeeded.

Do you still want to be a lecturer?

That is one thing I feel I am very good at and still want to do that. I just picked a masters form because I realised that if you must be in the academia you need a certain level of certification. Furthermore, since

I have a PGD in education, I feel it will help me in that field.

What were your challenges in school?

My struggles to gain admission into Unijos to study medicine and later balancing home and school. Other than that, there were not really any challenges. I had learned the art of time management. So I

planned my time well.

How was it like making distinctions?

It was God. Secondly, determination. If you are determined to do something, there is no way you will not succeed. I did not joke with assignments and tests. There was this satisfaction that I was determined to get. So, I tried as much as possible to reach that level of satisfaction by reading and planning.

What are your plans?

Right now, it's picking a masters form and then waiting on the promise by the Vice Chancellor (VC) of FUL who has promised to employ some of us as graduate assistants, and then taking care of the kids and home.

Meanwhile, I am still working with OSGOF as a junior staff member.

What advice do you have for women and youths?

We have this group where we talk to young women about their aspirations. As a woman, people say marriage does not stop anything, but it does. A married woman cannot set out to achieve all her dreams, but rather rearrange them. It does not however stop you from doing something. Pursuing my academic dreams for me was something outside marriage because I did not want to regret not going back to school years later. Now I feel happy and competitive. This has always been my dream.

When I finished HND I was advised to go back to school and get a BSc. I promised myself I would get it and I did, that made me very happy and it reflects in my home.

Therefore, women should develop themselves outside their marriages as self-development is very important. Also, remember that if a woman is not happy, her home will never be happy.

Pursuing my academic dreams for me was something outside marriage because I did not want to regret not going back to school years later.



■ Sefiyat



■ Certificates of Sefiyat

Presidency: Buhari to join APC campaigns in states — Keyamo

Saawua Terzungwe

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) has said President Muhammadu Buhari has shown commitment to the party's campaigns and indicated readiness to be present at some of the forthcoming rallies.

In a statement yesterday, the Director of Public Affairs and chief spokesperson of the Tinubu/

Shettima PCC, Festus Keyamo, said in the latest campaign timetable released on Thursday, the president was billed to join the campaign train in at least 10 states.

Keyamo, who is the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, said Buhari was committed to delivering the APC presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in the election.

According to him, the states where President Buhari is expected to join the campaigns include

Adamawa, Yobe, Sokoto, Kwara, Ogun, Cross River, Nasarawa, Imo, Katsina and Lagos.

He said, "The PCC expresses its profound gratitude to President Buhari, the leader of our great party, for his sterling and inspirational leadership at this time and for galvanising our teeming members and supporters across the country."

He, therefore, urged members and supporters to turn out en masse at the rallies.

Immigration, NCoS get N500m each from BUA

Joshua Odeyemi

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) have been awarded N500 million each by the Abdul Samad Rabi Initiative for Africa (ASR Africa) Security Sector Support Grant.

The spokesman of NIS, DCI Tony Akuneme, in a statement yesterday, said the award was in recognition of the many successes recorded by the NIS.

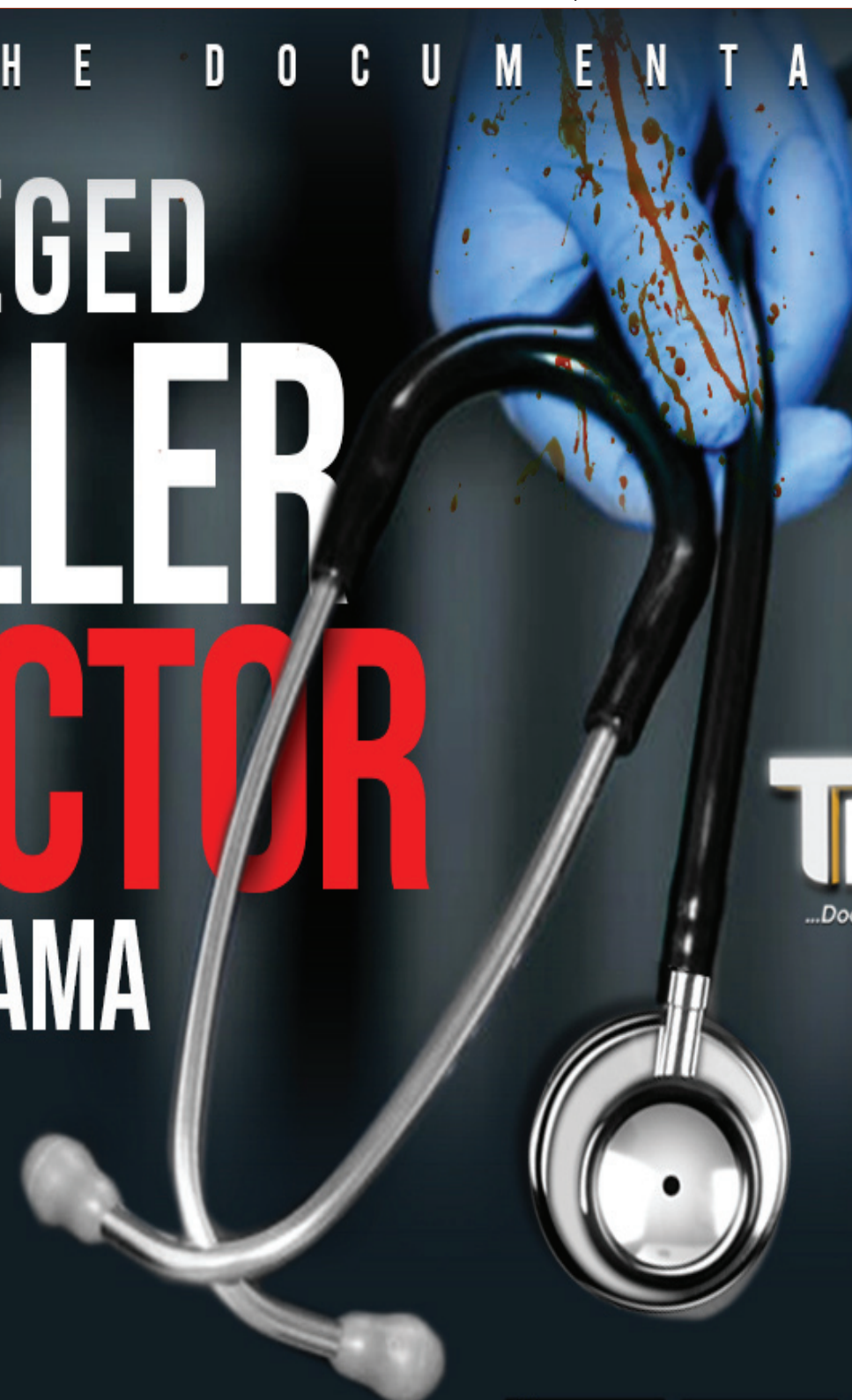
The Comptroller General of Immigration, Isah Jere Idris, while receiving the award letter, commended the Chairman

of BUA Group, Abdul Samad Rabi, for the initiative and for recognising the strides of the service.

Similarly, in a statement, Awa Franca of the NCoS, said while presenting the cheque to the Controller General of Corrections, Haliru Nababa, that the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Initiative, Dr Ubong Udo, noted that the organisation was set up as a vehicle to drive the chairman's mission for Nigeria and Africa and to create a platform where Nigerians and Africans could take responsibility to solve their own developmental problems by looking inwards.

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Nigerian entertainment industry is the fastest globally — Bello Sisqo



From Ibrahim Musa Giginyu, Kano

Where did you get the name Sisqo?

My name is Bello Abubakar Sheriff, but I'm known in the entertainment industry as Bello Sisqo. I was born in Bama LGA of Borno State on November 1, 1998. However, I grew up in Kano State where I attended conventional and Islamic schools before venturing into entertainment.

Why entertainment?

Entertainment is something that is inherent in me. At a very tender age I was a dancer and started teaching dancing at the Farida Cinema at Rijiyar Lemu in Kano. I later became a dancing tutor in Kannywood. I

taught dance steps for most of Ali Nuhu and Adam Zango's films. With time I developed the skill to sing, so I decided to give it a try. I began recording my songs at Auwal DJ Studio and within a short period I started shooting my song's videos and in no time the name Bello Sisqo went viral.

I later met a famous Nigerian singer, Chizo Germany, and a social media influencer, Bobo, who are from Northern Nigeria. We collaborated for song called "Fada Da Gaskiya". It was the song that shot me to limelight and with support from Chizo Germany I travelled to Germany where I continued with my entertainment pursuit.

As an entertainer, what's the difference between Germany

and Nigeria?

As an entertainer with a rich cultural background I was taken like a brother by some Germans who I came to relate with as friends. They have accommodated me since 2015. I got a job as a dance tutor where I coached Hausa traditional dance steps and those of other African cultures. After that, I and Chizo began to record songs in Hausa.

In Europe people respect you when you dearly hold onto your culture. Though we reside in Germany, we never cease to sing our songs in Hausa and still make impact and waves. We have earned respect and adoration from the Europeans and other Africans. That is why we have been able to make it in

Bello Sisqo is a Nigeria-born singer, song writer and dancer based in Germany. In this interview, the young artiste speaks about his foreign sojourn, relationship with Nigerian singers and other sundry issues.



Europe and still remain there.

How many songs have you recorded in Germany?

A lot of songs in collaboration with stars across Nigeria and the globe. I did songs with Ice Prince, Jaywillz, Singah, Dijah, Zinolisky, among other top Nigerian artistes. I also did songs with artistes from Europe such as Gambiya, Jizzle and Chiara Damico. In Africa I did a song with Macvoice from Tanzania. I also did several songs with Northern Nigerian artistes like Adam Zango, Hamisu Breaker, Ado Gwanja, Ali Jita, Umar Shareef, DJ Ab, Deezell, Sojaboy, Auta Mg Boy, Chizo Germany, Classiq and Ahmad Shanawa.

How would you rate the Nigerian entertainment industry?

To be honest with you, it is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. The industry has projected not only Nigeria as a nation, but also Africa as a vibrant industry to the global community. We saw how Nigerians were selected to perform at the recently concluded World Cup in Qatar.

Indeed, the entertainment industry of Nigeria has come of age and the sky is its limit. However, I still believe that there is a need to do more in terms of sponsorship, management and promotion. These will no doubt lift the industry to greater

heights by God's grace.

What is the level of your relationship with artistes back in Nigeria?

We have very strong cordial relationships. Though residing in Germany, I still see myself as a Nigerian doing the Nigerian thing in Europe. As mentioned earlier, I have done several works with Nigerian artistes; both those in Lagos and those from the Northern part. This I think is an indicator of the cordial relationship I have with the Nigerian entertainment industry.

The industry has been very supportive and encouraging and I believe the gesture extended to me has been a uniform approach to all artistes in the nation and beyond because I have done songs with other African artistes as well.

Have you won any award as an entertainer?

I won the award of "Best Artiste in Northern Nigeria" and the "Best Music Video of the Year" in 2021, as well as the "Best EU Artiste", award among many other international and local awards.

Are you married?

No, but hopefully I will be getting married this year by God's grace.

Is she in the entertainment industry?

Just wait and see.

Artistes, albums, movies to look out for in 2023

2022 was an exciting and energetic year for the entertainment industry as Nigerians dominated the global space in music and film. Therefore, it's only fair to expect and hope for the best in 2023. In this feature, *Daily Trust Saturday* highlights a few projects fans should expect in the year.

By Rosemary Etim Bassey

Artistes set to drop albums

Davido

Davido's album has long been awaited by many fans since 2022. However, following the death of his beloved son, Ifeanyi Adeleke, the artiste took time to stay away from the social media and didn't make a comeback till his World Cup performance. According to reports, Davido is expected to make a comeback in 2023.



■ Davido

Olamide

It's a wonder the YBNL Chairman, Olamide, didn't drop an album last year as in the last 10 years. The music label boss had succeeded in dropping an album every single year. Many fans speculate that the Olamide might have decided to relax last year and further push the career of his label mates such as Asake, Fireboy and DML. Olamide has stated that his upcoming album, which may potentially be his last for a while, will be released in 2023. Fans eagerly await the release of the megastar's melancholy album.



■ Olamide

Ruger

Ruger is among the list of upcoming artistes who had an amazing 2022 following the release of the deluxe version of his "Second Wave". The project produced hit singles such as "Girlfriend" and "Dior" that kept topping the charts. Before the end of 2022, he dropped "Asiwaju" which became the No 1 on Apple Music's Top 100 Naija Songs. The artiste has teased fans with the idea of dropping an album in 2023.

Oxlade

The Nigerian pop singer may be preparing to release his debut album in 2023 after having a fantastic 2022; thanks to the global success of his smash single, "Kulosa". With his alluring vocals and melodies, Oxlade, who has been in the music business for a while, has won the hearts of his listeners.

Upcoming entertainers

Mohbad

The former Marlian musician has generated some news following his dispute with his former record label boss, Naira Marley. With many people are looking to see what he will do next and how much he can do without the influence of his old boss and label. He is now on the verge of reaching the

zenith of his career.

Boy Spyce

One of the few voices with the potential to become a global celebrity by the end of 2023 is Mavin Records' Boy Spyce. He can boast of having every element required to be a mega star, including finance, the right personnel, sound and strong brand. His unreleased song, "So Bad", is gaining popularity and may turn out to be his first smash of the year.

Odumodublvck

Odumodublvck is unquestionably a force to reckon with. Not only is he continuously winning over new followers, but he is also doing it with pleasure and little effort. Unquestionably, Odumodu is one of the select few musicians who will rule the market in 2023. The rising talent has announced that he would work with Santi, BOJ, Blaqbonez and other artistes on his upcoming album.

Majeed

Nigerian Afropop singer and songwriter, Ekeh Chiaka Joseph, better known by his stage name, Majeed, is a Dream Empire Music artiste. His signature song, "Yawa No Dey End", which served as the lead single for his extended play, "Bitter Sweet", was released in 2022. Majeed is well on his way to becoming a legend. His chances of success in 2023 are greatly increased by his recent cooperation with Empire Distribution, one of Africa's greatest winners in 2018.

Movies/series coming to screens

Shanty town

Netflix will start streaming "Shanty Town", a Chichi Nworah production, on January 20, 2023. Dimeji Ajibola's series title depicts a gang of courtesans who strive to flee the clutches of an infamous kingpin



■ Odumodu-Black



■ Shanty town

- but political corruption and blood ties make liberation a near-impossible aim.

Chidi Mokeme, RMD, Ini Edo, Nse Ikpe Etim, Uche Jombo, Shaffy Bello, Sola Sobowale, Zubby Micheal, Toyin Abraham, Nancy Isime, Lilian Afe, Paul Okoye, Regina Daniels, Ali Nuhu, Slimcase, and Mercy Eke are among the famous actors who appear in the series.

Nigerian trade

Jade Osiberu, the director of "Isoken", has revealed the title of her upcoming movie, "Nigerian Trade", which she claims is based on actual events. She also revealed that the film, a suspenseful crime drama, was based on a thorough investigation of kidnapping for ransom in Nigeria.

"Nigerian Trade," written by award-winning screenwriter Yinka Ogun and produced by Foresight Global Films, relates the story of Dike Maduka, nicknamed Eric, an infamous brilliant millionaire kidnapper who eluded capture for two decades, and the high-stakes investigation into his activities conducted by quickly rising police officer and director of the Intelligence Response Team (IRT), Superintendent Khalid Abubakar.

Hijack 93/The Six

Play network studios also announced its 2023/2024 projects which included one classic remake, a sequel, two biopics and original stories. One of which is Hijack 93 which is based on the hijack of the 1993 Nigerian Airways plane. The studio will also be releasing its first original, named "The Six", which is said to follow the story of the mysterious, charismatic cult leader, Richard Williams, played by Ramsey Nouah.

MOVIE BUZZ

With Taiwo Adeniyi



It is a long weekend with Monday already declared as a public holiday. Here are some films to enjoy at the cinemas.

Plane

It runs for one hour and 47 minutes. Gerard Butler leads the cast of Claro de los Reyes, Daniella Pineda, Evan Dane Taylor, Joey Slotnick, Kate Ratchesky, Lilly Krug, Mike Colter, Paul Ben-Victor, Remi Adeleke and Tony Goldwyn in the action thriller. It is directed by Jean-François Richet and started showing in cinemas on Tuesday.



Synopsis: Brodie Torrance saves his passengers from a lightning strike by making a risky landing on a war-torn island only to find that surviving the landing was just the beginning. When most of the passengers

are taken hostage by rebels, the only person Torrance can count on for help is Louis Gaspere, an accused murderer who was being transported by the FBI. In order to rescue the passengers, Torrance will need Gaspere's help and will learn there's more to Gaspere than meets the eye.

Battle on Buka Street

This Nollywood comedy boasts the best actors in the industry. With Bimbo Ademoye, Funke Akindele, Mercy Johnson-Okojie, Nkem Owoh, Sola Sobowale, Tina Mba and Tobi Makinde you can be assured of a hilarious two hours and 21 minutes in the cinema. Directed by Funke Akindele and Tobi Makinde, this film shows the rivalry between local businesses in Nigeria. After a lifetime of rivalry, two women



find themselves at loggerheads once again when they set up food businesses on the same street.

Top Nigerian movies on Netflix>>>

The Griot

This 2021 drama maintains its grip on the fifth spot on the chart. Directed by Adeoluwa Owu, *The Griot* follows the life of a talented but shy storyteller who faces betrayal after his best friend steals his tales to impress the woman they both love. The film stars Adedimeji Lateef, Goodness Emmanuel, Temiloluwa Fosudo, Kunle Afod, Yewande Adekoya, among



others. It has been on the top 10 for six weeks.

Anikulápó

This film makes a return to the top 10 since its grand release on Netflix. Its ninth spot on the chart made stayed nine weeks on the top 10 movies seen in Nigeria on Netflix. The film is meant for viewers older than 18 and follows Saro, a traveller in an affair with a queen. This leads to his death but he encountered a mystical bird with the power to give him another life. It was



produced and directed by Kunle Afolayan.

Aki & Paw Paw

This film is not suitable for viewers younger than 13 years and runs for two hours and 12 minutes. Relocating to the vibrant city of Lagos, two troublesome brothers search for social media fame after crossing paths with a powerful influencer. This film occupies the ninth on the chart. The duo of Chinedu Ikedieze and Osita Itheme star in the film. With its return to the



chart, it occupies the 10th spot.

Opinion

Saturday, January 7, 2023

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PROF BRAINY

An AI wrote this article!

PAGE 16-17

OPINION

Despite Boko Haram, Kanem Bornu remains longest, most resilient empire in Africa

PAGE 16

COLUMN NO.6

When a fight against corruption defies physics

PAGE 17

PHILOSOPHIAITH WITH M.U. NDAGI

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DSS, carry petrol-threats further please

To differentiate between two elements that may be of the same family yet of varying characteristics, our elders in their native tongues have several wise sayings to illustrate such a case. We shall come to the place for this adage in the next few paragraphs. The Department of State Services (DSS), issued a 48-hour ultimatum on Thursday December 8, 2022 to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL), the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) and other stakeholders in the oil sector to end the lingering fuel crisis in the country. The secret service police, which vowed to go after the marketers if queues did not disappear within 48 hours also placed all DSS commands on red alert; with a promise to deal with defaulters.

DSS spokesman, Peter Afunanya, announced the ultimatum in Abuja while addressing reporters after the Director-General of the DSS, Yusuf Bichi, met with the stakeholders in the industry including officials of the NNPC Ltd, IPMAN, Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAN) as well as Depot and Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (DAPMAN). Others were officials of the Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) and Petroleum Tanker Drivers (PTD).

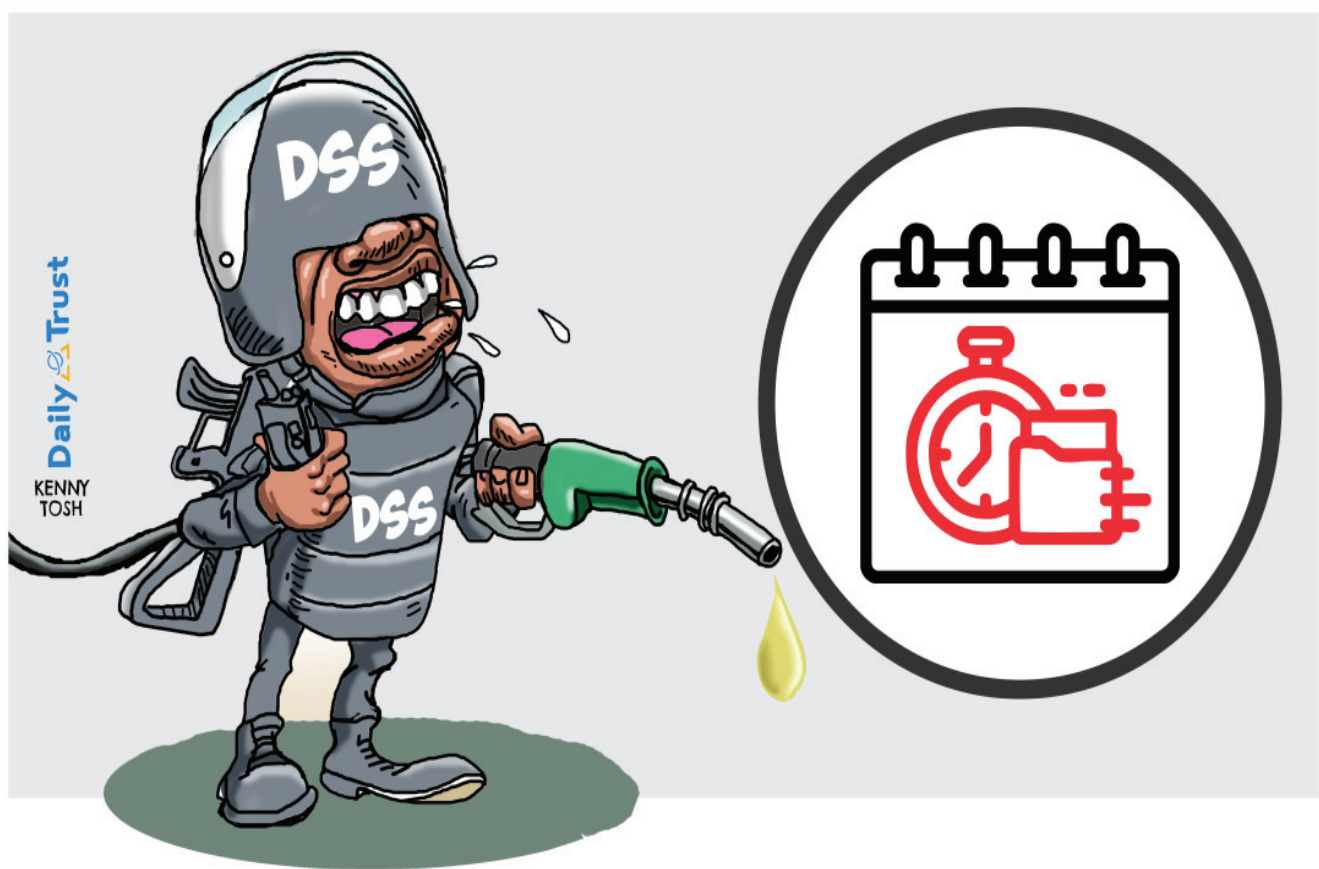
Afunanya explained that the DSS' intervention was to prevent any security breaches that could stem from the lingering petrol scarcity. He said the Service was being proactive to avert what could cause incitement in the country particularly during the Yuletide that was only few weeks far then. Responding to those who queried the involvement of the DSS in the fuel crisis, Afunanya said "We make bold to say that the Service is charged with the mandate of detecting and preventing crimes and criminalities that may want to jeopardize internal security of which this one is not an exception.

Interestingly though surprisingly, all the petrol queues in Abuja and Lagos disappeared in less than 24 hours after the well-timed threat by the DSS was declared to marketers. At least, three messages could be inferred from this swift response: (1) The DSS knows its onions; (2) The petrol scarcity was, after all, artificial; and (3) The worth of the DSS is not in doubt even on the minds of saboteurs and criminally-minded Nigerians. While there possibly exists a history of some lawbreakers daring law enforcement personnel, that chronicle is hardly heard of in the case of the DSS. Comparatively, this is the place for the Hausa metaphor "The track of the train is different from that of the car". In their local tongue too, the native speakers of Nupe would say "The load carried on the head is heavier than that carried on the shoulder". Qur'an 35:19-22 also remind us that the difference between the blind and the sighted, between the chilly shade and the blistering heat of the

sun, and between the living and the dead; is very clear!

Nigerians, indeed, appreciate DSS' intervention which quickly halted their travails in the hands of wicked petroleum marketers. But in case the DSS is not aware,

“Nigerians earnestly want the DSS to carry its earlier threats further to, for instance, commodity marketers in order to tackle inflation believed to have been orchestrated by artificial market forces



the situation has refused to change outside of Abuja and Lagos. Petrol still sells for between N400 and N500/litre in many states. Nigerians are, therefore, appealing to the DSS to enforce the full wrath of its threat on marketers especially in towns and cities where the product is still being sold above official pump price. Nigerians really want to heave a sigh from buying petrol at extortionist and cut-throat prices.

Nigerian masses are also asking for more of such public-good threats from the DSS over questionable activities that seek to undermine their socio-economic wellbeing. This explains why Nigerians received with a lot of excitement the threat issued by the DSS on Thursday December 15, 2022 against undue price hikes, artificial scarcity of products and other situations capable of heightening tensions in the country. The warning directed at politicians against fake news, hate speech, violence and other acts inimical to national security was also apt.

Mr. Afunanya is hereby urged to advise Oga Yusuf Bichi to ignore the comments of 'bad-belly' Nigerians who are accusing the DSS of operating outside of its mandate. Yes, even if the threats were taken for granted to be outside of its jurisdiction, the DSS isn't the first to do that. Where were those nit-picking Nigerians when the military was drafted, at the heat of insurgency, to mount and man road-blocks in order to restore civil order and peace; an assignment outside of their professional duties? That is strictly the job of

the police. The military is trained to kill in war-torn situations. Where, also, were those Nigerians when the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) started using university professors as Returning Officers in general elections? Libraries, classrooms and laboratories are the main constituencies of professors. Yet, no one objected to sending them to polling units or INEC offices because of the collective desire for credible elections.

Nigerians earnestly want the DSS to carry its earlier threats further to, for instance, commodity marketers in order to tackle inflation believed to have been orchestrated by artificial market forces. Inflation is increasingly making life difficult for Nigerians, crippling small businesses, affecting the health of many and worsening the condition of the already-ill. The DSS should also read riot act to the communication industry where subscribers of GSM networks continue to suffer from frustrations unleashed by service providers through poor connectivity. The regulatory agency, the NCC, should not be spared if found to have compromised its functions. The DSS should equally go after politicians that are reportedly buying PVCs from voters. In fact, the DSS is encouraged to continue to intervene with necessary threats whenever and wherever such interventions would provide workable solutions to challenges confronting the Nigerian public. May Allah guide the DSS to serve and protect Nigerians without circumventing national security and interest, amin.

PROF. BRAINY WITH IBRAHEEM DOOBA

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An AI wrote this article!

I wanted to take a break from writing, so I instructed an Artificial Intelligence called ChatGPT to:

"Please write a 200-word essay on how tree planting can reverse climate change."

It returned the answer in seconds. However, my column's word count is between 800 to 1,000 words, so I told the machine to: "Expand this to 1,000 words." Read the expanded version below to see if you can tell that an AI wrote it. However, some of these artificial intelligence models are not beyond returning factual errors (called hallucination); therefore, any mistakes you see should be blamed on the machine. But all credits and praises for the creativity are entirely mine.

Tree planting is a simple and cost-effective way to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their wood, leaves, and roots. This process, known as carbon sequestration, helps to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and mitigate the greenhouse effect, which is the primary driver of global warming.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), increasing the amount of carbon stored in forests and other vegetation is one of the most effective ways to mitigate climate change. In fact, forests and other vegetation currently absorb about a quarter of the carbon dioxide emissions caused by human activity. By planting more trees, we can increase this capacity and help to offset the carbon emissions caused by burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and other activities that contribute to global warming.

In addition to carbon sequestration, trees also provide a number of other benefits that can help to reverse the effects of climate change. Trees cool the air through the process of evapotranspiration, which releases water vapour into the air and creates a cooling effect. This is especially important in urban areas where the heat island effect can cause temperatures to rise significantly. Trees can also provide shade and protection against the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays, which can reduce the risk of skin cancer and other health problems.

Trees also help to reduce air pollution, which is a major contributor to climate change. They absorb pollutants such as ozone, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides, which can have detrimental effects on human health and the environment. In addition, trees produce oxygen through the process of photosynthesis, which helps to improve air quality and combat the negative effects of pollution.

Furthermore, trees help to prevent soil erosion, which can lead to the loss of fertile soil and a decrease in agricultural productivity. This is especially important as climate change is expected to lead to more frequent and severe weather events, such as floods and storms, which can cause significant erosion. Trees also help to conserve water by intercepting and slowing the flow of rainwater, which can reduce the risk of flooding and erosion.

In addition to the environmental benefits, tree planting also has a number of social and economic benefits. Trees can provide food, medicine, and other resources to communities, which can improve their quality of life and help to reduce poverty. Trees can also enhance the aesthetic value of an area, which



ILLUSTRATION BY ZAINAB AHMAD BELLO

can increase property values and improve the local economy.

Despite the many benefits of tree planting, it is important to choose the right trees for the right location. Some trees are better suited to certain climates and soil types, and it is important to consider these factors when selecting trees for planting. In addition, it is important to ensure that tree-planting efforts are sustainable and do not contribute to deforestation or other negative impacts on the environment.

While tree planting alone is not sufficient to reverse the effects of

climate change, it is a vital part of the solution. By planting trees and promoting reforestation efforts, we can help to absorb and remove excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, reduce air pollution, and protect against soil erosion. As such, it is important for individuals, communities, and governments to prioritize tree planting as a way to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

Individuals can take action by planting trees in their own yards or participating in community tree-planting initiatives. Communities

and governments can also play a role by promoting tree planting and reforestation efforts and setting aside land for the purpose of carbon sequestration. In addition, it is important for governments and businesses to adopt policies and practices that reduce carbon emissions and support sustainable land use practices.

By working together, we can make a significant impact in the fight against climate change through the simple and cost-effective act.

Postscript:

In case you're wondering, I asked ChatGPT: "Did you plagiarize anyone?" It replied:

"I did not intentionally plagiarize anyone's work. I wrote both of the responses based on my own understanding of the topic and without the intention of copying from any specific source. However, it is possible that some of the language and ideas I used may overlap with information that has been previously published on the topic of tree planting and its role in combating climate change."

Despite Boko Haram, Kanem Bornu remains longest, most resilient empire in Africa

Adamkolo Mohammed Ibrahim & Zanna Ibrahim Mustapha

While fireworks blasted the serene sky ushering in the New Year, the Kanem Borno region of Nigeria, comprising Borno and Yobe states, wished Nigerians and the world a happy, PEACEFUL and prosperous year.

Peace is emphasised here because the people of Kanem Borno of today have realised that while "health is wealth", "peace is everything". Remember, Borno and Yobe are the most badly affected states in the North East of Nigeria by the Boko Haram insurgency.

In recent months there is relative peace in the states. While we the people of the region give thanks and praises to Allah for His mercy, we give kudos to the federal government, as well as the governments of Borno and Yobe states.

The Kanem-Borno Empire (700AD-1893CE) lasted for nearly a

thousand years between the 11th and 19th centuries during the Christian Era (CE). It was first known as the Kanem Empire (700AD-1617CE) and later as the Kanem-Bornu Empire (1617-1893CE). Famous historians such as Vincent Heribaren have described it as "the longest empire in the history of Africa". Some parts of this article are culled with permission from Dr Hiribarren's famous work, "A History of Borno: Trans-Saharan African Empire to Failing Nigerian State", published in 2017 by C. Hurst & Co. Ltd, London.

At its peak, the Kanem-Borno Empire controlled land in the regions known today as Western Chad, North Eastern Nigeria, Southern Libya, Eastern Niger and Northern Cameroon. It was located in the Southern end of the trans-Saharan trade route between modern Algeria, Libya and the Lake Chad Region.

While the empire's official histories extend from 700CE-1893CE, its roots

can actually be traced back to 300CE in the shadow of the Tebu-speaking nomadic Kanembu in Kanem State established in the Eighth Century between Lake Chad and Bahr Ghazal in the Kanem Region in modern Chad.

The the Kanembu to abandon their nomadic life around Lake Chad. They established a capital around 700CE called Njimi under the first king of Kanembu, Seif.

The Kanembu were under the leadership of the Duguwa Dynasty and they eventually controlled the Sao Civilisation after waging a war that lasted till the late 16th Century. Although Kanem was restored in the 16th Century, the imperial capital remained at Bornu, present-day Borno. That is why we call it the Kanem-Bornu Empire.

Army

The Kanem-Borno Empire became powerful by conquering its neighbours in war. Its military power

relied mainly on light and heavy cavalry, but also on the efforts of its talented political leader, Idris Alauma, in the second half of the 16th Century. According to legend, Idris Alauma won 330 wars and over 1,000 battles - and although, this is perhaps an exaggeration, he made an important contribution to the Kanem-Bornu Empire.

Borno Kingdom

Bornu was an area South West of the Lake Chad. The Kanem Empire temporarily relocated there after their wars with Bulala resumed as Bulala took control of Kanem's capital, Njimi, and the surrounding areas. Bornu proved so important to the relocated Kanem Empire because the lands there were more fertile than in Kanem.

Moreover, when King Mai Ali Ghaji came to power in 1472CE, he established strong trade links with some Hausa kingdoms (present-day Northern Nigeria). He also built the city of Ngazargamu near the Yobe

River which later became the capital of the Kanem Empire in Bornu.

The Empire

The Kanem-Bornu Empire was officially known as the Kanem-Bornu Empire by 1617CE. This date refers to the unification of the Kanem and Bornu regions. Mai Idris Alauma had three sons who followed their father's example and increased the prosperity of the empire. Mai Muhammad (1617-1632CE), Mai Ibrahim (1632-1639CE) and Mai Amman (1639-1657 CE) expanded education and learning in the empire.

Finally, the chequered history of the empire remains indelible in the glorious pages of African history in general and Nigeria in particular. Apart from giving us a sense of identity, history also gives us a sense of direction and makes us appreciate our diversity. Our diversity should be the source of our unity as a nation. Borno, the nucleus of the Kanem Borno Empire is dubbed "the home of

When a fight against corruption defies physics

When the nomination of Mr. Abdulsheed Bawa as Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was announced, your humble columnist was probably the first to air views on the topic. There was some dust, of course, and most of it unwarranted and mostly on social media. Like I wrote back then, everything later died down, and the dust settled. Fast-forward to now, or more precisely a few ago when Ahmed Idris, the Accountant-General of the Federation, was arrested by the EFCC over N80billion fraud allegations. It being Nigeria, of course it did not come as a shock. After all, the only thing that would actually shock about Nigeria would be a public official who does not steal.

After the drama, both online and in the real world, the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, reportedly informed Idris of his suspension via a letter. Soon, news that the EFCC is tracing even more suspicious assets to him, and it is not looking good at all, and the official allegations of money laundering and diversion of public funds seem to be more grave. From all indications, it is a very bad case, and one which Idris might have a hard time escaping. But apply the Nigerian factor, and all that becomes moot. That's because there isn't enough space on this column - and ten more instalments - to carry the list of corruption cases that have been reved up, only to sputter and die.

Trying to understand the scope and scale of corruption in our dear nation is practically impossible, while explaining it would probably require an infographic ten times the breadth and width of the National Stadium. Oh, as I typed this, I got a news alert about a former managing director of

the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Nsima Ekere, for alleged contract fraud to the tune of N47billion. 'Oh,' I thought. 'Not as high as N80billion.' I immediately checked myself for being so jaded. But in my defense: another day, another corruption case.

Even when a case has looked watertight, it has failed in the past, bringing us to a comment made by a famous writer friend of mine that the laws of physics do not apply to Nigeria and Nigerians, especially when politics and politicians are involved. Truer words have never been said, even if the irony is so strong that what is meant to be figurative is instead made literal in the most painful sense. Don't get me wrong: I'm not casting aspersions on Mr. Bawa or the performance of his EFCC. I'm simply wondering how much longer he can keep up this fervour in spite of the environment he and his EFCC are operating within.

Coincidentally (I promise), another issue comes to mind, wherein the laws of physics are tested in the severest ways anyone could cook up even in fiction. I won't expect you to be able to guess because when it comes to corruption cases, our dear country is a veritable warehouse. I am talking about the recent news which broke about former disgraced EFCC boss Ibrahim Magu's promotion. First, let's go back a bit: A suspended Magu had appeared before a panel in July 2020 to answer allegations against him by the office of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami.

The investigative panel, chaired by a former President of the Court of Appeal, Ayo Salami, submitted its findings to the President Muhammadu Buhari in

November 2020. It was as dramatic as you could get: Arrests, armed policemen, press releases with blaring headlines - this one had it all. After all the hoopla, Mr. Bawa came on board and for a little while no-one heard anything but crickets. Until a few days ago, when a confounding announcement said Mr. Magu had been promoted.

A barrage of professionals, pundits and PR gurus began to explain - over-explain, really - the how and why of this incredibly unbelievable thing! One would think that the very fact that a solid, stinky case had tarred the ex-EFCC boss, that was it. There is no way anyone or any loophole can make me see this as anything other than less than a slap - or tickle, even - on the wrist. Nothing makes sense in the entire situation. Even when the Minister of Police Affairs Maigari Dingyadi said the newly-promoted Magu will still be prosecuted if eventually indicted by the panel that probed him, I somehow still don't buy it. If I roll my eyes any faster than I am doing at this moment, I just might get cross-eyed.

For all his initial popularity, Magu was a bit of a folk hero because of his brash, tough-talking stance which proved to be just theatrics. Speaking of folk heroes, you can't help but remember 'super cop' Abba Kyari, too. From media darling to clichéd headline in record time, proving my point about our landscape having zero recognition of or respect for physics, the very laws that govern physical reality. At least if you're scientifically inclined. Maybe that's why I'm closing this on a most sceptical note, that maybe the Accountant-General of the Federation, will eventually walk free, and even bag a promotion to boot, physics be damned!

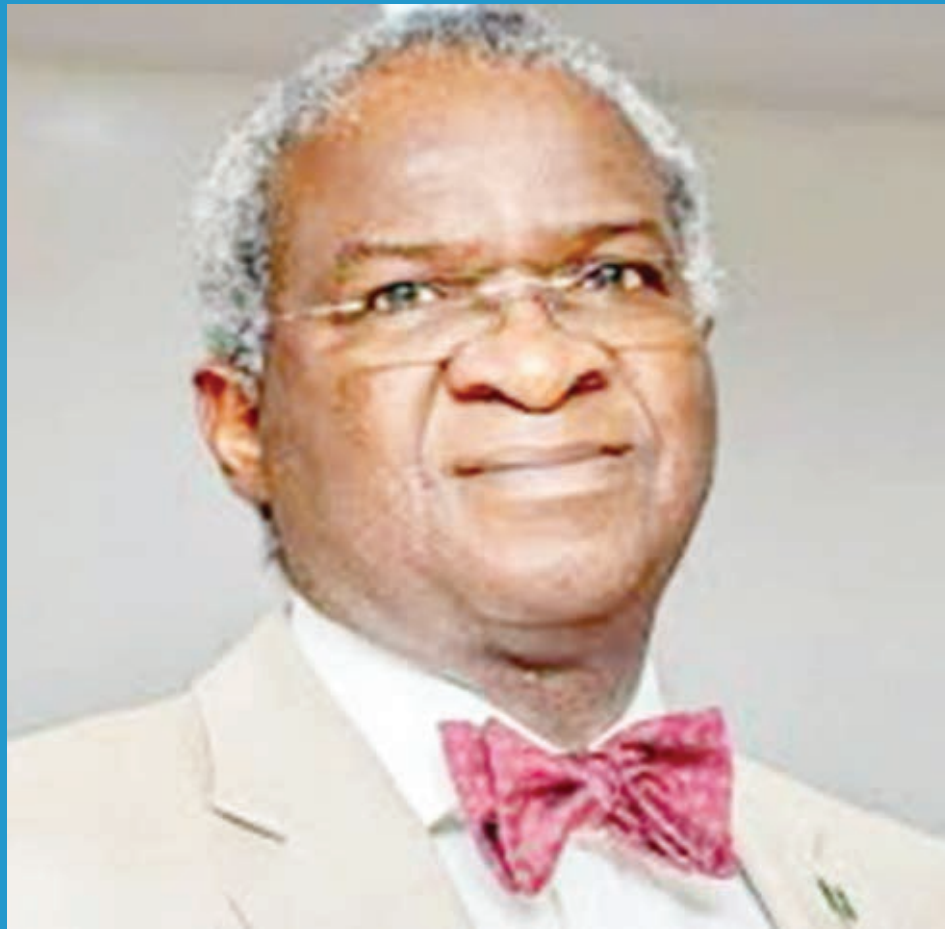
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New Year Appreciation

TO THE ULTIMATE TECHNOCRAT



Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola
Honourable Minister of Works and Housing

Sir, I had wanted to send you this message on the eve of the new year but decided to wait one week so that it is not lost among the many messages you might have received during the festive period. It is my hope that this goodwill message might prompt a change in the individual and collective attitude of Nigerians towards their leaders.

In the almost sixty-three years that have passed since our dear country gained independence Nigeria has only witnessed a handful of cases when leaders on a state or national level have lived up to expectations, talk less of surpassing them. This is why this message has become imperative as this industrious administration nears its end.

As a Muslim I draw my faith from the Quran. It is not only a guide for what I should do but it is also a guide for how I should think. In Surah Ibrahim, Allah says the following: "If you are grateful, I will certainly give you more." - Quran 14:7.

I am not exaggerating when I say that in our country the bulk of our problems as a people lies in the fact that we are reluctant to appreciate our leaders when they do the right things. Unfortunately, we are quick to criticize them at the slightest suspicion that they have done something wrong - even without evidence.

It is in this regard that following a critical review of our most recent democratic experience dating back to 1999, the level of work and diligence with which you have served two of our country's greatest contemporary leaders (Senator Bola Tinubu and Major General Muhammadu Buhari), the resilience you have displayed in the face of

multiple challenges inherited from previous administrations on the federal level, your ability to remain focused and a genuine role-model for the youths of Nigeria having served as a state governor in charge of the 5th largest African economy in your 40s and a minister of multiple federal ministries simultaneously in your 50s, it is imperative that I applaud your success in adding monumental value to the democracy which claimed the lives of my parents along with that of many other wonderful Nigerians. Without patriotic people like you, Senator Bola Tinubu and Major General Muhammadu Buhari, their reward might only have been in heaven in view of the fact that many others did not only ignore their contributions but they also used democracy as a medium to bring pain and suffering to Nigerians.

This administration can boast about countless gains notably among which are the road infrastructure for which you played a vital role despite such meager resources. For democracy, the light at the end of the tunnel is brighter than ever before, because I see so many gains around the corner for those who are patient enough to continue treading along just a little longer, just a little further.

May God bless you, Honorable Minister!

May God also continue to bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria not only with good leaders but also with good followers who can motivate their leaders, forgive them as they forgive themselves and live as law abiding citizens until we turn our country into a nation and our success into a miracle.

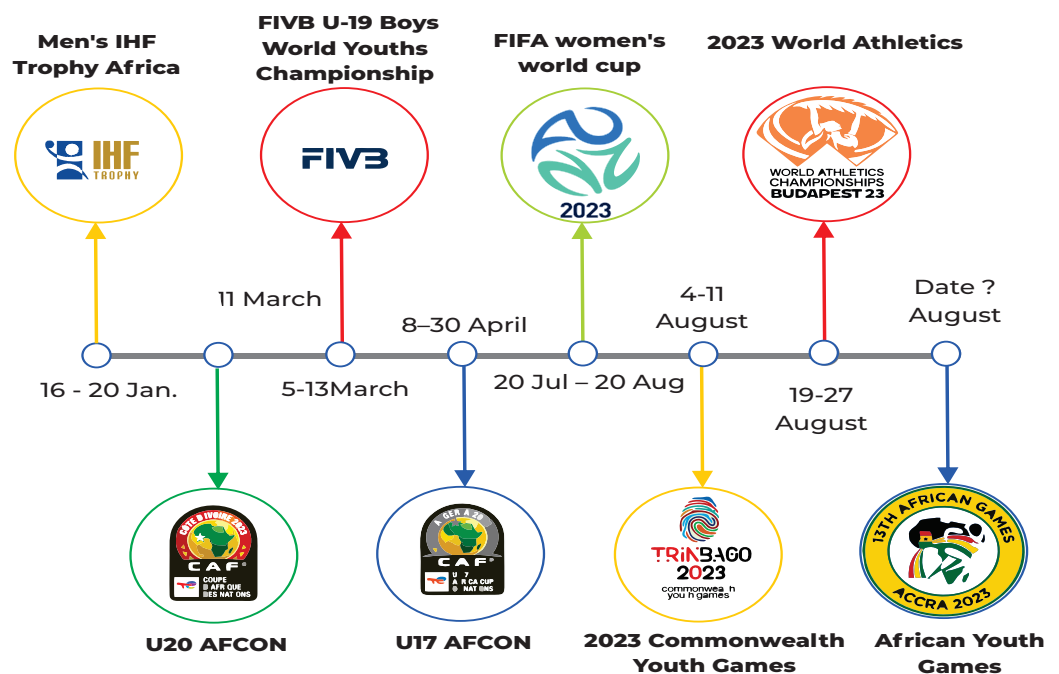
Happy New Year, Honorable Minister Babatunde Raji Fashola

Signed:

Alhaji Jamiu Abiola
The Shettima Rasheed of Borno



Infographic: Kehinde Omotosho



Major sporting contests for Team Nigeria in 2023

Jide Olusola

2023 will be a busy year for Nigerian sports as the country will be participating in some key sporting events across the world.

These competitions will give Team Nigeria another opportunity to reenact or even surpass their impressive performance at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham where Nigeria emerged the best performing African nation with 12 gold, 9 silver and 14 bronze medals.

Trust Sports highlights some of the major events in 2023 where the country's flag will be hoisted on the global stage.

FIFA women's world cup

The 9th edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup is scheduled to be held from 20 July - 20 August in two countries, New Zealand and Australia.

The Super Falcons who have been present ever since its inception in 1991 were handed a tricky draw after being housed in Group B alongside one of the co-hosts, Australia, as well as Canada and Ireland.

The Super Falcons will be starting out their FIFA campaign against Canada before other games against Australia and Ireland. The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup will be played from 17 to 23 February 2023.

2023 World Athletics Championship

Nigeria's Women's 4x100m relay and 4x400m mixed relay will again blaze the trails at the World Athletics Guangzhou 23 World Relays earlier scheduled to hold in Budapest, Hungary in August 2023.

The two relay teams booked their spot in Budapest following the revision of the qualification system by World Athletics.

Nigeria's Women's 4x100m relay team will compete with USA, Jamaica, Germany, Spain, Britain, Italy and Switzerland in the Women's 4x100m in a revamped

It will also be an opportunity for world champion, Tobi Amusan, to prove that her breath-taking and world record performance in Oregon, USA, wasn't a fluke.

qualification system released by World Athletics.

In the 4x400m mixed relay event the Dominican Republic, Netherlands, USA, Poland, Jamaica, Nigeria, Italy and Ireland will compete for medals.

It will also be an opportunity for world champion, Tobi Amusan, to prove that her breath-taking and world record performance in Oregon, USA, wasn't a fluke.

2023 All Africa Games

The African 'Olympics' will be hosted by Ghana and the 13th edition is expected to be held in three cities in Ghana on dates yet to be confirmed.

The city of Accra will play host to more than 4,000 athletes from 55 countries including Nigeria.

Ghana, which is hosting the quadrennial continental sporting festival for the first time since its inception in 1965 in Brazzaville, Congo has however come under heavy fire as to whether the country can meet the deadline for the August 2023 showpiece.

According to reports from Ghana, Dr Kwaku Ofose-Asare - Executive Chairman of the Accra 2023 LOC, has consistently held the view that Ghana would successfully stage the Games.

"I'm highly optimistic Ghana would stage one of the finest Games ever. Indeed, going by the timelines given to us by the African Union Commission, we at the LOC are working our fingers to the bone to make sure we meet those schedules and be able to host the Games pretty well."

The LOC has been working in tandem with the African Union Commission (AUC) - owners of the Games, to put together a formidably eye-pleasing sports feast, irrespective of the fact that the Olympic-size stadium at Borteyman - which was initially penciled to hold nearly the entire games, would not be ready, next August.

2023 Commonwealth Youth Games

Trinidad and Tobago will play host to 74 Commonwealth Games Association which Nigeria is a member.

The 7th edition will be the first to be held since the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III as Head of the Commonwealth and the reigning monarch of the Commonwealth Realms on 8 September 2022.

A total of seven sports have been confirmed to feature at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games. They are aquatics, athletics, cycling, Fast5 netball, Rugby sevens, triathlon and beach volleyball.

Scheduled to be held from August 4 to 11, athletes aged between 14 and 18 will compete in two clusters, one in Couva, Trinidad and Tobago.

2023 African Youth Games

Scheduled for April, the African Youth Games will be hosted by Brazzaville and it is expected to feature competition in some 30 sports and attract around 4,500 participants scheduled to begin in April.

Nigeria will be participating in a couple of events but all eyes will be on football where Nigeria's youth footballers, known as the "Future Eagles", will seek to reclaim the gold medal won at the 2014 Games in Gaborone.

In 2018 they claimed silver after a final defeat against Morocco in Algiers.

The Games, organised by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), are designed for the same 14-18 age group as the Youth Olympic Games. They were first held in the Moroccan capital Rabat in 2010 but have not taken place since 2018 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Men's IHF Trophy Africa

The Continental Phase of the men's youth and junior tournaments of the IHF Trophy Africa will take place in Brazzaville, Congo from 16 to 20 January 2023.

The event will serve as a qualification event for the Intercontinental Phase of the IHF Trophy.

At the youth levels, Nigeria will battle Burundi, Congo, Guinea and Zambia while at the junior level, Nigeria will tangle with Congo, Guinea, Madagascar, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

U-20 AFCON

The 17th edition of the biennial African international youth football tournament organized by the Confederation of African Football will be hosted by Egypt from 19 February to 11 March 2023.

The tournament also doubled as the African qualifiers for the 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup to be held in Indonesia. The top four teams will qualify for the World Cup.

Nigeria who have won it three times ((2005, 2011, 2015) are in group A alongside hosts Egypt, Mozambique, and Senegal.

U-17 AFCON

The 15th edition of 2023 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations for players aged 17 and below will be hosted by Algeria from April 8-30.

The top four teams of the tournament will qualify for the 2023 FIFA U-17 World Cup in Peru as the CAF representatives. It is scheduled to take place from April 8-30. Nigeria won the tournament in 2001 and 2007.





Wikki Tourists captain, Idris Guda

Wikki Tourists ready for 2023 NPFL season – Guda

David Ngobua

The Captain of Wikki Tourists, Idris Muhammed Guda, has said that the 'Bauchi Elephants' are battle ready for the coming 2022/23 Nigeria Professional Football League season.

Guda made the disclosure after the club's training at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa stadium Bauchi ahead of the opening game against Niger Tornadoes on Sunday.

"We have been training so hard since resuming camp after the last break and the couple of matches we have played in both pre-season friendlies and local competitions are pointers to how prepared we are as a team," said Guda.

On the abridge league format adopted by the Interim Management Committee (IMC) for the coming season, Guda admitted that it will be tough but was quick to add that Wikki Tourists are ready

to give all they have to ensure victory.

"We are fully aware of the critical nature of the abridge league and therefore not leaving anything to chance in ensuring victory in our matches.

The long serving captain of Wikki also commended the management of the club for organising the recently held seminar to upgrade the knowledge of players, officials and supporters of the club.

According to him, the seminar has greatly impacted everyone with more knowledge and understanding of the rules of the game which he said would be helpful during the league season.

Guda also used the opportunity to appeal for more understanding and prayers from the club's teeming supporters.

Wikki Tourists are in the same group with Lobi Stars, Abia Warriors, Rivers United, Rangers, Doma United, Bayelsa United, Niger Tornadoes, Dakkada and Sunshine Stars.

Shooting Stars unveil Alimi brothers, 2 goalkeepers

Dotun Omisakin, Lagos

Ahead of the commencement of the 2022/2023 Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) season, Shooting Stars Sports Club also known as 3SC have unveiled four new players that joined the team ahead of the new season.

Among the players introduced to members of the public at 3SC Supporters Club Secretariat, Lekan Salami Stadium, Adamasingba, are Sikiru Alimi, his brother Adebayo Alimi and two goalkeepers Bamidele Adeniyi and James Faith.

Sikiru Alimi, a former player of Lobi Stars and Sunshine Stars represented Remo Stars last season before his brief stint abroad with Darnes in Libya while his brother Adebayo played for MFM FC of Lagos last season.

Speaking to sports journalists

in Ibadan, Sunday Agunbiade, commended the management for unveiling the new players, saying that the team has not rested on its oar to ensure good performances in the league.

"I think the unveiling done by the club is a good beginning and management, not forgetting that in the past seasons, we didn't see such professionalism.

"The players have been together. They have been training hard so everybody should expect a very good fight from shooting stars," he said.

3SC are to open their campaign in the current season away at last season's runners-up, Plateau United on Sunday.

Following the decision to play an abridged league, 3SC are in Group A with Nasarawa United, Enyimba, Akwa United, Kwara United, Remo Stars, Gombe United Bendel Insurance, El-Kanemi and Plateau United.



Sikiru Alimi

INTERVIEW

Harrison Jalla: NPFL club owners used to siphon money

The Chairman of Professional Footballers Association of Nigeria (PFAN) Task Force, Harrison Jalla, has said Nigeria Professional Football League club managers 'club owners' who lack business acumen to make their clubs viable are used by state governors as conduit pipes to siphon money. Speaking exclusively to *Trust Sports*, the retired footballer also said the abridged 2022/23 league format was necessary to reposition the Nigerian topflight for greater heights.

Jide Olusola

You are a known critic of Nigerian football so share with us your take on the abridged league format for the 2023 NPFL season.

It is a new beginning and we have the IMC because the LMC failed. The LMC ran the league for about 10 years and the league became worse. There is a need to reposition football generally. The NPFL is the flagship of football in Nigeria and if you don't get it right, domestic football is dead. The NPFL is a critical sector that should be more important than the national team. The minister was right to bring the IMC and the NFF president supported it. The change was needed to rebuild the league and make it viable for sponsors. The league was for the highest bidder and it was even confirmed by the leadership of the club. The abridged league is to just get it right so that from August 2023, we can run a proper professional league where the clubs will meet their licensing obligations. Any club that doesn't meet should be dropped. The Scottish league has just 12 teams and if we run with 8 teams, all well and good. We should use the abridged league to prepare for the kind of standard we want.

We saw the club owners going against the abridged league. Why do you think they are opposed to that idea?

The club owners are a club managers association and they lack what it takes to run a professional club and that is why you see that the clubs and players are not of interest to them. They are people who are just chasing their personal interests over the place. A structure has been put in place to reposition the league and they are opposing it, doesn't make sense to me. IMC should ensure that qualified people are in charge. Yes, the clubs are owned by the states but that doesn't stop them from having qualified persons in charge. If you take Kano Pillars, Shooting Stars, Rangers, Enyimba to the stock exchange, they will be over-subscribed. They should do things to make clubs viable instead of waiting for government money. These guys don't know that football is business. They are not accountable and if you tell them they should bring their account books, there will be nothing to show. They are used by the Governors to siphon money. We need to get on board people who have business acumen into these clubs. Enyimba won the CAF Champions League back to back in 2003 and 2004 and got millions of dollars and I am not sure Enyimba can boast of a club house today. We should take a cue from North African and even South African leagues. Whoever takes over from IMC in the future should see that there is credibility in the recruitment of managers to run the league. They must show their business plans. Players are sold and the money doesn't get to the clubs. The club owners find a way to divert those funds into private accounts but a professional club will have its income and expenditure. They will sell players and use the money to develop the clubs but these ones are devoid of this knowledge. The club structure has to



Harrison Jalla

change to where you elect who becomes the chairman and other board members. The current guys are just there for what they can put in their pockets.

The league affects our national teams but overall, what is fundamentally wrong with our national teams using the Super Eagles as an example?

This is the problem we are trying to solve. If you look at it very well, the nucleus of the 1994 and 1996 squads was from those who played in the local league. The former NFF president, Amaju Pinnick was scouting for children of Nigerians who migrated 30 years ago to play for us. In our days, foreign based professional players fought for the shirt because the domestic league was solid. How many Saudi Arabians play outside, yet they defeated Argentina. Look at Morocco too. Once we build the domestic league, we can feed the national team with quality players. We don't have to over-depend on Europe for players.

On a personal note, how did you get into football from the onset?

I started from the school system which we should go back to. I am from Delta State and during the time of Governor Samule Ogbemudia, any athlete that has potential to be great was under the scholarship of the state. The school system was a recruitment ground for clubs. Davison Owumi and I were classmates in Orobo College and played in the same team. I played street football till I was picked from secondary school with Owumi and Clement Emele to play for amateur club, Warri Nepa. They spotted us in class 3 but we started playing for them from class 5. Before we left secondary school, we were already playing high level football. I played for State Academicals. The system was built from the secondary school.



INSIDE SOCCER

WITH DAVID BILLINGTON

Tribute to the "King"

It wouldn't be right to comment on football this week without paying tribute to the wonderfully gifted Pele who died last week. The Brazilian is recognised by most footballers, fans and critics as the best-ever to grace a football pitch. Whereas Pele never played in the Premier League, it was a current Newcastle player who speaks my words for me. Bruno Guimaraes continued Neymar's own personal message of "Pele gave a voice to the poor" by wearing a Brazil shirt with Pele 10 and the King's own signature on the back at the kick-off between Newcastle and Leeds United. Guimaraes later posted an online message which said, "What remains, King, is your legacy, your story and everything you did. We are grateful for everything you have provided." Arguments will always be voiced by football fans everywhere as to who is the better player, Messi or Ronaldo but as the great Hungarian legend Puskas once said, "There are players and there is Pele. He is on another planet." RIP Edson Arantes do Nascimento or as we loved him: "Pele."



■ Pele

Arsenal in fight with Chelsea to sign Ukrainian Mudryk

Arsenal have sent a second offer to Shakhtar Donetsk for winger Mykhaylo Mudryk after their opening bid of £55 million was rejected. My contact spoke with Mudryk and he is very keen on moving to north London and joining the Gunners and personal terms have been agreed. Shakhtar reportedly want £85million but Arsenal Sporting Director Edu has spearheaded a second bid. Mudryk has been watched by most of Europe's big clubs and has scored 11 goals and made 8 assists in 19 games this season. I have learned that Shakhtar are willing to let him leave in January and at present are talking only to the Gunners and Chelsea who met with Shakhtar's chief executive in London 48 hours ago. Chelsea executives at Stamford Bridge have discussed their options and want to put this deal together so anything is possible until Mudryk actually signs a contract.

Chelsea new centre-back Benoit Badiashile

AS Monaco centre-back Benoit Badiashile is in London taking a medical for a transfer to Chelsea. The defender is being signed on a six-year deal for £33.6million. The French international is viewed by coach Graham Potter and owner Todd Boehly as a key defensive player which has resulted from the injury to summer signing Wesley Fofana. They believe he could be a key to the future of the club. He will be 22 years-of-age in March and already has experience in Ligue 1 in France together with appearances in the Champions League and Europa League. Chelsea scouts have been

trailing 6ft 4ins Badiashile for several months and he scores 8/10 for tackling, heading, marking and stamina. Chelsea are also putting together a bid to bring Argentine World Cup midfielder Enzo Fernandez to Stamford Bridge and I am told they are willing to pay up to £112 million to secure his services which would make him the most expensive player in Premier League history. My understanding is that Chelsea would pay Benfica £37 million over three seasons to make the huge cost more affordable. The Portuguese club only signed Fernandez from Argentina's River Plate club six months ago for £9million! He was voted best young player of the World Cup tournament and scored one of the best goals of the tournament however his strengths are more his technical and tactical ability and exceptional passing.

De Gea makes United's decision easy

Manchester United goalkeeper David De Gea has made the club's problem of what to do with him at the end of the season much easier. De Gea is the club's highest wage earner on £375k per week but his contract runs out at the end of the season. There is an option to extend his contract for one year but the club do not want to pay such a high wage and it was possible he could move clubs. However, De Gea has expressed a wish to stay at the club until he retires and has accepted that any new contract will be with a substantial wage reduction. The 32-year-old is in his 12th year at Old Trafford and his recent form has been excellent despite United sending out scouts to spot potential fresh talent for next summer.

Atletico pricing Felix out of the market

It seems that crazy amounts of money are being bandied about when it comes to the January transfer window. Even Manchester United with their vast income have stepped back from signing Joao Felix after Spanish side Atletico Madrid asked for £18.3million for a six-month loan. Arsenal were also interested but will only enter the race if the fee is drastically reduced. Felix is only 23 years of age but his relationship with Atletico coach Diego Simeone has hit rock bottom and that has opened the door for a loan period. Erik Ten Hag wants to strengthen his attacking

options because of the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo and Edinson Cavani. However, Atletico want a down payment of £13million plus Felix's wages of £5.3 million paid and United have said, "no way."

*One player not set for a return to Old Trafford is on loan Amad Diallo who is enjoying a successful period at Sunderland in the Championship and he has scored six goals in 11 matches. United could recall him but Ten Hag feels he has enough cover for now and the youngster needs the experience at the lower level.

Lloris coming to end at Tottenham

I am hearing from Tottenham that long time goalkeeper Hugo Lloris does not have coach Antonio Conte's complete confidence any longer. Club captain Lloris had a good World Cup but he has been making mistakes at club level back at White Hart Lane. Only last week it was a Lloris mistake which sent Aston Villa on the way to secure a 2-0 win. Conte is under pressure to secure a Champions League place and all the riches it brings but he has demanded funds to secure another top-class goalkeeper at the end of the season. Lloris is 36 years of age and his time at Spurs is looking likely to end. Tottenham have no choice but to give Conte what he wants because if he walks out at the end of the season there are many European clubs who would employ him despite his reputation as a high maintenance coach who is very demanding and wears his heart on his sleeve. Conte says he wants to win trophies and if he cannot do that with Tottenham he will move on but he made it plain that the only way he can get his way is to be able to buy the players he wants and club boss Daniel Levy is not exactly generous when it comes to opening his cheque book.

Casimiro: A star in the Premier League

I have said it before and I will say it again... Manchester United midfielder Casimiro is a class above when it comes to dominating the centre of the park. Erik Ten Hag said on his own arrival at Old Trafford that the mental toughness in his inherited squad was very low. What he needed was a tough, skilful midfielder who could challenge for a ball, read a game and play with total commitment. I still do not understand why Real Madrid let him leave but United swooped quickly and signed Casimiro. Since then United have not looked back and are serious challengers for a Champions League spot next season. In the 15 matches since he joined for £60 million United have lost only two games. He was also named "man of the match" against Newcastle and Chelsea. After a 3-0 win over Nottingham Forest Ten Hag said of Casimiro, "It is a pleasure to work with him. The levels he brings to the team are huge."



■ Casimiro

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Saturday, Jan 7

Dutch Eredivisie
Waalwijk vs Heerenveen 3:30pm
Alkmaar vs Vitesse Arnhem 5:45pm
Fortuna Sittard vs G'Eagles 7pm
PSV Eindhoven vs Sparta Rotterdam 8pm

Spanish La Liga

Villarreal vs R'Madrid 3:15pm
R'Mallorca vs R'Valladolid 5:30pm
Espanyol vs Girona 8pm

Italian Serie A

Fiorentina vs Sassuolo 2pm
Juventus vs Udinese 5pm
Monza v Inter Milan 7:45pm

Portuguese Primeira Liga

Arouca vs Estoril 3:30pm
Vitoria de Guimaraes vs Rio Ave 6pm
Casa Pia AC vs Porto 8:30pm

Sunday Jan 8

Dutch Eredivisie

FC Utrecht vs Feyenoord 11:15am
Leeuwarden vs Volendam 1:30pm
NEC Nijmegen vs Ajax 1:30pm
Excelsior vs Groningen 3:45pm

Spanish La Liga

Almeria vs R'Sociedad 1pm
Rayo Vallecano vs R'Betis 3:15pm
Sevilla vs Getafe 5:30pm
A'Madrid vs Barcelona 8pm

Italian Serie A

Salernitana vs Torino 11:30am
Lazio vs Empoli 2pm
Spezia vs Lecce 2pm
Sampdoria vs Napoli 5pm
AC Milan vs Roma 7:45pm

Portuguese Primeira Liga

Pacos Ferreira vs GD Chaves 3:30pm
Maritimo vs Sporting Lisbon 6pm
Boavista vs Gil Vicente 8:30pm

PREMIERSHIP STATS

LEADING GOALSCORERS

1. Erling Haaland 15
2. Harry Kane 15
3. Ivan Toney 12
4. Aleksandar Mitrovic 11
5. Rodrigo 10

LEADING ASSISTS

1. Kevin De Bruyne 9
2. Christian Eriksen 5
2. Bukayo Saka 6
4. Gabriel Jesus 5
5. Alex Iwobi 5

LEADING PASSES

1. Rodri 1,401
2. Virgil van Dijk 1,317
3. Lewis Dunk 1,196
4. Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg 1,147
5. Eric Dier 1,132

LEADING CLEAN SHEETS

1. Nick Pope 10
2. David de Gea 8
2. Aaron Ramsdale 8
4. Ederson 6
3. Danny Ward 6

MOST MINUTES PLAYED

1. Gavin Bazunu 1,620
1. Maximilian Kilman 1,620
1. Jose Sa 1,620
1. Nick Pope 1,620
1. David Raya 1,620

MOST SHOTS

1. Aleksandar Mitrovic 69
2. Harry Kane 65
3. Erling Haaland 62
4. Mo Salah 58
5. Darwin Nunez 55

Stats in numbers >>>>>>>>>>

106 Benoit Badiashile is the only player born in the 21st century to have played more than 100 games in Ligue 1.

34 Harry Kane and Son Heung-min have now both scored in 34 different Premier League games together.

300 Harry Kane is just the second Premier League player to score on his 100th, 200th and 300th appearance in the competition after Teddy Sheringham.

19 As well as becoming the third youngest Italian scorer in Premier League history, Wilfried Gnonto (19y 60d) is Leeds' youngest top-flight scorer.

4 Only Erling Haaland (5) has scored the opening goal in more different Premier League games this season than Nottingham Forest's Taiwo Awoniyi.

4 Marcus Rashford has scored in four consecutive appearances in all competitions for the first time in his Manchester United career.

Elections: NYSC wants improved allowances for corps members

Maureen Onochie

The acting Director General (DG) of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Mrs Christy Ubah, has appealed that the allowances of corps members who will serve as ad hoc staff of inec in the forthcoming elections be improved due to the economic hardship in the country.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja when INEC's Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu, visited her, Mrs Uba said it had become necessary to look into improving the allowances of corps members as the current allowances could not cater for them in view of economic realities.

She said that in its effort to ensure more corps members participated in the election process, the scheme had concluded plans to resume orientation camp for Batch A Stream 1 in January, noting that the commission

should leverage on the orientation course to sensitise the corps members on their roles during the elections.

Ubah noted that as a scheme they had directed state coordinators to encourage as many corps members as possible to register on the INEC portal as ad hoc staff for the elections and participate as well, adding that the scheme had

gone ahead to sensitise the corps members that their security was being taken care of already.

On his part, Prof Yakubu said that without the corps members it would be difficult to conduct elections in the country.

He said it was necessary to involve the corps members in the conduct of elections as the commission had

introduced technology in the conduct of elections which would demand educated and tech-savvy people to handle.

He noted that corps members operated the most critical parts of the elections, which was conducting the voting process at the polling units, collation of results, as well as transmission of results.

He said due to the

involvement of NYSC in the conduct of elections in the country, the commission had included them into the inter-agency consultative committee on election security at the state level where the state coordinators would work together with state Commissioners of Police to achieve a smooth process.

On security of corps

members, he said the commission would extend security to the lodges of the corps members involved in the election process while they were on the field working so that they would be safe when they returned.

He added that the commission had also provided insurance cover for the corps members deployed on election duty.

Buhari mourns Kebbi boat mishap victims, Sardaunan Keana

Muideen Olaniyi

President Muhammadu Buhari has condoled with the government and people of Kebbi State over the loss of many lives following the capsizing of a boat conveying farmers.

The president, in a statement issued yesterday by his spokesman, Femi Adesina, also commiserated with the families who lost loved ones in the accident and urged more prayers for the rescued persons that are undergoing medical examination and treatment.

He called on stakeholders to pay more attention to proper regulation of transportation by boats, especially in rural areas.

In the same vein, the president condoled with the family, the government and people of Nasarawa State and all those who mourn the passing of a dedicated public servant and former commissioner in the old Plateau State, Alhaji Mohammed Othman.

The president, in a statement issued yesterday by his media aide, Malam Garba Shehu, joined the people in Keana in Nasarawa State in mourning the Sardaunan Keana "who was very passionate about the development of his people, championing grassroots and human capital development.



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Date: 14th January, 2023 **Time:** 10:00 am

Venue:
Local Government Service
Commission Conference Hall,
Kaita Road, Katsina

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Overcoming Challenges by Administrators in Nigeria's Varsities Administrations

Book: Strategies in Overcoming Challenges by Administrators in Nigeria's Tertiary Institutions

Author: Mustapha Hanafi-Idiaro **Reviewer:** Dr Idris O. Jibrin

Publisher: Kablat Multi Digital Ventures Limited.

BOOKSHELF



The history of the development of educational enterprise informs us that the creation or establishment of tertiary institutions anywhere in the world is always embedded with the need to administer them to attain their set goals or objectives. In the same vein, the necessity of the day-to-day management of the institutions is matched by the corresponding engagement of those to do the job. Among the crop of managers of tertiary institutions are the career or professional administrators whose tasks and responsibilities are as dynamic and exciting as they are onerous and challenging. Because of their centrality in the operations of tertiary institutions, understanding the role of the administrators in the development, ever-changing fortunes and or repositioning of the Institutions have remained a categorical imperative, especially in this knowledge-driven era.

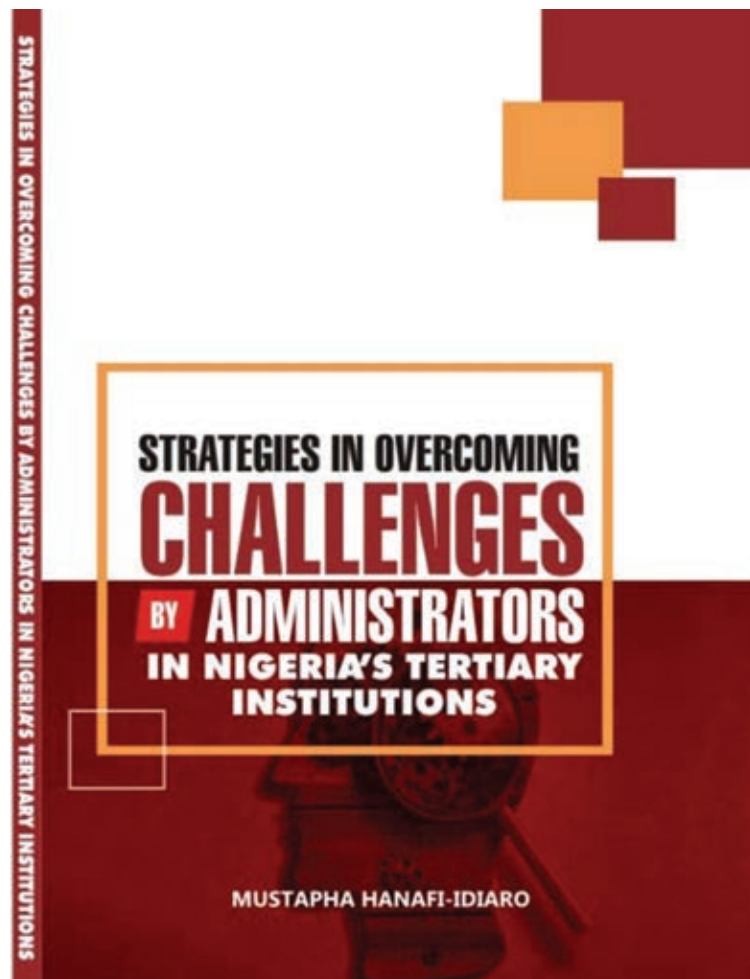
It is in this respect that the book, 'Strategies in Overcoming Challenges by Administrators in Nigeria's Tertiary Institutions,' written by Mustapha Hanafi-Idiaro, a vibrant and studious career administrator and brand new Deputy Registrar of the Federal University, Lafia, Nasarawa State, should be received and appreciated. The 82-page book published by Kablat Multi Digital Ventures Limited, Kaduna, aptly described by the author as "a concise handbook" (page ix) is a bold attempt by an administrative practitioner to advance the knowledge and understanding of basic principles, processes, procedures and practices in the running of tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

The delivery of the intellectual piece in short and simple language and style will make the book readable, and also a convenient reference material for administrators in tertiary institutions and interested members of the public.

The book is enriched by the supporting comments of some senior colleagues of the author and the forward written by his boss, the Registrar of the Federal University, Lafia. The book is made up of seven chapters and is adequately referenced by citations of relevant and up-to-date literature even up to the latter part of 2022.

Chapter one of the book which doubles as the introduction defines tertiary education as post-secondary, advanced or higher education that is obtained in universities, polytechnics, colleges of education, etc. It explains that the registry anywhere is manned by career or professional administrators, and for tertiary institutions, the registries serve as the engine room of their administration via the facilitation of established processes, procedures and practices. The chapter sums up the role of the administrators to ensure excellent operations and performance by the institutions.

Chapter two provides an overview of Nigerian tertiary institutions, specifically the universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. After the exposition of the various purposes for establishing the institutions, the organisational



and governance structures of the Institutions are laid bare and explained. The differences and peculiarities of their setups and operations are highlighted while not ignoring areas of uniformity such as the existence of unions and other pressure groups as partners in the governance and administration of tertiary institutions.

Chapter three identifies and discusses the challenges confronting the Nigerian tertiary education system. The challenges are analysed under two broad categories. One is the general challenges facing the Nigerian University system and the strategic goals put in place by the National Universities Commission to address them. The second is the specific challenges facing administrators in tertiary institutions, namely, lack of induction/orientation for new administrative staff, poor mentoring culture, little or no capacity development, and lack of social skills, etc. This is against the backdrop of similar structures and functions of Registries in various tertiary institutions, in which the broad duties and responsibilities of the University Registry are highlighted. These include the provision of secretariat services, facilitating academic matters and processes, establishment matters, custody of laws and regulations, information and public relations, as well as records management.

Chapter four dwells on the key facilitating tools being used by the administrators in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. Appropriately titled 'Administrator's Guide..,' it defines and distinguishes between minutes, reports, memoranda and circulars. The purposes, the

importance, the process of production and the formats and types of all these various means of communication are explained with clarity. In chapter five, the strategies towards overcoming the challenges in administration are eloquently articulated by the author. These involve appropriate steps by the administrators, including due diligence, effective communication, planning, digital literacy, invention, mastery of the rules and regulations, high productivity, and understanding and projection of the core values of the Institutions.

Similarly, in chapter six, the author attempts to connect the administration of tertiary institutions in Nigeria with the global best practices in Higher Education Management. He identifies several global best practices and maintains that they are necessary for "improved overall efficiency" and increased competitiveness in the contemporary global arena. However, the challenges of meeting global best practices in Nigeria are mentioned, including inadequate infrastructure, poor work ethic, policy instability, technological underdevelopment, resistance to change and over-dependence on government initiatives, including funding.

Chapter seven is the last and provides a comprehensive list of abbreviations being used in official correspondence in the governance and administration of tertiary institutions as part of the nation's public service. The author rightly notes that the abbreviations "are permissible and they convey quick understanding and enhance efficiency in administrative procedures and practice" (page 70). The chapter also listed the non-English words or phrases frequently used,

especially in official correspondence by administrators. Needless to say, that a mastery of the usage of abbreviations and non-English expressions recommends itself to anyone involved not only in the onerous task of the day-to-day operations of the tertiary institutions but also in public service in general.

On the whole, the book is a great effort by the author to advance the knowledge and understanding of his chosen profession as he lives and practices it. This is timely given that higher education institutions' management has come a long way in Nigeria, and with the tremendous transformation and changes in the governance and administrative setups and processes of the Institutions, only those directly involved can understand and explain the unfolding scenarios better. It is gratifying and commendable that our own Mustapha Hanafi-Idiaro has now joined the select few proactive Nigerian university professional administrators that have taken the intellectual gauntlet to articulate and publish their thoughts on their chosen profession for the benefit of colleagues, public service and posterity.

Furthermore, moving forward, it may be desirable to isolate and interrogate in-depth, especially the Nigerian University system, given both the apex position it occupies and the ripple effect of the changes at its level on the entire tertiary education sector. For instance, with the recent governance and succession crises at the University of Lagos, the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, as well as the Universities of Ibadan, Port Harcourt and the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, the jury is still out on whether the so-called autonomy granted to the federal universities has improved governance and administration in these institutions. Again, within the Registries, what has been the impact of the shortened tenure of the Registrars and the frequent succession politics on the professional security, occupational solidity and job performance of the so-called chief administrative officers as arrowheads of the engine rooms of the university administration? These are some of the burning questions begging for answers and it is hoped that more professional administrators will venture to intellectually address them for the overall benefit of the system. We can do it because we always witness, record and remain at the centre of the implementation of the new policy changes and directions in the system.

Finally, having blazed the trail at the Federal University of Lafia, the book written by Mustapha Hanafi-Idiaro, Strategies in Overcoming Challenges in Nigeria's Tertiary Institutions, is recommended for reading by all career administrators in the Nigerian tertiary institutions, the public service and interested members of the public.

Dr Idris O. Jibrin is a Senior Deputy Registrar (General Duties), Unity and Diversity Officer, University of Abuja, and Founding Registrar, Federal University, Lafia (2011-2017)

AROUND & ABOUT

Iniabasi Umo, Uyo

Instead of being clad in their school uniforms, finding their way to their classes every school day, some of the children are either pregnant or have become gangsters.

The sight of these pregnant teenage girls roaming the streets or hiding from public glare, and boys who would end up terrorising the community in future has become a thing of concern for the elders and leaders of Nkari community.

The elders are afraid that the grounding of academic activities in the community since 2020 due to the boundary crisis between the community and its Usaka Ukwu neighbours in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia State is already a problem with serious consequences for the development of the community.

Already, agricultural activities have been grounded as the vast piece of land under contention has not only been abandoned, but the crisis discouraged the cultivation of rice, a crop Nkari is known for, and any other possible developmental projects the government would have sited in the community.

Though 'normalcy' has returned to Nkari eight months after a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the local government Chairman of Ini, Hon. Israel Idaisin, and his counterpart in Ikwuano, Chief Steve Mpamugo, in a Joint Peace Agreement Drafting Committee meeting on January 26, 2022, in the presence of the Nigerian Army led by Lt. N. G. Kebbe, the consequences of the crisis still remain.

A visit to Nkari Community Secondary School revealed that the school has been covered with overgrown grass and a visitor would have to wade through the bush to notice the already deteriorating classroom blocks, and the collapse of some of the facilities.

It was gathered that despite efforts by the community to clear the overgrown grass and bushes in the abandoned school premises, in preparation for resumption of classes in the just concluded academic term, classes did not resume.

According to Obong Martins Udo, Village Head, Ifa, and Clan Head, Nkari community, the Ministry of Education failed to keep its promises that academic activities would resume in September in the community and teachers would be posted to the school to resume teaching.

Udo explained that the community was elated when a team of education inspectors from Abuja visited the community and also promised that the school would resume.

"We have suffered to no avail, especially last May, when we had a crisis with our Igbo brothers. The expanse of land you saw on your way here has been encroached. They caused problems and so many lives were lost. Thank God for how He brought about a settlement and we signed an undertaking last year, at least to calm down the situation.

"During the crisis, valuable equipment within the school compound was destroyed. If school was in session and there were day and night security guards, it wouldn't have been like that. So, we are in tears. Since 2020, for three years, our children have not gone to school, and this has affected us. These three years without teaching in the secondary school is a thing of surprise.

"For the sake of their lives, the teachers refused to come to school; not only that the only Community Secondary School teachers were posted out. With our contact, the ministry promised to send teachers at the start of this school year but with that fear of the killings, the teachers refused to return to school.

"Our children are suffering. Our children now school outside; Odot Ikono and other areas. Because of a lack of parental care, our



■ Nkari Community Secondary school gate and the school compound

How boundary crisis disrupts academic activities in A/Ibom

Children of Nkari community in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State have been out of school for two years while their mates within the council area and across the state are forging ahead academically. *Daily Trust Saturday* reports on the crisis disrupting academic activities in Akwa Ibom.

children are spoilt, especially the female children, and the males join bad gangs.

"The future of our children would be marred because if the school is not in operation, the children would turn to animals; unruly, violent. But if they are in secondary school and progress to the tertiary level, they would be trained. Our girl children would not be vulnerable to pregnancy.

"In September, a team of inspectors from Abuja came here, saying they came on a surprise visit. They made promises that academic activities would resume before the end of this school year, but nothing has happened in the secondary school.

"We have gone to complete the clearing of the school compound," he stated.

Commenting on the implication of the crisis on the community, Caretaker of Gateway to Nkari, Obong Okon Joseph Akpan, urged the government to intervene so their children would return to school, noting that education would make their children responsible.

"As a result of the boundary crisis, we find ourselves in this kind of situation academically and it is a problem. If you are not educated, you could find yourself as a trouble maker because education shapes a person and makes them responsible.

"We have been involved in a crisis with our Ikwuano neighbours in Abia State and because of that, on May 20, 2020, they planned an annexation to this community but God said no; and it has been a big battle. We saw hell, and we were strangulated, with a lot of psychological and emotional problems that we passed through. So we need government support to help us with education and health, both in manpower and facilities," he said.

Speaking on the efforts the local government council has made to ensure students and teachers resume academic activities in the community secondary school, Mr Utin Okon, the Supervisor, Political and Chieftaincy of the LGA, said he has written letters to the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and the Ministry of Education requesting for teachers for the primary and secondary schools in the community.

Okon lamented the absence of government presence in the community, saying the school was their only consolation that there was hope for their children as the area has totally been neglected by the government.

He explained that the crisis has long ceased in the area with the agreement signed by the warring communities and wondered

why it was difficult for the state government to ensure that academic activities resume in the schools, adding that the community had to employ support teachers to teach in the Methodist Primary School in Mbente Village, close to the house of the Paramount Ruler of Ini Local Government Area, Edidem Udoette Edon, as the school is without teachers.

"Some of them will seek transfer and some will blatantly stay away. The excuse was that there was a crisis but the crisis has long ceased over a year now. We have signed an agreement with the Commander of the Military Base in Ibawa that there would be no more problems.

"The youths have stopped making trouble, no more fighting. That is why you see them coming to clear this place so that academic activities would begin.

"I have worked with the local government chairman for seven years for the development of this community. I want a government presence in this community. Unfortunately, we have never for once had a representative from this community in government.

"Last two months, I was still with the National Boundary Commission on this matter. The last time, I was with SUBEB. What we want now is for the government to send teachers to our school so that our children can resume studies.

"These would help these girls getting pregnant, stem down the rate of pregnancy we have seen ourselves so that the future would be okay with them. And the boys that have joined bad gangs in exile should stop so we can give them our own moral rectitude as God has given to Nkari people," he said.

When Sir John Udo, Board Member, State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), in charge of school services, was contacted on the challenge in Nkari, he said teachers who were posted to the secondary and primary schools there were threatened by the crisis and fled for their lives.

Udo revealed that many of the teachers posted to the community requested for a reassignment to other schools, adding that the board was working on the modalities of posting indigenes in the employ of the state government from the community to serve as teachers in the schools there.

"You know that area is a war area; there is always a problem around that side. When the last war came, boys from that area came with guns, and in their numbers. They came with escorts to arrive at Mbiabong Ikot Udofia.

"If you are not from Nkari and I post you to that place to go and work; maybe when you

go, there is no problem, and you think peace has returned and suddenly they start fighting. As a government teacher, what would you do?

"Nkari has a peculiar case. Even if you keep the police there, there would still be trouble. Can you be in an environment where they are warring, and there are vices?" he queried.

The SUBEB member explained that aside from waiting for a confirmation from the community that they have ceased fighting and prepare the school for the resumption of academic activities, the commission was working together with education supervisors at the local government level to ensure that the teachers posted to the schools there resume classes.

He, however, lamented that as a result of the crisis, parents have withdrawn their children from the public schools in the area, adding that even if the government sends teachers to the primary school, it would be in proportion to the number of pupils available.

"We had asked for peace to be returned; community, settle your matter, and when you settle, we would come and start school. I learnt that the two communities met and had settled. Resumption was in September, and we have posted teachers to the schools and expected the school to start (I think there are about 5 schools in that community).

"What we are trying to do as a board to get people to respond is that we want to post people from that community there. We are looking for measures to take to force teachers to go there.

"We have posted teachers, and we go out for inspection. We have quality assurance, we have education secretaries in the local government areas that will help us for the inspection. The problem may not be the board again.

"Many parents have withdrawn their children from those (primary) schools, so we cannot send teachers because we don't have teachers to waste. If we have 40 pupils, I can't keep more than 5 teachers; the head teacher and other teachers, that is, one teacher handles one class. If you divide 40 by 4 you have 8 pupils per teacher.

"We don't have teachers because every year teachers are retiring, and government must plan; include in the budget for the recruitment of teachers.

So much money has gone for the payment of teachers' salaries, so we may decide that this year; we would spend a big chunk of the money for road construction. Government cannot recruit teachers every year," he said.

INSIDEPOLITICS



■ Alia



■ Uba



■ Hembe



■ Angwe

63 days to poll: Who succeeds Ortom in Benue?

Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

Ahead of the March 11, governorship election, 17 candidates of political parties in Benue State are intensifying their campaigns to succeed Governor Samuel Ortom.

The Resident Electoral Commissioner of INEC in the state, Prof Sam Egwu, has said that the March 11, election in Benue State would hold across the 23 LGAs in 276 Registration Areas and 5,102 Polling Units involving 2,782,302 registered voters.

Egwu noted that the final figure of registered voters would be determined by the final cleanup of the register using the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) which had already aided in purging the register of 2.78 million from double/multiple registration, underage persons and fake registration.

He also said that 17 out of 18 political parties are participating in the Benue election because the BOOT party would not be contesting.

Barely two months to the election, the governorship candidates are crisscrossing the state, selling their manifestoes and urging the electorate to trust them with their votes.

Most of the candidates have harped on the citizens' concerns over the growing agitation for better life devoid of owed salaries, backlog of pension, primitive methods of farming and insecurity in rural areas.

Our correspondent reports that citizens of the state are eager to experience a positive change through the administration of a new governor.

Who among the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP's) Engr Titus Uba; All Progressives Congress' (APC's) Rev Fr Hyacinth Alia; Labour Party's (LP's) Herman Hembe; New Nigeria Peoples Party's (NNPP's) Prof Bem Angwe or All Progressives Grand Alliance' (APGA's) Joseph Wayas, among others, will win the people's heart to clinch the state's foremost seat of power?

The chances of these contestants in the eyes of the voters are becoming clearer by the day, with the above-mentioned political parties topping.

The race to the Food Basket state's government house will not be an easy ride for the two dominant parties - PDP and APC - as present developments have thrown up a fresh debate over the chances of LP and NNPP as being the third force to likely emerge next occupant of the state's foremost seat of power.

The argument is that in the event that PDP's Uba who just returned from a medical vacation voluntarily resigns presumably over

his ill health and APC's Alia is sacked by the various appeal cases in court, then the LP and NNPP candidates may have to battle for the soul of the state.

Observers, however, think that while Speaker of the House Assembly, Titus Uba, who is PDP's flagbearer, has the advantage of his party's incumbency, his counterpart in APC, Fr Alia, a priest of the Catholic Church, enjoys better grassroots popularity.

And if the pattern of their first wins at the primary elections which brought about their candidatures are anything to go by, then the scenario may likely impact their chances in the general elections, as many pundits posit that the PDP will have to work harder to retain the state.

The APC on the other hand in the eyes of political watchers must quickly close up every perceived gap - grievances and lingering legal battles - to cash in on the present goodwill of the electorate to take over the state.

A political observer, Attah Ede, opined that the 2023 governorship election in Benue State would be the most important and interesting poll, especially as the two main political parties, PDP and APC, were eagerly ready to coast home to victory.

Ede said, "However, looking at how Titus Uba emerged as the PDP candidate and the way Fr Alia equally became the APC candidate, you will agree with me that Uba will win the election. The process that culminated in Uba's emergence was transparent and acceptable to the PDP family and devoid of litigation.

"PDP as a party in Benue State is more coordinated, more organised and less of an internal crisis than APC. Therefore, the PDP candidate in the person of Titus Uba will be able to win the governorship election in the state. His antecedents and leadership prowess demonstrated so far as speaker of the state assembly also stand him out to win the governorship election. Uba has what it takes to win the election more than Alia."

On the other hand, the State Publicity Secretary of LP, contended that, "The predicament of Benue today is the product of Siamese twins of a detrimental status occasioned by the PDP and APC. So, the people are looking for something new and a breath of fresh air which Hembe represents.

"He is the youngest candidate of them all and most politically experienced as a fourth term National Assembly member. He has delivered all rounds in his local government areas including building the roads leading to the house of the PDP governorship candidate. He stands the greatest chance among the Benue people."

Similarly, Dan Morgan Ihomun, who is APC's Publicity Secretary in the state,

posited that the chances of APC winning the governorship election remained very clear because in his estimation the candidate was well accepted across board and with an impeccable character.

Ihomun said, "Those in court with the party have their right to challenge any infringement, but I know that the court will not stop us from winning Benue. The court has only validated the primary done by the party and so there are no doubts that we will win Benue State."

Meanwhile, four major political players for the governorship among whom one would emerge victorious barring any game changer at the last minute, are now holding the ace of their various parties as they dot their i's and t's in readiness for the exercise.

Titus Uba (57)

He emerged as the candidate of PDP through a consensus sequel to his alleged anointing for the number one job in the state by the PDP National Chairman, Dr Iorychia Ayu, and Gov Samuel Ortom. Initially, his emergence caused ripples in the party which led to the defection of some members, but the PDP promptly settled differences.

Uba's strength lies in the current unity of the PDP in the state. The party appears to have tied all loose ends and as such is now more than ready to retain the state going by all human and financial calculations.

Nevertheless, Uba's recent ill health has sparked further debates as to whether he would be able to continue with the race. The PDP has, however, dismissed such concerns, saying the antics of the evil doers had failed. Despite the campaigns going well for Uba, the candidature of the opposition APC in the eyes of the electorate no doubt poses a great challenge to the realisation of his dream.

Hyacinth Alia (56)

Many people in the state see Alia's followership as a movement that cannot be tamed by the power of incumbency. The Catholic clergy is a greenhorn in the governorship race but can't be wished aside following the crowd of people supporting his aspiration. But his insiders' support and funds to enable him to clinch the party's ticket are still doubtful as the majority of those who contested the primary election with him dragged him to court.

Alia defeated 11 aspirants to emerge as the party's flagbearer. He recently also defeated some of the aggrieved aspirants, including PDP, at the high court and the legal battle has now proceeded to the appeal court. The odds against him in the thinking of political watchers are the court cases.

However, if Alia scales the legal hurdles, then the PDP will likely have a cause to worry about because "Yes father", a popular slogan chanted in support of the priest, has gained

Many people in the state see Alia's followership as a movement that cannot be tamed by the power of incumbency. The Catholic clergy is a greenhorn in the governorship race but can't be wished aside following the crowd of people supporting his aspiration.

huge popularity among residents.

Herman Hembe (46)

A lawyer and House of Representatives member for Vandeikya/Konshisha remains a powerful third force in the race owing to the support of most Benue people irrespective of party affiliation because of the presidential candidature of the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi. The biggest strength of Hembe is serving his people at the lower chamber of the National Assembly for the fourth time. His critics are however quick to point to the fact that Hembe does not enjoy support outside his constituency of Konshisha and Vandeikiya LGAs. But, he is generally believed to have the capacity to govern, plus the advantage of age on his side.

Bem Angwe (58)

Angwe, a professor of law, was returned unopposed as the governorship candidate of the NNPP for Benue's number one seat after he established the party in the state. The former Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) adventure will likely be limited by the presence of his party, which is still struggling to gain recognition in the state. His strength will, however, surface in the undoing of the two dominant parties in the state while his antecedence of generosity will speak for him.

Bauchi highway markets endanger lives

Commuters and motorists are groaning over the indiscriminate activities of traders who operate along roadsides in Bauchi State, leading to chaotic traffic, *Daily Trust Saturday* reports.

Hassan Ibrahim, Bauchi

Many of the local markets along the highways in Bauchi State are subjecting residents and travellers to hardship associated with gridlock and accidents.

The village markets have stampede of traders showcasing and selling their goods on the shoulders of the highways and other activities like loading unloading bags of grains, wrong parking of vehicles, especially trucks, on market days

Investigation revealed that there are over 30 local markets operating along the five routes that link the state with neighbouring states and our correspondent who visited some of the markets reports.

A commercial driver, Abubakar Sani, said, "There are many local markets along the highways in Bauchi State, but the worst among them is the Alkaleri Market in Alkaleri LGA which is held every Sunday. Sometimes because of the heavy traffic we have to drop the passengers who then trek long distances to pass the market area to get other vehicles to continue their journey."

A shop owner in Alkaleri, Habibu Suleiman, said, "Every Sunday, due to the heavy traffic, both residents and traders used to have a series of misunderstandings and conflicts with drivers and motorcyclists."

"The state government needs to quickly intervene to either expand the road or complete the bypass to reduce the suffering of travellers and residents, because every market day records road accidents."

Danlami Adamu, the secretary of grain traders in Alkaleri, said, "Government should find an alternative space to relocate the market, because the grains section is largely responsible for the traffic congestion in the Alkaleri Market. I strongly believe that if the authorities relocate the grain traders there will be free flow of traffic on market days."

"Another area of concern is the traders who have refused to leave the highway despite enlightenment and pleas to stop displaying their goods on the road."

The Chairman of the National Youth Council (NYC), Alkaleri branch, Comrade Bala Mohammed Duguri, said, "Alkaleri Market has grown beyond imagination to the extent that the space cannot accommodate the traders, vehicles, livestock and other goods on market days."

He explained that, "When the market was established 50 years ago there was a distance of more than two kilometres from Alkaleri town, but development has taken over the market and turned it into the middle of the town. That is the reason for the traffic congestion."

He noted that with relocating and expanding the market, "The government stands to benefit from generating more revenue because traders from across the country visit Alkaleri Market every Sunday to transact their businesses, especially livestock, as cattle from Cameroon are brought to Alkaleri."

Danjuma Muhammed, leader of cattle traders in Alkaleri, attributed the congestion to the attitude of traders, influx of people on the market and lack of an alternative road for other travellers to bypass the market.

He said, "The indiscriminate parking of vehicles, uploading of market produce on



Traders display their goods at Soro market



Traders selling their goods on the highway at Gadar Maiwa in Ningi LGA

the road and traders displaying their goods on the only road are the major causes of the congestion. We have made several requests to the local government council to relocate our cattle market because the traffic congestion is affecting our economic activities.

"The DPO in Alkaleri and the road safety use to deploy their men to decongest the road every market day, but the road is narrowed by the activities of some traders selling on the road and commercial drivers who park indiscriminately. Already, the state government has commenced a bypass road which we believe will address the challenge."

Another market that puts untold hardship on travellers is the Soro Market on the Bauchi-Maiduguri highway in Ganjuwa LGA which is held every Saturday.

A traveller, Bakari Alhaji Modu, who transacts perfume from Maiduguri to Bauchi, told *Daily Trust Saturday*, "It is terrible passing through Soro on a market day because one spends more than three hours in gridlock."

A trader in Soro, Abdulsalam Abdullahi, said austere economic conditions forced them to display their commodities on the shoulders of the road.

He said, "We don't have the means to rent shops inside the market. Even when you have a shop in the market nobody will buy your commodity. I sell cooked cassava and other commodities with a capital not more than N10,000. How do you expect me to rent a shop which is more than my entire capital?"

"We too don't want to stay on the

roadsides, but our economic conditions have forced us to display so as to have a means of survival."

Another trader selling dates on the highway in Soro, Ibrahim Audu, said, "If you go into the market nobody will buy your goods. We know the dangers associated with selling on the highway and we are doing this trade with fear of accidents because there is no market day without either a minor or a major road accident in the market, but that is the only source of our livelihood."

Suleiman Yusuf, a trader hawking mats in Soro, said, "We know the dangers of trading on the road. My colleague is at home with a fracture after a vehicle knocked him down in the market three weeks ago."

One of the leaders in Soro Market, Bala Alhaji Haruna Sarkin Tike Soro, said, "The traditional ruler of Soro has set up a task force about the traffic congestion comprising the police, civil defence, road safety and vigilantes."

Haruna noted that, "Market leaders evolved various methods to resolve the problem, especially enlightening the traders about the dangers of trading on the highway, but our efforts were not successful because the grain traders are uploading their goods on the bypass road and right now they have blocked it completely."

At the Gadar Maiwa Market in Ningi LGA on the Bauchi-Kano road, the Chairman of the market, Haruna Adamu, lamented that the traffic congestion at the market was worrisome due to the frequent accidents and keeping travellers stranded for hours on market days.

He said, "We are not happy with the

wasting of travellers' time for hours due to gridlock caused by the traders. We are working with the police, road safety, civil defence and vigilantes to control the traffic in every market, but the situation is beyond our control due to the influx of people.

"We are appealing to the state government to help us construct a bypass because the immediate past administration made an effort to do the bypass but was not successful."

"Also, the market needs to be expanded to decongest the traffic."

Isa Ibrahim, a leader of cattle traders at the Gadar Maiwa Market, said, "Every market day officials assemble on the road to ensure vehicles enter the motor park and don't park on the road because the highway is narrow."

"The challenge has compelled some travellers to shift their journeys to skip Mondays (market days) for fear of the gridlock at Gadar Maiwa."

Another gridlock-prone highway is the Bauchi-Jos road which has become a death with a high record of accidents as it hosts five major roadside markets, especially the Nabardo Market and the Tilden Fulani Market.

A taxi driver, Salisu Lawnan, who recently knocked down three people at the Tilden Fulani Market, said, "Last month I was driving from Jos to Bauchi and I met a gridlock at Tilden Fulani on a Tuesday; the market day. We were stranded for over one hour. When the traffic eased I took off not knowing that my break had failed. I rammed into some traders and three of them were injured," adding that, "The situation is the same at the Nabardo Market on Saturdays, as well as the Magama Gumau Market."

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Bauchi State, Yusuf Abdullahi, lamented that the traders defied all efforts made to tackle the situation.

He said, "Stakeholders must unite to confront the challenge, including government, the communities and critical actors in market affairs."

"I can say Bauchi State has the highest number of markets on major highways, and I have my personnel across all the LGAs."

"What we are saying is that we are doing our best. It also rests on other stakeholders to do needful to address the problem. The best solution is relocation of the markets from the highways as quickly as possible."

"The reason why I said relocation is the best solution is that when the forefathers that we are referring to opened those markets the populations were about 1/100 per cent with what is obtainable today. The markets have continued to expand due to economic development of the state, but that should not put the lives of the people in danger."

When contacted, a spokesman to Bauchi State Governor, Comrade Mukhtari Gidado, said the state government had put in place machinery to decongest all the markets in the state, especially those along the highways.

Gidado said, "Government is also worried about the situation because the challenges have been there even before the advent of this administration. Already, the state government has commenced construction of bypasses in some LGAs like Alkaleri to decongest the markets."

"Secondly, the law of the Bauchi State Road Transport Agency (BAROTA), which was designed to decongest roads, when it comes fully into action, will reduce illegal trading on the roads and traders will return to shops in the markets."

"Additionally, the government has concluded plans of constructing modern markets in Bauchi, Katagum and Misau, apart from the existing ones like the Muda Lawal Market that the government is working to expand, with a view to cushion the effects of the congestion in markets across the state."



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POSTHUMOUS
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FROM ALL OF US AT OMS



AROUND THE STATES

FCT

NUPRC picks 139 firms for gas flare trading

Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) has shortlisted 139 companies out of 300 firms that applied to be involved in the Nigerian Gas Flare Commercialisation Programme (NGFCP) 2022.

In an announcement yesterday, the upstream petroleum regulator said 300 companies indicated interest including those who had submitted proposals before.

NUPRC had in November opened the request for companies to apply to the gas buying and trading scheme to reduce the flaring of gas from oil production facilities.

It said with the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 (PIA), the NGFCP was restructured to curtail gas flaring by providing revenue generation incentives.

The Finance Bill 2022, yet to be signed into law, provides for incentives for gas flare trading where firms can convert the flared gas into Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for cooking, melting and heating purposes.

This will also help to reduce the effects of the flared gas on the climate especially in the oil producing Niger Delta.

DELTA

Gunmen kill 1, kidnap another in Delta

Meluwa Kelvin, Asaba

Gunmen have shot dead a man, Louia Saturday Agboma, and abducted another in Ethiope-West LGA of Delta State.

Daily Trust Saturday gathered that the deceased (teenager) was on Friday shot at close range and left in the pool of his own blood in Mosogar community.

A source said, "The gunmen attempted to abduct the first victim at the entrance of his compound on his return from an outing but he resisted their moves and in the process he was shot dead."

"The one who was kidnapped is the son of one Mr Peter Akpoyibo."

When contacted, spokesman of the police in the state, DSP Bright Edefe confirmed the report without providing details.

KWARA

Man arrested for kidnapping dad, collecting N2.5m

Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

The Kwara State Police Command has arrested one Issa Naigheti around Kambi area of Ilorin for kidnapping his father and collecting a ransom of N2.5 million.

It was gathered that the suspect conspired with two others, now at large, to abduct his father who resides in Igboho/Igbeti area of Oyo State.

Spokesman of the command, Okasanmi Ajayi, confirmed the incident on Friday, adding that efforts were ongoing to arrest his accomplices.

GOMBE

FG state, inaugurate N11.4bn water project

Haruna Gimba Yaya, Gombe

The federal government, in collaboration with the Gombe State Government, has inaugurated an N11.49 billion project for the rehabilitation, expansion and upgrading of the Gombe Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Inaugurating the project alongside Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya on Friday, the Minister of Water Resources, Suleiman Hussaini Adamu, said the project was in line with the provision of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy of the federal government.

He said that the federal government's intervention was to accelerate access to potable water in the country towards meeting national and internationally set targets.

He said, "The Gombe regional water supply project was carried out in a 70/30 per cent partnership with the Gombe State Government."

In his speech, Governor Inuwa Yahaya said that his administration had since 2019 undertaken essential repairs and rehabilitation of the Gombe regional water project, which he noted enabled the state government to supply 50 million litres daily as against the 20 million daily supply.

AKWA IBOM

NMDPRA seals 13 filling stations

Iniabasi Umo, Uyo

The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) has sealed 13 filling stations in Akwa Ibom State for

over-pricing products.

Petrol is currently sold between N300 and N320 per litre across the state, even as there is artificial scarcity of the product created by marketers.

Speaking on Friday in Uyo during

the monitoring and surveillance exercise, the Team Lead, Distribution Systems Storage and Retailing Infrastructure of NMDPRA, Joy Koro, said, "We shut down 13 filling stations that were selling far above the government regulated pump price."



■ From left: Aminu Abubakar Suleiman (Director), Abbas Jega (Chairman), Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli, Yusuf Usman Yahaya (Managing Director), Umar Abdullahi (Director) and Maryam Mohammed (Company Secretary) during a condolence visit to the Emir by Kaduna Electric's Board of Directors over the recent electrical incident in Zaria on Thursday

PHOTO: Kaduna Electric

BAUCHI

Police arrest man for killing wife, woman for killing co-wife

Hassan Ibrahim, Bauchi

A man in Bauchi State has been arrested for shooting his wife to death.

Nuhu Umar Usman

(40) allegedly shot his second wife, Ladi Nuhu (37), dead at Dangarfa village in Ningi LGA.

Police spokesman in the state, Ahmed Wakil, said preliminary investigation

revealed that the suspect slept in the same room with his victim-wife that night, adding that the suspect had two wives and six children.

In related development,

the police arrested a woman, Amina Guguwa (50), for killing her co-wife, Amina Koli (60), at Miya village in Ganjuwa LGA by strangling her on January 1.

BENUE

4 injured as residents desert communities after attack

Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

Four people were injured as residents fled their homes after a fresh attack by armed men on their communities in Benue State.

Our correspondent

reports that the villages of Nagi and Tse-Girgi Dajo in Gwer West LGA came under attacks between Tuesday and Thursday.

A resident told our correspondent by telephone that Nagi was attacked on Tuesday during which several people were injured,

while Tse-Girgi Dajo came under siege earlier on Tuesday.

The Chairman of Gwer West LGA, Andrew Ayande, confirmed the development to our correspondent on telephone, stating however that four people were injured in the two attacks.

Contacted, police spokesperson in the state, SP Catherine Anene, said the command received information that there was going to be an attack on Nagi area, adding that there had been none so far except that the people might be fleeing their homes out of fear.

OGUN

Pensioners ask Abiodun for N2bn quarterly

Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Pensioners in Ogun State have appealed to Governor Dapo Abiodun to increase the N500 million quarterly gratuity payment to N2 billion to offset the N64.4 billion outstanding gratuities.

The pensioners said the increase would go a long way in offsetting the backlog of unpaid gratuities.

The senior citizens, under the aegis of the Nigeria Union Pensioners (NUP), Ogun State chapter made the appeal while addressing journalists in Abeokuta.

The Chairman of NUP, Waidi Oloyede, described the Contributory Pension Scheme Review and Consequential Pensions Adjustment Committee set up to address the demands of workers and pensioners in the state as "a ruse and a calculated ploy to frustrate our legitimate

demands, discredit the NUP leadership and also build mistrust in the rank and file of our union."

The pensioners berated the governor over his failure to implement the agreements signed with them in a Memorandum of Action (MOA) over four months ago.

FCT

Borno 90% safe for elections – Zulum

Muideen Olaniyi

Governor Babagana Zulum has said Borno State is 90 per cent secure and safe for the 2023 general elections.

He said this on Friday after a courtesy visit to President Muhammadu Buhari at the presidential

villa in Abuja.

The governor assured the voting public of its safety before, during and after the elections.

The November 22, 2022, attack on the PDP presidential campaign train in Maiduguri had raised security alert about possible violence ahead of the polls.

Asked what he was doing to assure those not bothered to collect their PVCs because of fear that insecurity might not enable them to use them during the elections, Zulum said: "The people of Borno State voted during the 2015 elections. They also voted during the 2019 elections. Can you compare

the security situation in 2019 and 2015 and now? The security situation has improved tremendously by over 90 per cent; so we don't have any problem.

"Eligible voters can go and cast their votes on election days. In sha Allah, in Borno State, we don't have any problem."

'Neglecting older people is a loss for Nigeria'

Emem Omokaro is the Director General (DG) of the National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC) which was established pursuant to the National Senior Citizens Centre Act 2017 domiciled in the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development. She speaks on the activities of the centre in meeting the needs of older people in Nigeria.

Taiwo Adeniyi

How has it been coordinating the affairs of older people in Nigeria one year after NSCC was established?

This centre stands to initiate and facilitate good and quality lives for older people. This is the first time that Nigeria has a focal agency on aged and older persons. The beauty of it is that it is by legislation. The National Senior Citizens Centre Act 2017 is the premise on which the centre was set up and that shows sustainability. The board was inaugurated and it was a thoughtful and technical board. The members represent the major MDAs, and of course Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and then professional bodies. It has been exciting and challenging. Exciting because it took many years of advocacy in having to constantly call attention to the plight of older persons. It's exciting that finally Nigeria has come to that place where we can truly say the government recognises the increasing number of older people. This has given the older people and youths an opportunity to have a centre focused on developmental issues concerning them.

Then, on the other hand, it's been challenging. As you rightly pointed out, nobody handed over the baton to us. Therefore, the foundation that we lay now has to be concrete, very solid and very forthright having in mind the multi-sectoral issues of ageing and understanding that Nigeria has to be put on that path that sees ageing in an optimistic way.

Older people are not beggars, they contribute to and are bona fide members of society. So, the centre has to bring a perspective that'll be a Nigeria perspective to ageing.

First, we set out to get a National Policy on Ageing. This is one legacy nobody can deny. We have developed a 10-year road map. We are taking time through multi-sectional engagement and consultations. The road map helped us to clearly identify our vision. A Nigeria that is inclusive, where older people can live dignified, secure, happy and healthy lives and are given opportunities to practice what they value. Where their functional capacity declines, they have a right to comprehensive healthcare wherever they choose to live. Issues of ageing are spread across agriculture, social programmes, income security and financial inclusion. We now have a way of bringing in all the sectors—health, transportation, housing, sport, data generation and management, among others—these cut across many MDAs. We have to approach the delivery of our mandate through multi-sectional engagement partnerships and also through data application. We are scientific in our approach. We want to know their number as the act mandates us to keep records of all older people.

When we talk about multi-sectoral partnerships and data applications; they cut across stakeholders. In each state, we have been able to create engagement mechanisms. The same stakeholders that we used to develop the strategic plan now facilitated the stakeholders' groups which are now our engagement mechanisms in the states. Our mission is to use these partnerships and data applications to identify their needs and then initiate, facilitate and coordinate meeting those needs. Our approach is intergenerational; focusing on youths so that they can grow old healthily and understand the future that they will create with us. We are changing that perspective

- that investment in older people is a waste - we are bringing that perspective that this is an industry. We are sanitising the health and social care industries. Unlike other countries, we don't have a long-term care system. We are going to change that and we will bring Nigeria to that stage where nobody is afraid to grow old. What we have done is strengthen those structures that we know must carry us. We have project activities from now till 2025. We have identified projects, activities, objectives, justifications, partners, timelines and key performance indicators, and for every one of those we develop monitoring evaluation programmes.

NSCC is setting up a foundation. That roadmap is clear. There is no programme that we have done that older people do not have a say in; that is the structure we are creating, and we have developed our thematic areas.

Data is a challenge in Nigeria and is key to NSCC, what have you done to tackle the challenge?

It's a challenge because most national surveys are in demand. The people who make the demand focus on their areas. We identified very relevant MDAs to us and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was one of the very first agencies that we visited. We sat with them and requested a technical team and a workbench. They have been in the field, they have so many surveys. We have partnered with them and we have data on older people. The numbers that we are quoting are from NBS. We are looking forward to the next census to confirm the numbers but I have a feeling that the numbers will increase. Now we are working with 14.8 million older people disaggregated for us by NBS. These numbers are broken down per state, urban and rural areas. I have the data of those engaged in entrepreneurship. We have also disaggregated the poor and vulnerable.

We also have a partnership with NIMC which has led to the acceleration in the enrolment of senior citizens and making it age-friendly. They have delivered to us based on our request and the strong partnership that we have developed points of enrolment up to the wards. Older people will soon have smart cards which they can use to access age-friendly services, discounts and banking sector priority services. It is awaiting ministerial approval. We are awaiting the census to have comprehensive data.

What are the dangers of neglecting the elderly people?

It'll be such a loss. Neglecting is a loss for the family. We need to have an optimistic perception of ageing. You look at an older person as an asset, as somebody who has the expertise considering the years of education, experience, interactions and travels, and sheer wisdom accumulated over the years.

When you look at ageing as optimistic, what you are saying is that I have to keep this man alive, empower him and make sure that his functional capabilities are not impaired because he is of value. So, what that does is that you now see budgets as investments. Where you have a pessimistic notion of ageing, you see the older man as a waste and a consumer and therefore no need to invest in him. What happens is that neglect brings functional decline and leads to vulnerability, incapacitation and then brings a burden on the family and before you know it everybody is carrying a burden of care; then they wish the old people to die.



Emem Omokaro

Just imagine the huge population of incapacitated older persons. A government that is responsible will ensure universal healthcare; will ensure that the older people keep fit and continue to engage and provide an opportunity as NSCC is providing for older persons and retirees to have that landing where they can interact and find opportunities to recreate their roles and find their areas of interest and then identify solutions to several challenges. They can become life coaches to the youths. You can imagine the quantum of experience that Nigeria has, people that have been in diplomacy, war and national harmony, and then we ignore them, but we are changing that. We want to keep our older people empowered, alive and well. We call it

experience incubation.

NSCC is a beautiful thing this administration has done, and we are investing in our older persons.

You talk about attitudinal change. What are you doing about the youths that have great grandparents and tag them as witches and wizards and most times maltreat them?

We are running three major campaigns on stopping violence against older people. Dementia is not witchcraft. We have entered into technical partnerships with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACN), NAPTIP and the likes. When Nigerians see any older person being maltreated, call the toll-free lines. We have the stakeholders and now we have formed partnerships with inter-religious organisations. The ones with the inter-religious organisations are a platform that is really going to help us to address these things.

So far we have some test cases like the trending video of the woman beating her mother. Somebody must know that the life of that old woman means a lot to the federal government. We have gone to the community and the daughter has been apprehended.

What are you doing to address the maltreatment of elderly people that have to spend long hours in queues for pension verification and other activities?

This present administration has done a lot for federal pensioners. They have modernised the system. There is no need for pensioners to travel to Abuja or any other place for verification anymore.

However, the states are not going that line. Some states have paid pension and not gratuity. Where there is lack of payment, suffering and abuse arise. That's where it concerns us.

Classifieds made easy PUBLIC NOTICE Page 3

GIFT I, formerly known as ***GIFT HARMONY PAUL***. Now wish to be known and addressed as ***GIFT CHINENYE NATHANIEL***. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **YAHAYA IBRAHIM** now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM YAHAYA**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **UMAR ABUBAKAR MUSA, ABUBAKAR UMAR MUSA, ABUBAKAR UMAR** and **MUSA ABUBAKAR UMAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR UMAR MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. First Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank, Jaiz Bank, UDUS, UDUTH Management, general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

IRENE = I, formerly known as **IRENE CHIKA NWEZEH**. Now wish to be known as **IRENE CHIKADIBIA NWEZEH**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public take note.

I, formerly known as **UMMI KABIR ISHAQ** now wish to be known and addressed as **UMMI RAMATU KABIR**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **AMINU RABIU GEZA** now wish to be known and addressed as **YAHUZA MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

MRS. GOODNESS = I formally known as **MISS AGALA ADOKIYE**. now wish to be known as **MRS. GOODNESS ADOKIYE**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should take note.

MRS CHINWO = I formally known as **MISS. DAMINABO RITA LWOWARI** . now wish to be known as **MRS CHINWO RITA LWOWARI** . All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should take note.

AMAKA: I, formerly known and addressed as **IHEANACHO, CHIAMAKA ESTHER**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IHEANACHO, AMAKA ESTHER**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

MRS. JOSEPH: I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS BASSEY UDUAKOBONG EDET**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. JOSEPH NKEROWAJI GABRIEL**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

That during my opening of account with Access Bank, my name was captured as **ADIELA FRANCIS** instead of **ADIELA ONYEKACHI FRANCIS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ADIELA ONYEKACHI FRANCIS**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

MRS IBETE: I, formerly known, called and addressed as **MISS STELLA OLUCHI MBAKWE**, now wish to be known, called and addressed as **MRS STELLA OLUCHI IBETE**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Banks, schools, BCS, general public note.

I, formerly known as **AMINA MUHAMMAD** with **D.O.B 29-07-1994** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINA ABDULLAHI** with **D.O.B 01-12-2000**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Letter of Grant No. RES/2018/4447 over Plot No. 1818, Situated at Kuyan Ta'inna TP/KNUPDA/338. Bearing the name of **ZAINAB UMAR** of No. 145 Sani Mainagge Quarters, Kano.

All efforts made to trace the original Letter of Grant proved abortive. Members of the general public to note. If found kindly return to the nearest police station.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT FORMER **MOSQUE FUND COOPERATIVE, N C R I BADEGGI** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND CALLED **ISLAMIC THRIFT AND CREDIT COOPERATIVE SOCIETY (IT & CCS) LIMITED, NATIONAL CEREALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE BADEGGI, BIDA NIGER STATE.** ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID AUTHORITY CONCERN AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

Classifieds made easy

OLALADE: I, formerly known as **RAMADHAN OLOLADE ABUDULKADIR,** now wish to be known and addressed as **RAMADHAN OLOLADE ADEYEMI.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SUNDAY: I formerly known and addressed as **IKHUMESE JOSEPH. RUFUS SUNDAY.** All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **NWOGWUGWE JANET AKUOMA, AZUBIKE JANE AKUOMA.** All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

I was formerly known as **MOHAMMED BELLO** now wish to be known and called as **MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD ADAMU.** All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ABDULRASHEED: I formerly known and addressed as **AUDU SALE YARO** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABDULRASHEED SALE GAMBO** all former documents remain valid all concern Authorities and the general public should please take note.

HAUWAU. I Formerly Known and Addressed as **HAUWAU AMINU SAEED** now wish to be called an address As **HAUWAU AMINU SAID** All former document remain valid, Authority Concerned and General Public Should take note.

ANTHONY: I, formerly known as **ANTHONY ADEJOH BENARD,** now wish to be known and addressed as **ANTHONY BERNARD ENYOOJO.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

AMINETU: I formerly known and addressed as **MUSTAFA AMINETU.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSTAFA TANA AMINETU.** All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

SUNDAY : I formerly known as **AGBO SUNDAY,** now wish to be known and addressed as **AGBO SUNDAY AROME.** All documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public should please take note.

I was formerly known as **AISHA HASHIM** now wish to be known and called as **AISHA IDRIS HASHIM** All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

SULAEIMAN: I was formally known as **UMAR SULAIMAN IBRAHIM** Now wish to be called and address as **SULAEIMAN UMAR IBRAHIM** former documents remain valid general public, all authority concern should take note please.

HABIBU I formerly known and addressed as **HAMISU BULAMA SABO** now wish to be known and addressed as **HABIBU AUDU BULAMA** All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

SOLOMON: I, formerly known as **ALIA SOLOMON TERVER,** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALIAH TERVER SOLOMON.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SALIHU: I, formerly known as **SALIHU ISSA B** now wish to be known and address **SALIHU BABAYAYA ISSA.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

IDRIS I Formerly known and address as **KAMALU MUSA IDRIS** with old date of birth **14/06/1994** Now wish to be known and address as **KAMALU MUSA IDRIS** with new date of birth **01/01/1997** all former documents remain valid general public should take note.

ABDULLAHI, I formerly known as **ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM IBRAHIM** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

UMAR: I formerly known as **MUHAMMED UMAR ADAMU** now wish to be known as **UMAR MUHAMMAD** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note.

CECILIA I formerly known and addressed as **CECILIA SUNDAY JANET** now wish to be known and addressed as **CECILIA SUNDAY OBI** All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

DANASABE: I formerly known as **DANASABE BITRUS ASAWA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **DANASABE BITRUS.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

RASHIDA: I, formerly known as **RASHADA ALHASSAN** now wish to be known and address as **RASHIDA KABIRU DOB 01/01/1990.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OGHENEKEWNE : I, Formerly known and address as **OGBEMUDIA MARGARET** Now wish to be known and address as **OGBEMUDIA MARGARET OGHENEKEWNE** all former documents remain valid general public should take note.

YAHUZA, I formerly known as **BALARABI YUSSUF** now wish to be called and addressed as **YAHUZA YUSUF.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

AUWAL: I formerly known as **AUWAL ISMAIL 2/7/1973** now wish to be known as **AUWAL ISMAIL 20/2/1975** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note.

ABBA : I formerly known as **ALI ABBA MUSTAPHA** now wish to be known as **ABBA ALI MUSTAPHA.** With **D O B 07/02/1998 To 13/02/2000.** All former documents remain valid . General public should take note.

EBERE: I, formerly known as **DR. MISS OGHENEBRORHIE RUTH EBUNU,** now wish to be known and addressed as **DR. MRS. OGHENEBRORHIE RUTH EBERE.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MUSTAPHA: I formally known and addressed as **AL-HASSAN MUSTAPHA ADAMU,** now wish to be called and addressed as **ALHASSAN MUSTAPHA ADAMU.** All former documents remain valid, the authority concern and the general public should please take note.

UMAR I Formerly known and address as **ISHAQ ZAKARIYA** Now wish to be known and address as **MOHAMMED UMAR** all former documents remain valid general public should take note.

ADANAN, I formerly known as **ADANAN ASHIRU** now wish to be called and addressed as **ADANAN ASHIR MUSA.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

ADEBISI: I, formerly known and addressed as **Mrs ALABI TAIWO.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs ADEBISI TAIWO.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

ALHAJI : I formerly known as **YAU ALH HAMZA** now wish to be known as **ALHAJI YA'U HAMZA.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

MARY: I, formerly known as **MARY ELIAS,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MARY IFUNANYA ELIAS NWAEGBU.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SADIQ: I formally known and addressed as **AL-HASSAN SADIQ ADAMU,** now wish to be called and addressed as **ALHASSAN SADIQ ADAMU.** All former documents remain valid, the authority concern and the general public should please take note.

BAFARAWA: I Formerly known and address as **SUWAIBA ATTAHIRU** Now wish to be known and address as **SUWAIBA ATTAHIRU BAFARAWA** all former documents remain valid general public should take note.

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

AMINA: I, formerly known and addressed as **AMINA ADAMU ABUBAKAR.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **AMINA ABUBAKAR ADAMU.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

RABI: I formerly known as **RABI ADAMU,** now wish to be known as **RABI ADAMU YAKUBU.** All former document remain valid. With correct **DOB 24/01/1994 NOT 04/02/1995,** General Public should take note.

COMFORT: I, formerly known as **ANUM COMFORT M-MEMNGU,** now wish to be known and addressed as **FANEN COMFORT M-MEMNGU.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

AISHA: I formally known and addressed as **AL-HASSAN AISHA ADAMU,** now wish to be called and addressed as **ALHASSAN AISHA ADAMU.** All former documents remain valid, the authority concern and the general public should please take note.

MOYI: I Formerly known and address as **BALKISU MOYI** Now wish to be known and address as **MRS BALKISU MOYI** all former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **HADIZA ABUBAKAR** wish to be known and addressed as **HADIZA ABUBAKAR KY** all former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I formerly known on my bvn name as **KAZEEM OLAKUNLE AGUNBIAD** and known on my international passport as **OLAKUNLE KAZEEM AGUNBIAD.** Now wish to be addressed as **OLAKUNLE KAZEEM AGUNBIAD.** All former documents still remains valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly known as **ISUWA EHUD LELE** now wish to be known and addressed as **ISUWA EHUD.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

MUNACHI: I, formerly known as **DR. MUNACHI CHINONYE ERESIMADU,** now wish to be known and addressed as **DR. MUNACHI CHINONYE ETELE.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

AISHATU : I formerly known as **AISHATU ADAMU ILIYASU** now wish to be known and address as **AISHATU MUHAMMAD ADAMU DOB 1-5-1983** not **1-1-1983** All former document remain valid authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS SANUSI BOJU NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS SANUSI MOHAMMED. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I formerly known and addressed as **Ahmad Auwal Ahmad 20/04/1993.** now wish to be known and addressed as **Ahmad Auwal Gwangwazo 21/04/1993** all former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

EBERE KELECHI OKORO, EBERE EMEZI, and **EBERE KELECHI EMEZI** is one and same person born on July 2nd 1986. Henceforth, **I** wish to be addressed as **EBERE KELECHI OKORO.** All documents bearing the former names are hereby invalidated. The American embassy, relevant authorities and general public should please take note.

MODU: I formerly known as **MODU KAUDIMA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **KAWUDIMA GONI MODU,** All former document remain valid. With correct **DOB 21/11/1965 NOT 01/01/1987,** General public should please take note.

OJONIMI: I formerly known as **AHMODO EMMANUEK,** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMODU OJONIMI EMMANUEL.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

LEMSU : I formerly known as **LEMSU STEPHEN SHALLANGWA** now wish to be called and address as **LEMSU SHALLANGWA,** All former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MUSTAPHA UMARU NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS MUSTAPHA D/ZAKI UMAR. MY CORRECT DOB IS 02/03/1992. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

DAHA, I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD SHUAIBU ILYAS** now wish to be called and addressed as **DAHA BALA ILYASU.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME That on my BVN/Bank Documents, my name was wrongly written as **MUHAMMAD MARYAM** instead of **MOHAMMED MARYAM.** That my correct name is **MOHAMMED MARYAM.** General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

ALIYU I formerly known as **ABDULLAHI MOHAMMED GALKU** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR ALIYU ADAM D.O.B 05/06/1992** All former documents remain valid General public should please take note.

ISHAYA: I, formerly known as **GOYIT ISHAYA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **ARKWINNA GOYIT ISHAYA.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ADAMU : I formerly known as **ADAMU YUGUDA BAYAMI** now wish to be called and address as **ADAMU YUGUDA.** All former documents remain valid, Unity Bank Plc, and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **PETER MARY** now wish to be known as **OSILUAMEH MARY PETER.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

ADDITION OF NAME, I formerly known as **NWODO, CHIBUKE** now wish to be called and addressed as **NWODO, CHIBUKE MICHAEL.** All former documents remain valid. Access Bank and the general public should please take note.

AKERE: I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss OLANISEBE RUKAYAT OLABISI.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs AKERE RUKAYAT OLABISI.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

SARAH I, formerly known as **MISS OGBOMO SARAH OSAGUNWENRO** now wish to be known and called **MRS. OSAGUNWENRO SARAH OMORUYI.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

MERCY: I formally known and addressed as **MOSES K. MERCY,** now wish to be called and addressed as **MOSES KAMFANI MERCY.** All former documents remain valid, the authority concern and the general public should please take note.

BRIDGET : I formerly known as **BRIDGET DENNIS NEGE,** now wish to be called and address as **BRIDGET BONIFACE NAORTI.** All former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

I formerly known as **Ummi Maitala** wants to be known as **Ummi Haruna Maitala.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

MAGAJI, I, formerly known and addressed as **MAGAJI USAINI** and my former Date of Birth was **1/1/1991.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **MAGAJI HUSSAINI** and Date of Birth **1/1/1985.** All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ADEBAMIRO: I, formerly known and addressed as **MUSA RASHIDAT OMOLOLA.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **ADEBAMIRO RASHIDAT OMOLOLA.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

DANIEL I, formerly known as **AHMADU DANIEL** now wish to be known and called **DANIEL AHMADU.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

MONDAY : I formerly known as **MONDAY PHILIP,** now wish to be called and address as **MONDAY PAUL PHILIP, D.O.B 12/04/1976** not **12/04/1974.** All former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

INUSA : I formerly known as **YUNUSA BALA,** now wish to be called and address as **INUSA BALA.** All former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

I formerly known as **Faiza Maitala** wants to be known as **Faiza Haruna Maitala.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

BELLO, I formerly known as **MUSA TSALHA ALHAJI** now wish to be called and addressed as **BELLO TSALHA.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

FASHOLA: I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss OLUKUNLE OMODOLAPO OLUWASEUN.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs FASHOLA OMODOLAPO OLUWASEUN.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

GOGWAN: I formerly known as **GODFREY STEPHEN,** now wish to be known and addressed as **GODFREY SUYILLA GOGWAN.** All former documents remain valid . Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

THAT I WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AND CALLED AS DORCAS JOHN. THAT I NOW WANT TO BE KNOWN AND CALLED AS DORCAS IJALUA. MY D.O.B WAS WRONGLY WRITTEN AS 02-11-1987. MY REAL D.O.B IS 02-11-1992. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS BEARING MY NAME REMAIN VALID. THE MANAGEMENT OF ZENITH BANK AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF THIS DEPOSITION.

ADEBAYO: I formerly known and addressed as **miss Oladeji Funmilayo** now wish to be known and address as **Mrs ADEBAYO Funmilayo.** All former documents remain valid. Any authority concerned and general public take note.

Addition of name ABDALLAH: I formerly known as **HABIBA ISYAKU,** now wish to be known and address as **HABIBA ISYAKU ABDALLAH.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and General public should please take note.

I, IBRAHIM GARBA ISAH want inform the general public that my correct date of birth is **1/1/2001** and not **1/1/1992.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

LOIS: I, formerly known and addressed as **LOIS JESUDUNNI SANNI.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs LOIS JESUDUNNI LANRE-ADEBULU.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

SIMON I, formerly known as **SIMON SIMON ABAKI** now wish to be known and called **SIMON ADIWU ABAKI.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

OJO: I formerly known and addressed as **USIKHIFO ORUAMEN.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **USIKHIFO OJO.** All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

MRS. AYODEJI: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND CALLED AS MRS. LAWAL FASILAT OYEBOLA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS **MRS. AYODEJI-AGBAJE FASILAT OYEBOLA.** ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

SHUKURA: I formally known as **MOHAMMED GONI MOHAMMED,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD GONIALI SHUKURA, D.O.B- 10-2-1975.** All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, SULEIMAN OKAH OGBADU wish to inform the general public and any relevant authorities concerned that my name was wrongly captured on my International passport as **SULEIMAN OKAH** instead of **SULEIMAN OKAH OGBADU.** All other documents remain valid.

BAMIGBOLA: I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss OPAJOBI GRACE ANIKE.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs BAMIGBOLA GRACE ANIKE.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

UMAR I, formerly known as **UMAR MODU** now wish to be known and called **UMAR MOHAMMED.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

IFADA: This is to notified the general public that my name was wrongly capture as **IFADA EHIS** instead of **IFADA EHIZEIE.** Now wish to be known as **IFADA EHIZEIE.** My correct date of birth is **18/4/2003.** All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and public to take note.

SAONDO: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND CALLED AS TERKULA SYLVIA MKAANEM NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS **SAONDO SYLVIA MKAANEM.** ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I formerly known as **ABDU ABDULLAHI ADO** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABDU ADO** . All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note.

AHMAD: I, formerly known as **AHAMD AYUBA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMAD AYUBA.** All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME I, BAILEY JAKANDE JOKOTADE ESTHER. That my name was wrongly written as **JAKANDE BAILEY JOKOTADE ESTHER** instead of **BAILEY JAKANDE JOKOTADE ESTHER.** That I hereby confirm my correct name as **BAILEY JAKANDE JOKOTADE ESTHER.** All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

RUFAI I formally known as **RUFAI AHMAD ALHAJI** now wish to be known and Addressed as **AHMAD ALHAJI RUFAI** All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

BRIDGET: I formerly known and addressed as **ALIYU BRIDGET.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULMALIK Bridget.** All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

HALIMA: I formerly known as **ALIYU HALIMA,** now wish to be known and address as **ALIYU HALIMA HASSAN.** All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

I formerly known as **SHAMSUDDEN SHAMSUDDEN UKASHA** now wish to be called and addressed as **SHAMSUDDIN UKASHA.** All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note.

AIYEPE: I formerly known and address as **MISS AIYEPE FATIMAH ABOSEDE** and **MRS DURUJAIYE-AIYEPE FATIMAH ABOSEDE** now wish to be known and address as **MRS AIYEPE-DURUJAIYE FATIMAH ABOSEDE** all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

That I was formerly known, called and addressed as MISS MAKANJUOLA RUTH IYABO. That I now wish to be known, called and addressed as **MRS AKINKUOWO RUTH IYABO** by virtue of marriage. That all other documents bearing the former name remains valid, general public should please take note.

BELLO I formally known as **BELLO BALA MARFA** now wish **DOB 05-07-1990** to be known and addressed as **BELLO BALA** all former documents remain valid **DOB 01-01-1988** general public should please take note.

KADIRI: I formerly known and addressed as **OHIOMOBA HENRY ANOGHENA.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **KADIRI HENRY ANOGHENA.** All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **GLORY OJOMAKPENE OMEBIJE,** now wish to be called and addressed as **IBRAHIM GLORY OJOMAKPENE.** All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

MUSA, I formerly known as **MUSA HABIBU** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUSA HABIBU SALE.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

OWOYALE: I, formerly known as **OWOYALE WALIYULAH** now wish to be known and addressed as **OWOYALE WALIYU ABIODUN** All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss ODUNOWO OLOLADE BEATRICE.** Now wish to be known and address as **Mrs EGBEWUNMI OLOLADE BEATRICE.** That I was born on 11th day of March, 1991 not 11th day of March, 1988. All former documents remain valid, general public should take note.

CHUKWUKA I formally known as **CHUKWUKA IFEAYI** now wish to be known and Addressed as **CHUKWUKA IFEANYI** All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

Classifieds made easy

PUBLIC NOTICE Page 2

ADAMU I formerly known and addressed as **MOHAMMED WALIYI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. All concern and authority General public should please take note.

ABDULLAHI I formerly known and addressed as **S ABDULLAHI MUHAMMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULLAHI MUHAMMAD SHEREEF**. All former documents remain valid. All concern and authority General public should please take note.

ZAINAB I formerly known and addressed as **ZAINAB ABUBAKAR MALA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZAINAB AUWAL MALA**. All former documents remain valid. All concern and authority General public should please take note.

HAJARA I formerly known and addressed as **HAJARA ABUBAKAR MALA** now wish to be known and addressed as **HAJARA ADAM MALA**. All former documents remain valid. All concern and authority General public should please take note.

ODETUNDE* I**, formerly known as ***MISS. OLADAPO TOSIN. Now wish to be known called and addressed as ***MRS. ODETUNDE TOSIN***. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

That during opening and registration of **BN/BANK** my name was written as **ACTOR ASAIIHA**, instead of **TONWERIGHA ACTOR AROGBO-ONE**, now wish to be called **TONWERIGHA ACTOR AROGBO-ONE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Letter of Grant No. RES/2008/3983 and RES/2008/3984 over Plot No. 32A & 32B, Situated at Dangwauro TP/KNUPDA/307. Bearing the name of **AMINU SANI & RABIU SULAIMAN** of Dangwauro Village, Kumbotso LGA, Kano.

All efforts made to trace the original Letter of Grant proved abortive. Members of the general public to note. If found kindly return to the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Allocation Slip Plot No. 786, Situated at Kabuga Satellite Town TP/KAS/215. Bearing the name of **UMAR IBRAHIM** of Sani Abacha Youth Centre, Kano.

All efforts made to trace the original Allocation Slip proved abortive. Members of the general public to note. If found kindly return to the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the1 general public loss of land documents with the following details plot no 278 TP /KNUPDA/156B RES/89/1537 LAMI F ADAMU situated at tokarawa QTS Nassarawa local govt all effort made to trace proved abortive generally public take notes

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the person/persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died interstate on the date and at the place stated in the said column. AND WHERE AS the person/person (s) whose addresses claimed relationship to the said deceased is/are set out in the second column hereunder have applied to the High Court of Justice Katsina for a grant of "letter of Administration" of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the "letter of Administration" will be granted to such person/persons unless "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT" is filed in the Probate Registry, High Court of Justice Katsina within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Hassan Dauda of Bakori LGA died on 28/12/2020 at Bakori	Usman Hassan of kabomo, Bakori LGA son
Late Umar Yusuf of Funtua LGA died 24/4/2022 at Funtua	Abdullahi Umar of Funtua LGA Son

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Umar Nuhu A of Rimi LGA died on 6/7/2021 at Rimi	Abubakar Danjume of Abukur,Rimi LGA Son
Late Aminu Danjuma of Danja LGA died on 25/10/2020 at Danja	Maryam Aminu of Danmaigauta,Danja LGA widow

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Lawal Magaji of Sabuwa LGA died on 26/8/2022 at Sabuwa	Mustapha Lawal of Sabuwa LGA Son
Late Abdulkarim K Mohammed of District Head Office Kaita died 8/4/2022 at Katsina	Yazid Abdulkarim Kabir applicant of Kaita LGA Son

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Mansir samaila of Funtua LGA died on 27/11/2022 at Funtua LGA	Samaila Ango of Jabiri, Funtua LGA Father
Late Mairo Muazu of Katsina state Hospital service management Board died on 25/4/2022 at Malumfashi	Hassana Dahiru of Sale G Malumfashi Daughter

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Umar Sani Nigeria Police Force died on 29/9/2022 at Daura	Abdullahi Umar Sani of Garage, Daura LGA Son

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Aliyu Lawal Bello of Federal Teaching Hospital Katsina Katsina died on 2/10/2022 at Katsina	Yakubu Aliyu of Uguwar Alkali Katsina Nephew

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Nasiru Bello of INEC died on 27/11/2022 at Katsina	Bello Nasiru of Kangiwa Road GRA Katsina Son

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Lawal Umar U/Alkali of Federal Teaching Hospital Katsina died on 18/11/2022 at Katsina	Abdullahi Lawal of filin Polo Katsina Son

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Yazid Liman of High Court of Justice Katsina died on 22/12/2022 at Batsari	Ahmadu Ibrahim Dan- Liman of Yandaka Batsari LGA brother
Late Salisu Garba of SUBEB Funtua died on 20/4/2021 at Funtua	Lawal Garba of Dikke, Funtua LGA Brother

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Abdullahi S Aski of SUBEB Musawa died on 27/7/2021 at Musawa	Sagir Salisu of Dangani, Musawa LGA Brother

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Murtala Abdu of Funtua LGA died on 28/2/2022 at Funtua	Anas A Sulaiman of No. 21 maigora Road, Funtua LGA Brother

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

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NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	APPLICANT
Late Indo Ibrahim of SUBEB Kankia died on 16/10/2022 at Kankia	Bishir Ibrahim Gyaza of kwado Brother

DATED THIS 6th January, 2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed) PROBATE REGISTRAR

How boundary crisis disrupts academic activities in A/Ibom

>>> Page 24



A PHYSICIAN'S DIARY
BY FATIMA DAMAGUM
drfatima0984@gmail.com




FAILING A NATION IN PAIN

There is a famous joke that emanated during the early days of PMB's second tenure in 2019. You remember those days, don't you? When inflation was gradually creeping in, and insecurity was gradually becoming the order of the day. The joke was that if you saw a person sitting quietly by himself, with his hand supporting his chin, looking thoroughly morose and lost in thought, you would ask: 'Jikin ko garin?'

'Jikin' meaning physical pain, while 'Garin' meant environment or more sincerely, financial factors. The joke is meant to tease Nigerians going through monetary issues, and I myself used to through it around casually until I heard a colleague ask a well-dressed man sitting under a tree in the hospital a similar question to which the man replied sadly: 'Jikin.'

The man was in severe pain. So severe was the pain that he could only mumble a few words. He ached all over his body and he described it a raging fire consuming his entire being. The pain was labile, mild on some days and severe on other days. He had been living with the pain for three years. The pain was driving him mad, he lamented. He had undergone all manner of tests including a full body scan, electromyography and serologies for all types of autoimmune diseases. His hospital file was as thick as the famous Grey's Anatomy textbook. The poor chap had even seen the psychiatrist a few times after he was told the pain could be in his head.

Yet, nothing. The conclusion on his case was that he suffered from Fibromyalgia. Fibromyalgia, also called fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS), is a long-term condition that causes pain all over the body. It is characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by fatigue, sleep, memory, and sometimes mood issues. Researchers believe that fibromyalgia amplifies painful sensations by affecting the way your brain and spinal cord process painful and nonpainful signals. Unfortunately, there is no real test to confirm this diagnosis, meaning it is a diagnosis of exclusion. Also, pain killers do not eliminate the pain totally. A combination of antidepressants, exercise, psychotherapy, and alternative therapy including acupuncture are frequently used to manage the condition. There's little or no

evidence to show that other types of medicine help reduce long-term pain.

Whenever I meet people who suffer from chronic pain conditions like sickle cell disease, cancers, arthritis, slipped disc and many more, my heart goes out to them. My sympathy is not only to their diagnosis, but to the lack of adequate pain management methods in Nigeria, as well.

Pain is the leading clinical complaint all over the world. In the US, it has become the 5th vital sign in addition to blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, and respiratory rate. The history of pain in human affliction is a long and dreadful one. The word "pain" itself originated from the Latin word "Poine", meaning penalty. It was believed that the Greek goddess of revenge, Poine, was sent to punish the mortals who had angered the gods. From the dawn of the ages, many cultures have viewed pain as punishment for wrongdoing. This attitude persists in our societal subconscious to this day. When pain persists, we start to ourselves- What did I do wrong? Who did I offend?

Is my knee pain due to something I did in my past? Is God punishing me?

Even worse, pain is subconsciously accepted as an unavoidable aspect of any illness, especially one as 'serious' as cancer or sickle cell disease. We are expected to adapt to the pain and suffer in silence. Or like my professor used to say 'Living under wayo Allah'

Unfortunately, this should not always be the case.

In Nigeria, like many African countries, there are shortcomings in the management of pain, especially chronic pain. The obstacles to proper management of pain in resource-constrained settings like Nigeria are numerous and inflected by factors peculiar to economically challenged countries. It may seem to the casual observer that pain would be an expected and unavoidable part of chronic illness. However, it is crucial for the doctor to understand that pain is a complex symptom that affects most aspects of the patient's life, from physical functioning to daily living; as well as psychological, emotional and social status; and if properly managed, can be avoided or at least controlled.

The simple truth is, in Nigeria, we under-treat pain and this has profound and varied effects on

the patient, family and society at large. Although significant milestones have been made in understanding the physiology of pain, there remains a deficiency in the complete control of pain; due to a dynamic combination of socio-cultural, educational, economic, religious, legal, and political factors.

Years ago, the American Cancer Society, in partnership with Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) gave a training on pain management titled 'Treat the Pain'. During the module on management of pain in labour, I felt tears sting the back of my eyes. For the first time in my life, people were explaining the pain women suffered in labour without the usual whitewash of: 'Oh! Its not really pain, it's just discomfort or pressure you are feeling'. Or the doctor that was quoting scripture when I was screaming of pain while delivering my son: '...and in pain you shall bring forth children...'

I have since cursed him acute urinary retention in his old age. Wherever he maybe.

Anyway, I digress. The training addressed many painful conditions in our environment. When the discussion turned to the management of sickle cell crisis among children, we all had to bow our heads in collective shame. Because how could we justify giving ordinary

paracetamol, ibuprofen or even codeine to a child with severe vaso-occlusive crisis?? These drugs just scratch the surface of the pain and are nowhere near as potent enough to delete it completely. These kids writhe and scream in painful distress, yet we only address 30% of their pain and tell them to be patient. The drug of choice according to the WHO pain ladder, in this group of children, should be opioids which Nigerian many clinicians are wary of for fear of causing dependence.

Yet, we must use these narcotics.

As more and more people are ageing and living longer with painful conditions, it is becoming imperative that physicians arm themselves with the knowledge of pain management and techniques so that we can help these group of patients. Opioids can be part of an effective pain management plan, but to help avoid side effects and risk of addiction, it should be used under strict physician's supervision.

Opioid pain medication use presents serious risks, including overdose and opioid use disorder. From 1999 to 2014, more than 165,000 persons died from overdose related to opioid pain medication globally. In the past decade, while the death rates for the top leading causes of death such as heart disease and cancer have decreased substantially, the death rate associated with opioid pain medication has increased markedly. Conversely, sales of

opioid pain medication while having increased in parallel with opioid-related overdose deaths, has significantly reduced the prevalence of pain among patients taking them.

A friend of mine told me about the time she travelled to Cairo for a surgical procedure. Till date, she does not remember feeling any pain post-surgery because of the analgesic infusion that was constantly in her blood stream until after she was discharged home, pain free.

Another friend had to move her child with sickle cell disease to the US for adequate management of her pain and for the future possibility of a marrow transplant.

There are many of these examples. Through the 'Treat the pain' training across Nigeria, many hospitals have adopted for adequate many management methods. Currently, no woman is allowed to have a natural delivery without any form of analgesia in tertiary centres across the country. Morphine syrups are prescribed more often to children with sickle cell disease, while those with cancer pain are given a large choice of analgesia from which to choose from.

We are on the way, but still nowhere near where we ought to be.

Living with pain in this country is a nightmare. Since we can't do anything about 'Garin', we should hasten to help those with real physical pain, Jikin.

BACK-HAND

BY ABDULKAREEM BABA AMINU



Repeat