

# DAILY TRUST



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48  
PAGES



**2,090**  
DAYS since Chibok schoolgirls were abducted



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# Passengers groan under transportation problems in FCT

## ● 102 high capacity buses grounded

By **Terkula Igidi, Abubakar Sadiq Isah, Sarah Adegebe, Husaina Lawal & Adam Umar**

Commuters in Abuja and environs have continued to live in anguish because of dysfunctional transportation services

amid struggle by the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to fix the problems.

Thousands of people working in public and private sectors but living in the outskirts of Abuja rely on public transportation system that barely meets their expectations.

Experts spoken to said there was no serious commitment towards improving the transportation system in Abuja and the area councils of the FCT, despite increased population, occasioned by poor policy implementation.

The FCT administration recently reiterated restrictions on tricycles (Keke or rickshaws) which were hitherto the common and affordable means of transportation in the city

— *Contd on page 5*



■ Commuters struggle to board unpainted cabs and an Abuja Transport commercial bus at the City Centre

Photos: **Ikechukwu Ibe & Terkula Igidi**

**70-yr-old man, 3 others in police net over rape cases**

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**Borno gov begins 2020 with launch of 5 projects**

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**1m rice farmers ready for dry season production**

P 27

# >> PAGETWO

Compiled by  
JAMIL H. SALIM

## WEATHER

ABUJA  SUNNY 36 20 MAX MIN	KADUNA  SUNNY 30 14 MAX MIN	KANO  SUNNY 29 11 MAX MIN	MAIDUGURI  SUNNY 31 13 MAX MIN	JOS  SUNNY 28 11 MAX MIN
SOKOTO  SUNNY 31 14 MAX MIN	IBADAN  SUNNY 37 18 MAX MIN	ENUGU  SUNNY 37 19 MAX MIN	P/HARCOURT  PARTLY CLOUDY 31 17 MAX MIN	LAGOS  SUNNY 35 21 MAX MIN

(Temperature in centigrade)

## AFRICAN SAYINGS >>

A horse has four legs, yet it often falls.

(Nigeria)

Source: BBC collection of listeners' proverbs

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT >>

You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.

- Margaret Thatcher



## PHOTO OF THE DAY >>



■ Revellers take part in the traditional Bain des Givres on Malo-Les-Bains Beach in Dunkirk, France yesterday  
Photo: François Lo Presti/ AFP /Getty Images

## PRAYER TIMES

CITIES	FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
ABUJA	5:34	12:37	3:53	6:22	7:26
ENUGU	5:36	12:35	3:51	6:17	7:21
KADUNA	5:33	12:36	3:52	6:20	7:24
KANO	5:28	12:31	3:49	6:15	7:20
KATSINA	5:30	12:37	3:53	6:24	7:28
LAGOS	5:51	12:53	4:08	6:35	7:40
MAIDUGURI	5:11	12:14	3:30	5:58	7:02
P/HARCOURT	5:47	12:45	4:01	6:22	7:26
SOKOTO	5:41	12:45	4:01	6:30	7:34

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna

## STOCK INDEX AS AT TUESDAY 31, 2019

GAINERS	ETERNA	NEM	UNIONDAC	UAC-PROP	WEMABANK
OPEN	3.30	2.42	0.22	1.01	0.70
CLOSE	0.30	0.22	0.02	0.09	0.06
CHANGE	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.78	9.38
LOSERS	CILEASING	LEARNAFRCA	UBN	UNITYBNK	TRANSEXPR
OPEN	5.40	1.13	6.15	0.66	0.92
CLOSE	-0.60	-0.12	-0.65	-0.06	-0.08
CHANGE	-10.00	-9.60	-9.56	-8.33	-8.00

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# Criminals bent on unleashing terror – Northern govts

From Ado Abubaka Musa, Jos

**The Northern Governors Forum says criminals are bent on unleashing terror and sorrow on Nigerians.**

The forum said in order to overcome the criminals, both the government and citizens must collaborate to holistically tackle insecurity which, it emphasises, remains a major challenge in the country.

The Federal Government had on Monday said it would gradually withdraw military operations in some volatile spots in the country, beginning from the first quarter of 2020.

At the National Security

Council meeting chaired by President Muhammadu Buhari, it was resolved that the withdrawal of troops be done after an “assessment” to determine areas where peace has returned to enable civil authorities to assume full control of security.

The Northern Governors Forum, yesterday in its New Year message titled “Together, We can Build a Greater Nigeria”, stressed that “Insecurity remains a major challenge that both the government and citizens must collaborate at ensuring that it is tackled holistically in order to overcome criminals who are

bent on unleashing terror and sorrow on Nigerians.”

The chairman of the Northern Governors Forum and Plateau State governor, Simon Lalong, who signed the statement, said the forum remained committed to carrying out robust initiatives “towards targeting poverty, illiteracy, diseases and insecurity that are plaguing many parts of the region in particular, and the nation as a whole.”

He said the governors of the northern region would continue to peer-review one another and benchmark targets for regional development plans

that would engender peaceful coexistence and people-oriented programmes.

“We shall continue to work closely with the Federal Government under the purposeful leadership of His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR to create synergy that is critical to achieving meaningful development of the Northern Region and the nation at large,” Lalong added.

He said the forum rejoiced with Nigerians on the celebration of a new year and urged for collective resolve to build a Nigeria that is more united, prosperous and

equitable.

He stated: “From the record of achievements last year, 2020 is full of prospects and opportunities for Nigerians to again work for the uplift of the country by supporting governments at all levels to carry out development initiatives that will strengthen the economy and its people.

“All that is required is for all to demonstrate patriotism and genuine commitment to making the desired sacrifices that are needed to building a nation that is self-sufficient and strong enough to provide opportunities for its people to flourish.”

## Terrorists holding Nigeria to ransom – Archbishop

The Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, Rev. Alfred Martins, on Wednesday lamented that jihadist groups, Boko Haram, ISWAP and other terror gangs were holding Nigeria to ransom.

He appealed to the Federal Government to intensify its counter-offensive to crush the groups and restore normalcy to end fear among citizens.

Martins was speaking at the celebration of the 53rd World Day of Peace at the Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos.

According to him, Nigeria's security needs to be taken more seriously to crush Boko Haram, ISWAP, kidnapers and rogue herdsmen, who have made life unbearable for Nigerians.

He described as sad, unfortunate and barbaric, the recent report of the beheading of 11 Christians, abducted by ISWAP-the Islamic State West Africa Province.

“Therefore, I plead with the Federal Government to put more decisive measures in place to curb the lingering cases of insecurity in the country in 2020.

“It is important that the security architecture of the nation be reviewed from time to time, even if it means changing personalities.

“So, I want them to focus a lot more on security as well as do a lot more in providing infrastructure necessary for growth.”

Martin also advised leaders to listen more and

engage more in dialogue with the people, to feel the kind of sentiments the people were expressing.

“Leaders of any nation are going to get the best from the people, only if they listen to them and dialogue with them.

“When there is exchange of ideas and thoughts, then it is possible to really harness the energies that are within the nation.

“If any leader is interested in the country or people, then such a leader needs to seek peace and seek dialogue, to achieve that peace.”

Martin also told Nigerians to join hands with government to build a strong, united, peaceful and progressive nation.

He said the need to forge a peaceful and united country in the New Year, had become more desirable at this point in time.

“This has become necessary to curb the numerous divisive tendencies that have held the country hostage for years and hindered it from attaining real growth and development.”

Martin charged the federal, states and Local Governments to live above board by being sincere in their approaches to governance.

The archbishop said that government could achieve this by formulating policies that would be in the best interest of majority of the citizens. (NAN)



■ Chief of Army Staff, Lt.-Gen. Tukur Y. Buratai leads other senior military officer to climb to the peak of Gwoza Hills at the Nigerian Police Force Training College in Limankara-Gwoza of Borno State, shortly after his operational visit to the 144 Task Force Battalion in Madagali

Photo: Army headquarters

## Declare emergency on security, northern youths tell Buhari

From Andrew Agbese, Kaduna

The Arewa Youths Consultative Forum has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to declare a state of emergency on the security situation in the north.

The national president of the forum, Alhaji Yerima Shettima, said state of emergency was necessary in view of the continuous attacks on the region despite efforts by the military to end the insurgency there.

Yerima, who was reacting to the New Year speech by President Muhammadu Buhari, alleged that the security challenges in the north were far from being over and needed a new approach.

He said: “It is only when people are alive and happy that there can be governance. What we have today in Nigeria in terms of security is really worrisome.

“That is why we are asking for the total overhaul of the entire security apparatuses in the land with a view to bringing in other people with new vision, zeal and commitment to deal with the security challenges in the country.”

Shettima urged the Federal Government to reposition the security architecture to be able to deal appropriately with the security threats in the north and other parts of the country.

## S/west security outfit, Amotekun, takes off Jan. 9 – Fayemi

Governor Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti yesterday said the joint security outfit, “Amotekun,” initiated by the six governors in the zone would commence work on Jan. 9.

Fayemi, who disclosed this in his New Year message to the people of the state, said the outfit would complement the efforts of the regular security agencies.

“On January 9, 2020, the Western Nigeria Security Network known as ‘Amotekun’ shall commence operations in all the six states in our zone

“Ekiti is very active in this initiative which will go a long way in securing the people and protecting the state

“The fact remains, however, that criminality cannot be totally eradicated

even as we are working meticulously at reducing it to the barest minimum in Ekiti State, and the evidence is there for all to see and acknowledge that we are making steady progress

“Since we are not an Island, we are working with neighbouring states to strengthen our security architecture,” he said.

Fayemi also urged community

leaders and groups not to allow themselves to be used to cause unnecessary tension that could trigger crisis in the state.

“I have personally kept a close watch on the security situation within and around Ekiti State, and I can assure you that as a government, we are leaving no stone unturned to ensure safety of lives and property in our dear State. (NAN)

# CRIME

CLEMENT A. OLOYEDE

HEAD, CRIME DESK

Email: [crime@dailytrust.com](mailto:crime@dailytrust.com)

## THE BIG STORY

## How man allegedly raped woman, 56, to death

The Ebonyi Police Command has arrested a 20-year-old herdsman, Laulo Isa, in connection with the alleged rape and murder of a 56-year-old woman, identified as Mary Okereke.

The Commissioner of Police, Awotunde Awosola, told newsmen in Abakaliki that the suspect allegedly committed the act around 8pm on December 28, 2019 in Ohaozara Local Government Area of the state.

Awosola said the suspect allegedly accosted the victim on Ufuezeraku Ugwulangwu road and raped her to death.

He said following a tipoff,

police detectives rushed to the scene and took the victim to a nearby hospital, where a doctor confirmed her dead.

He said her remains were later deposited at the mortuary for autopsy.

Awosola said: "There was a struggle between the two of them but he overpowered the woman and had carnal knowledge of her.

"Unfortunately, the woman lost her life during the incident.

"We got the report from Ohaozara division that a lifeless body of a woman identified as Mary Okereke was lying along a bush path at Ufe-Ezeraku Ugwulangwu," he said.

The police boss further said that police operatives later searched the forest and farmlands in the area with the assistance of youths in the community.

He said the suspect, who lived in the forest, was arrested during the search, having forgotten some of his belongings at the scene of the incident which were used to identify him.

Awosola said the suspect confessed to the crime "voluntarily", adding that he would be charged to court as soon as investigation on the incident was concluded.

He commiserated with the bereaved family and

community and urged them to remain calm, assuring that the suspect would face the full wrath of the law.

Speaking in an interview with newsmen, while being paraded at the command's headquarters, Isa alleged that the deceased insulted him, leading to a struggle before he was able to overpower her.

The suspect, who hails from Nasarawa State, claimed that he was not in his right senses when he committed the act and regretted his action.

"I was drunk and really not in my right senses when I committed the act," Isa said. (NAN)

## 2 suspected Abuja car snatchers arrested in Edo, Kano

By Clement A. Oloyede

The FCT Police Command says it has arrested two suspects who allegedly stole cars in Abuja after tracing them to their hideouts in Edo and Kano states.

One of the suspects, Ehiosu Kennedy, reportedly snatched a car at gun point around Kabusa junction, Abuja, on December 5, 2019.

FCT Police Commissioner Bala Ciroma, who paraded the suspects on Tuesday along with others, said operatives of the command's Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) traced the 26-year-old suspect to his hideout in Benin, Edo State.

"Sequel to his confession, one Ibrahim Umar, 29, whom he identified as his cohort was arrested at his hideout in Ruga City-gate in possession of the firearm used for the operation.

"Further investigation has led to the smashing of another notorious armed robbery syndicate directly linked to Ibrahim Umar. Members of the notorious gang that have been terrorizing Life Camp-Lugbe axis are: one Umar Abdullahi, 25, Mohammed Rabi, 23, Zakari Abdullahi, 23, and Aminu Sani, 21. Exhibits recovered from the gang include, one AK-49 rifle, one cutlass and a pair of garden scissors.

"The suspects will be arraigned in court upon conclusion of investigation," the CP said.

He also revealed that on December 20, 2019, police operatives attached to Galadima Division, while acting on a tipoff, arrested one Auwal Abubakar, 30, in Kano for stealing a Toyota Avenis car belonging to his employer in Abuja and exchanging it with a Toyota Corolla before absconding to Kano where he was apprehended.

He added that "On 30th December, 2019 at about 2110hrs following a distress call that an ash coloured Toyota corolla was snatched at gunpoint by three armed men who posed as passengers at Jahi district, operatives of the Command's Special Anti-Robbery Squad swung into action and gave the suspects a hot chase forcing them to abandon the car around Zuba-Madalla axis and fled into the bush to avoid arrested.

The car with registration number BEN 53 JY has been recovered as exhibit. Effort is being intensified to arrest the fleeing suspects."



Internet fraudsters convicted recently by Justice I. M. Sani of the Federal High Court Port Harcourt, based on a petition from the Hong Kong police

Photo: EFCC

## Katsina: We arrested 1,907 suspects in 2019 - Police

From Habibu Umar Aminu, Katsina

The police command in Katsina state says it arrested 1,907 suspected criminals in connection to 1,519 reported cases in 2019.

Commissioner of Police

Sanusi Buba said of those arrested, 1,256 are undergoing prosecution in various courts across the state.

He said eight rustlers were killed and 44 arrested while five others were severely injured during shootout adding that

359 cows, 61 sheep, seven donkeys and camels and one goat were recovered within the period under review.

He said: "170 armed robbery suspects and 106 kidnappers were arrested, two killed and 44 victims were rescued."

On arms recovery, Buba said "11 AK47 rifles, one Tavo-21 rifle, two English pistols, 24 locally made guns, 27 Dane guns, 398 live ammunitions and 48 cartridges were recovered during various sting operations."

## Ex-convict nabbed with fake \$10,100 traveller's cheque

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) says it has arrested one Mark Obisesan, an ex-convict, for possession of suspected fake traveller's cheque worth \$10,100.

The suspect, who had reportedly served a 12-month jail term for Internet fraud in the United Kingdom, was nabbed recently at his residence in Banana Island, Lagos, following intelligence from

concerned members of the public about his alleged criminal activities.

The anti-graft agency said, at the point of arrest, a Ferrari 488 car, two I-phones, one Samsung phone, a laptop and Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards were recovered from the suspect, whom investigation revealed did not have any known source of livelihood.

According to Wilson Uwujaren, EFCC spokesman, the suspect will soon be charged to court.

## 70-yr-old man, 3 others in police net over rape cases

The Adamawa Police Command has confirmed the arrest of four suspects including a 70-year-old man on allegation of rape.

Speaking to newsmen on the arrest, the police spokesman, DSP Suleiman Yahaya, said the suspects were arrested in Fufore, Girei, Yola North and Michika LGAs.

Yahaya said Nasiru Abdullahi, a 45-year-old man, was arrested in Gurin village of Fufore LGA for allegedly raping a four-year-old girl he lured with N10, while 20-year-old Faisal Baba of Jabbi-Lamba village of Girei LGA was arrested for allegedly raping a

55-year-old woman.

"We also have Mubarak Ishaya, a 22-year-old man who was arrested in Jimeta area of Yola North LGA for allegedly raping a teenager whose exact age I am yet to ascertain," Yahaya said.

The police spokesman added that an elderly man of over 70 years old, Vandi Pate, was also picked up in Michika LGA for allegedly raping a 12-year-old girl. Yahaya lauded the support of the public and civil society organisations in exposing suspects and supporting the fight against rape in the society. (NAN)

# Passengers groan under transportation problems in FCT

— Contd from page 1

after similar sanction on motorcycles (okada) years back.

Instead, authorities have introduced a new transport policy and during the launch, FCT Minister Malam Muhammad Musa Bello, said “the safe, functional and efficient transport policy” would encourage investors to key in for better transport services for residents and visitors.

Under the new initiative, the minister said investors could procure painted or unpainted taxis for transportation purposes in the FCT.

While stressing that there was no ban on commercial tricycles and commercial motorcycles in the FCT, Bello said, however that the law did not permit them on expressways or driving against traffic. However, findings by our correspondents revealed that with the ban of tricycles in some locations in Garki, Jabi and Mabushi among others, commuters have been subjected to hardship.

Previously, there were attempts by governments to introduce luxury cabs popularly called “London Taxis” but they disappeared from Abuja roads in less than a year.

## Why passengers get stranded in FCT

Daily Trust reports that Abuja has a metro rail but it only services the upper echelon of the social class as it runs from Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport to Idu Train Station in the city.

Many countries around the world give primacy to rail and road transportation systems which can take care of many people within short time.

The FCT had in the last decades adopted different transportation systems but all of which hardly stood the test of time. For instance, the high capacity buses procured by the Abuja Urban Mass Transit Company (AUMTCO), an agency of the FCTA to convey commuters from heavily populated satellite towns to the city, are mostly grounded.

For now, only few buses from the company still ply the roads, apparently unable to meet the transportation needs of the teeming people in the territory.

AUMTCO had a fleet of about 363 high capacity buses but sources said 102 of them have been grounded for the past 10 to 15 years.

And out of the 261

operational buses, only 80 per cent of them that is 208 are plying in the city that has a population of about 3 million citizens. AUMTCO which was set up by the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory in 1984 as Abuja Bus Service (ABS) was later registered as Abuja Urban Mass Transport Company Limited under the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

A staff of the company who preferred anonymity confided in one of our reporters that most of their fleets meant to serve Abuja public have been grounded for some years now and the government was yet to purchase new ones.

“I don’t know if you went round our premises...You will see our mechanics repairing some of the buses but others have been grounded for years now and it will be difficult to fix them,” he said.

At the company’s yard located at Usuma District along Kubwa Expressway, it was discovered that grasses had overgrown over 100 grounded buses.

## Civil servants in Abuja worst hit by transportation problem

Civil servants were the worst hit by the development, a situation which encouraged truancy and absenteeism among the workforce in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

It is common to see passengers scrambling for the few buses or taxis available during rush hours - in the morning and evening along Mararaba-Nyanya; Kubwa-Dutsen Alhaji-Bwari; Zuba-Suleja; Lugbe-Gwagwalada axis - especially on weekdays.

Bus stops were mostly overcrowded, creating chaotic scenes that attracted criminals who targeted unsuspecting passengers.

Vivian Moses, a member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) said she thought life would be a bed of roses if she served in Abuja but on arrival in the capital city, she began to encounter problems.

Vivian who lives in Kubwa said she took over an hour daily waiting to get a bus

or a taxi to Wuse or Berger Roundabout from where she could get to her office.

“By 8am, a good number of commuters come out struggling to get transport service to the city centre or beyond. But when you come early morning like 6am up to about 7am, there is less chaotic scenes as company buses that convey staff are also available,” she said.

Abbey Thompson, a civil servant, said the few buses available were rickety and unsafe, stressing that in case of an emergency like fire, there would be a disaster of unimaginable scale.

Findings by Daily Trust revealed that commuters face the same challenges on all the major routes leading to the city centre as low income earners who cannot afford accommodation in elitist districts of the city like Maitama, Asokoro, Wuse, Garki, Utako, Jabi and others thronged to the town from the outskirts.



■ Some of the grounded 102 AUMTCO buses at its yard by AYA-Kubwa Expressway in Abuja



■ The Abuja light rail serves only the elite who shuttle from the Airport to Idu in Abuja

## ‘Abuja buses are meant to provide affordable transportation’

Reacting, the Head of Marketing and Communications of AUMTCO, Tunde Akintola, said the company was established to provide affordable mass transit within the FCT.

He said the company has been in operation for years but admitted that the population of people in the territory was increasing on daily basis.

He said the company was having difficulties meeting up with the demands of commuters

across the satellite towns because of road network.

“The traffic gridlock along Nyanya-Mararaba axis is too much such that the buses going back for the next shuttle take average of one hour. When a vehicle leaves Nyanya in the morning by 6am, it takes time before it arrives at Berger,” he said.

He also said apart from the traffic jam, the buses do not have terminals.

“We load generally where every other vehicles are loading. So we find it difficult because it is not well regulated but I believe the FCT administration is working tirelessly to address the problem because they know our challenges.

“Our vehicles are long in size and before you know it, the unpainted taxis have taken over the places, making it difficult to operate effectively,” he said.

## Miscreants disguising as taxi drivers in Abuja

Our correspondents report that the gap in the FCT transportation sector has created room for ‘one chance’ robbers to exploit commuters.

Incidences of miscreants disguising as taxi drivers and

dispossessing unsuspecting passengers of their valuables and often harming them are common.

Last year, three one chance robbers were lynched and burnt to death at Dutsen-Alhaji

after they picked up a woman from Bwari and decided to attack her.

The woman raised an alarm and motorcycle riders nearby intercepted the car and a mob lynched the suspects.

## FCT must have transportation system befitting its status

A transportation consultant, Mr. Rowland Ataguba, says Abuja was yet to have a modern transport system befitting its status as the capital city of Nigeria.

“The FCT has a transportation policy on paper which has not been fully implemented,” he said.

“However, a transport system is not just about the infrastructure, it is also about policy, legislation, regulation and operation. There are deficiencies in all these facets.

“So, while Abuja has a potentially modern transport system because the master plan provides for one, we are yet to see one in practice,” he said.

Asked what kind of transport system the city needed to compare with other capital cities around the world, he said, “Abuja needs inter modal transport integration; one that offers users modal choices and allows seamless transfers between them.

“This means road transport, railway and aviation working harmoniously and

sympiotically and sometimes competing with each other.”

He added that Abuja needs more robust regulation of the transport system particularly of the roads sector which is the dominant mode.

“Many vehicles on the road are not roadworthy and there are many unlicensed taxis operating. There is a lot of illegal parking, stopping, overloading and inappropriate behaviour by road users which need control. Suffice that it wasn’t always like this.

“The rapid growth of the city has not been matched by an enhancement in regulatory capacity. A key component of any modern transport system is public transportation. Unfortunately, its current provision in Abuja is deficient in quality and quantity in terms of need,” he stressed.

Ataguba also said the old master plan required some adjustments and modifications for easy implementation and management

“Abuja is growing faster than the transport infrastructure

can meet. The available infrastructure is also showing signs of wear and inadequate maintenance.

“Worst of all, the rail mass transit is underdeveloped and is a major hold up for Abuja. There are six lots of it in the master plan and to date, only part of one lot has been built. Even that one is deficient in its operation due to the absence of adequate equipment and an effective transit authority.

“The airport shuttle should run more frequently with headways of about 15mins rather than what passes for a metro at the moment,” he said.

He stressed the need to build the other rail mass transit lots that reach the satellite towns like Karu, Nyanya, and Kuje among others, where most of the people that work in Abuja reside.

“But building the infrastructure is only a start. An effective transport authority will provide the appropriate regulatory framework for its operation. There is none at present,” he said.

# How I met Zamfara CP - Bandits' leader

From Shehu Umar, Gusau

The leader of repentant bandits in Zamfara State identified as Muhammadu Bello has revealed how he met the state commissioner of police, Mr Usman Nagogo, inside the dreaded Shinkafi forest alongside his motorbike-riding gang for a peace meeting.

Bello spoke during a peace meeting with stakeholders at the palace of the Emir of Shinkafi, Alhaji Muhammadu

Makwashe Isah, to consolidate on the achievement recorded since the start of the peace dialogue in the state.

The repentant bandit said he was escorted for the meeting with the police commissioner deep in the forest by about 80 heavily armed bandits on motorbikes, in the presence of the state's Commissioner of Security and Home Affairs, Alhaji Abubakar Dauran.

"When they came to pass a message of peace and tranquility to me, my

armed boys riding about 80 motorbikes advised me not to fall to the 'trick' because of existing mistrust between us and the security operatives at the time.

"I told the boys that I was prepared to accept the peace offer even if it was a trick because we were tired of the situation. We wanted the carnage to stop and since a road map to peace was being developed, let us participate to bring back the much needed peace to the state," he said.

"We came to realise that the government officials did not come along with any arms while meeting my armed men inside the forest for the peace mission. This demonstration of sincerity led to the fruitful discussion that laid the foundation for the return of peace in the state.

"Peace has come to stay in Zamfara despite the fact that there are some deviants among us. They will not triumph and I'm calling on the farmers and herders to sheathe their swords as the

dark days of bloodbath will not return," he added.

The bandits' leader alongside other stakeholders called on the state government to fulfil the promise made to those that have repented of building earth dams and providing portable drinking water to their communities.

Also speaking, the police commissioner, Mr Usman Nagogo, said tremendous successes have been recorded in returning the state to the path of peace after several years of bloodbath.

## EKSUTH sacks 200 workers

From Raphael Ogbonnaiye, Ado-Ekiti

Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti (EKSUTH) has terminated the appointment of about 200 workers with effect from the end of year 2019.

The letters terminating the appointments were delivered to the affected staff after the hospital board ratified the decision.

Reacting to the development, the Head, Corporate Affairs Department, Mrs. Rolake Adewumi, said it has become necessary to disengage some workers who did not show up for human resources verification exercise and who could not be sighted till date, and therefore regarded as "ghost workers."

Adewumi noted that staff on leave of absence with or without pay, and who had exhausted the approved period of the leave and refused to resume work are also affected in the disengagement exercise.

She said other category of workers disengaged includes those who were involved in misconduct as well as those employed after the state government has placed embargo on employment.



■ Borno Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum (middle) inspects ongoing projects during his tour of Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State yesterday to commission three projects

## Borno gov begins 2020 with launch of 5 projects

From Ibrahim Sawab, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno has on New Year's Day commissioned five projects started in the last six months of 2019, and also inspected ongoing projects in Hawul Local Government Area in the southern part of the state.

The governor who spent three days in Gwoza commissioning projects and distributing food items to displaced persons proceeded to Hawul on New Year's day and commissioned 100 bed capacity General Hospital in Azare town; 40-bed capacity primary healthcare centre

in Kwajjafa town; and a skills acquisition centre in Marama town in Hawul initiated by community members before the government took over in June 2019.

He further commissioned a primary school and a primary healthcare centre in Kwayabura also in Hawul,

and inspected ongoing construction works at a central primary school and palace of the district head in Kwajjafa.

He was also in Sakwa town in the local government area where he inspected ongoing reconstruction of a Government Secondary School.

## Sokoto urged to embrace open government partnership

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Committee on Open Government Partnership has called on Sokoto State Government to sign into the OGP, a global initiative which seeks to entrench transparency, accountability, citizens' engagement, and the use of technology in governance.

Sokoto State Team Leader, CSOs Committee on OGP, Dr Auwal Ahmad Musa, made the call while speaking on the partnership in the state.

"Nigeria as a nation joined OGP in 2016, and every state is expected to join the partnership in order to ensure that good governance is being practised all over the federation," he said.

"About 9-10 states have so far joined and we are calling on the Sokoto State government to join the partnership because most of the projects and programmes of development partners coming into the states now are usually tied to participation in OGP in the state," he stated.

## NAPTIP raids orphanage home in Kaduna

From Mohammed Ibrahim Yaba, Kaduna

There was confusion at Du Merci Orphanage home located at Narayi community of Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State when staff of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) raided the home and took away orphans.

The NAPTIP personnel were said to have carried out the raid in company of Police team from the Kano State Police Command when they arrived alongside the Co-Founder of the orphanage home Mr Solomon Tarfa.

Daily Trust gathered that the incident happened on

Tuesday when the staff of the home were preparing for New Year celebration.

Confirming the incident to newsmen, junior sister to the Co-Founder Mrs Maria Phil Ariyo said the orphans were taken to Kano State by the Police team.

"Information reaching me revealed that the Children slept at a police station and were later moved to Nasarawa Orphanage in Kano.

"We are waiting for the Police to state the reason for the arrest of the founders and why they took away the children" she said.

She explained that the home is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and has been in

existence for over 30 years.

Mrs Ariyo said the headquarters of the orphanage home is located in Kano and all the children at the home are either picked from the street or from the hospitals.

When contacted the Kaduna State Commissioner of Human and Social Development Hafsat Baba said the ministry was aware of the raid by the Kano NAPTIP office.

"We are aware of the raid because the NAPTIP in Kano State wrote to our ministry to find out if our ministry is aware of their existence and based on investigation carried out by Civil Defence Corps, we discovered they have never registered with the state government.

## New Year: Know your HIV status, NACA urges Nigerians

By Ojoma Akor

The National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) has enjoined Nigerians to make knowing their HIV status a part of their resolutions for the New Year.

NACA Director-General, Dr Aliyu Gambo, in a statement yesterday, said the HIV story begins with knowing one's

HIV status which is the safest way to prevent, care and treat the disease.

He said people still got infected with HIV everyday mainly as a result of indiscriminate sexual behaviours.

According to him, NACA, in collaboration with all stakeholders, will ensure that 90 percent of Nigerians living

with HIV know their status, are placed on life saving treatment, achieve viral load suppression to keep them alive and healthy as well as prevent new infection of their partners and unborn babies.

"Knowing one's HIV status is no longer difficult as Nigerians can now test themselves in a matter of minutes using self-test kits

or call NACA at 6222 for guidance", he said.

He noted that NACA, in the last few years, had taken bold steps to prevent new HIV infections through consistent provision of information on prevention, and made HIV/AIDS services accessible to Nigerians irrespective of where they resided in the country.

"We must build on the successes recorded so far at individual, family and community levels to prevent new HIV infections as we move into the last mile decade for the control and eradication of HIV. Knowing your HIV status allows you to make informed decisions either way the result turns out," he said.

## NAF appoints new branch chiefs, redeploys Air Officers Commanding

By Ronald Mutum

The Nigerian Air Force has redeployed 36 Air Vice Marshals and 40 Air Commodores, including some branch chiefs, Air Officers Commanding, Commandants of Tri-Service Institutions, Directors and Commanders.

NAF spokesman, Air Commodore Daramola Ibikunle, in a statement yesterday, said the appointments and redeployments, which followed the recent promotion of some senior officers to the next higher ranks as well as the retirement of some senior officers, were routine exercises aimed at further re-invigorating operational efficiency and enhancing service delivery.

He said the branch chiefs affected by the redeployment included AVM Oladayo Amao, the former Chief of Training and Operations Headquarters NAF (HQ NAF), now appointed as the Chief of Policy and Plans; while AVM James Gwani, the erstwhile AOC Special Operations Command, was appointed as the new CTOP.

Ibikunle said AVM Musibau Olatunji had been appointed as the new Chief of Aircraft Engineering; while AVM Mohammed Idris has been appointed as the Chief of Administration, HQ NAF.

Also redeployed were AVM Abubakar Liman, the erstwhile Commandant of the Armed Forces Resettlement Centre, Oshodi, now appointed as Commandant Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji.

AVM Kingsley Lar, the former COA HQ NAF, was appointed as the Commandant of AFRC, Oshodi; while AVM Abdulganiyu Olabisi, the former AOC Logistics Command, is now the Commandant, Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna.

The new AOCs include: AVM Olusegun Philip, who is now the AOC Tactical Air Command in Makurdi; AVM Charles Ohwo, the former AOC IAC, who is now the AOC SOC, Bauchi; AVM Ibukun Ojeyemi who has been appointed as the AOC Mobility Command in Yenagoa and AVM Musa Muktar who is the new AOC Air Training Command; while the former Commandant AFCSC, AVM Lawal Alao, is now the AOC LC, Ikeja.



■ Gov. Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State (left) speaks during an inspection visit to the new NYSC Orientation Camp provided by the state government at Dazigau near Potiskum in the state yesterday. With him are his Chief of Staff Abdullahi Yusuf Gashu'a (middle) and Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Goni Bukar Lawan (right)

## Buni inspects N2.8bn Damaturu market

From Ibrahim Saleh, Damaturu

Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni yesterday inspected the ongoing construction of the Damaturu Ultra-Modern Market.

The governor was also at the new NYSC Orientation Camp provided and upgraded by the state government at Dazigau Village, near Potiskum.

At the market, he was

received and briefed by the Commissioner for Commerce, Barma Shettima; and at the NYSC camp, by the Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Goni Bukar Lawan.

The governor expressed satisfaction with the progress of work at the market.

"We are here to see for ourselves, the level of progress though, it is a surprise visit. I am satisfied with what I saw.

Looking at the pace of work, I am confident that the project will be completed within the specified period", he said.

The Commissioner for Commerce assured the governor that the project was moving on schedule and according to the contract agreement.

"We working round the clock to ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated period and without

compromising standard and quality", he said.

At the new NYSC camp at Dazigau, Governor Buni also commended the renovation and upgrade of the facility.

He directed the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, who conducted him round the camp, to forward to him, any pending requests for furniture and other items needed in the camp.

## Air Force kills several B/Haram terrorists in Borno

By Ronald Mutum

The Nigerian Air Force yesterday said several Boko Haram Terrorists were neutralized and some structures in their camp at Abulam in the Sambisa Forest area of Borno State destroyed in air strikes on Tuesday.

A statement from Air Force spokesman, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, said the strikes were conducted Tuesday by the Air Task Force of Operation Lafiya Dole.

He said the mission was executed to mark the commencement of Operation Rattle Snake 2, an Air Interdiction Operation aimed at taking out some identified insurgent camps and logistics facilities "in order to further unhinge the terrorists' centre

of gravity and diminish their fighting capability."

Daramola said Abullam was selected for attack on day one of the operation based on credible intelligence reports indicating that the terrorists had resumed using the once-abandoned settlement as a staging point from where they launch attacks against ground troops' locations.

He said the Air Task Force detailed its attack aircraft, supported by an Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance aircraft, to attack designated compounds within the settlement.

He said the jets took turns to engage the target in successive passes leading to the destruction of some of the structures as well as the killing of several terrorists.

## Oluwo decries marginalisation, begs Buhari to site FCE in Iwo

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

The Oluwo of Iwo in Osun State, Oba AbdulRasheed Akanbi, has appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to site one of the six newly approved Federal Colleges of Education in Iwo.

The Federal Government had recently approved creation of new Federal Colleges of Education in six states, including Osun. Oluwo, in a statement he personally signed on Wednesday, decried that his town had, over the years, been marginalised in terms of federal presence.

He asked Buhari to correct the wrong by locating a Federal College of Education in Iwo, saying major towns in Osun State already have federal institutions.

The royal father stated: "As at 1931, Iwo was the fifth largest town in Nigeria behind Ibadan,

Kano, Lagos and Ogbomosho. All the others had reaped the benefits of their sizes with infrastructural facilities.

"Regrettably, despite the fact that Iwo is the most populous local government in Osun State, there is no federal institution in the town; a situation which has robbed the town of expected growth among the four named towns.

"It is disheartening watching those towns which were ranked alongside Iwo becoming mega cities with up-to-date amenities provided by the federal and state governments.

"I am not holding it against President Buhari's administration of just five years. But I am now calling on him to use his good office to site the proposed Federal College of Education here in my town.

# Kaduna business man arrested

From Andrew Agbese,  
Maryam Ahmadu-Suka &  
Mohammed Ibrahim Yaba, Kaduna

**A** Kaduna businessman, Alh. Ibrahim Musa Gashash popularly known as Sardaunan Matasa has been whisked away from his Kakuri residence by men in military uniform.

The abductors numbering about 20 were said to have arrived the house around 3:00am on Wednesday and ordered him out of the house.

Alhaji Gashash whose house is usually full of activity with presence of business associates was said to have followed the men in military outfit to their truck.

A source close to the family who does not want to be named said the victim was the only one picked by the uniformed men and no reason was given for the arrest.

"There was no form of resistance because the men were fully armed but up till now, no military unit has

contacted the house to let us know what the problem is," he said.

Checks by our correspondents to ascertain which military unit carried out the arrest were not successful as sources denied knowledge of the arrest.

When contacted, the Deputy Director Army Public Relations, 1 Division, Nigerian Army, Colonel Ezindu Idimah said, "I called the Kalapanzi barracks in Kaduna which is near the area where the

incident happened but they had no knowledge of the arrest."

He promised to get in touch with other units in the state and get back to our correspondent but did not do so at the time of filing this report.

Our reporter who visited the Kakuri residence of Alhaji Gashah around 3:50pm reported that the mansion was deserted as only about twenty pigeons were sighted on the balcony with two vehicles

parked beside the house.

When a security personnel sighted at the gate of the residence was asked whether security men picked Alh Gashash, he simply replied "All I know is that he is not at home and nobody in the house to speak to you."

It can be recalled that on Tuesday a popular Kaduna politician, Shehu Sani was invited to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC in Abuja for alleged extortion.

## 'Yobe tertiary institutions to produce self-reliant graduates'

From Ibrahim Baba Saleh, Damaturu

Yobe State Commissioner for Higher Education Professor Mohammed Munkaila has assured that his ministry will soon unfold plans to actualise the wisdom behind Governor Mai Mala Buni's declaration of state of emergency on education in the state.

The commissioner noted that on assumption of office, he mandated heads of tertiary institutions to articulate their plans and prioritise areas of need and submit a comprehensive document for government's consideration and implementation.

In a statement, the commissioner further explained that government was working tirelessly to provide the new ministry with the technical directors and other supporting staff to discharge its mandate in critical areas such as manpower development and entrepreneurship education in the state.

"My vision is aimed at transforming our tertiary institutions to produce not only employable graduates at all levels but self-reliant graduates equipped with entrepreneurship skills in order to reduce over dependence on government job," he stated.



■ Emir of Yauri/Vice Chancellor emeritus of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Dr. Muhammad Zayyanu Abdullahi (standing middle) with Yauri emirate indigenes at a stake holders meeting in Yelwa - Yauri of Kebbi State

## Anambra set to enforce anti-touting regulation

From Titus Eleweke, Awka

Anambra State government has directed security agencies to deal decisively with illegal revenue collectors' saying it would no longer condone such activities as well as any form of touting in the state.

This directive was made known by the Commissioner

for Transport, Dr Christian Madubuko, during the launch of anti-touting outfit tagged, "Focused Initiative Against Touting" (FIAT) at Bridge Head, Onitsha.

He said that the anti-touting regulators would be made up of the Nigeria Police, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps and the Nigerian Army.

The commissioner further announced that government had already established mobile courts to try offenders, warning that things would no longer be business as usual.

"All touts operating at different places in Onitsha and its environs must leave the commercial city or risk going to jail, because a mobile

court is attached to FIAT," he added.

"It is very unfortunate to see some individuals wielding sticks and other dangerous weapons extorting money from motorists coming from Delta State on their way from Lagos, Benin and other states into Anambra through Onitsha," he lamented.

## C/River to renovate, equip 15 hospitals, boost health insurance

From Eyo Charles, Calabar

Cross River State government has resolved to renovate and equip existing 15 general hospitals as well as primary healthcare centres in the

The government is also set to revitalise the insurance healthcare scheme called AyadeCare programme and to inaugurate the three specialist hospitals located in the three senatorial districts of the state.

To commence immediate action in this direction, the Commissioner for Health

in the state, Dr Betta Edu, disclosed that the sum of N100 million had been released for the smooth take off of AyadeCare programme.

She said they have discussed with international health donors such as USAID and the Dangote firms which have indicated interest to partner in raising healthcare services in the state.

At a news briefing, Edu said: "We intend to renovate, equip and bring doctors and healthcare workers on locum basis; employ some

permanently into the service; employ house officers and collaborate with the federal Ministry of Health, the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital to have resident doctors work at our general hospital."

The commissioner also stated that the newly constructed Calabar Pharmaceutical Company known as CalaPharm will commence test runs in June 2020 as part of efforts to kick start the social insurance scheme.

## We'll make hard choices, says Abiodun

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun, yesterday asked people of the state to work harder with stronger discipline as "there are hard choices" to be made in the New Year.

These choices, Abiodun explained, would give the state a solid foundation for a better tomorrow.

He stated this in his New Year broadcast delivered on Wednesday in Abeokuta, the state capital.

Abiodun said in the

last seven months of his administration, he had restructured education sector, improved on healthcare service delivery and promoted workers' welfare.

He hinted that negotiation for the implementation of new minimum wage was in the final stage and would be completed soonest.

Abiodun equally vowed that, in the year 2020, more attention would be given to financial transparency, accountability, due Process, efficiency and cost Management.

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# OPINION

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## Fierce urgency for power and energy security

By Ayuba Buba Kinafa,

A leader is remembered for one or more achievements or a single defining failure. The achievements become records to be beaten. The single defining failure streaks into the minds of citizens, percolating, simmering from top to bottom and is passed from one generation to the other more especially when the failure is a debt-financed uncompleted project or projects.

PMB will be remembered for fulfilling the promises he made to the nation and the renewed courage to tackle the "The Fierce Urgency of Now": Provision of power and energy security to the nation. Coined by civil right leader, late Dr. Martin Luther King and popularized by former US President Barak Obama, "Fierce Urgency of Now" connotes the sense of seriousness, frequency, spread, depth, and of a damaging menace or ills in a society that require immediate attention and action.

Provision of power and energy security to the nation constitutes the single defining failure of past regimes since the return to democracy in 1999. Nigeria is one of the countries in the world with the largest crude oil and gas reserves. It has some of the largest rivers and water shades in the world. It has sun light throughout the year and strong winds. Yet she imports refined oil, liquefied gas, diesel and petrol powered generators. To underline the importance of power and energy to an economy certain countries with or without natural endowments have declared a revolution on the sector to remain designer and producer nations while others remain consumer nations.

For Nigeria to provide the basic necessities of life, security, reduce the cost of living, cost of production on sustainable basis and for the economy to be competitive, a revolution in the power and energy sector is called for.

The major components of the revolution include the completion of the Mambila Hydro Electric, Kashimbila, Dadin Kowa Hydro Electric Power Projects, the Kaduna, Lagos, Port Harcourt, Benin, Uyo and other Power projects. Others include Gas power projects in existing oil and gas fields and newly discovered oil and gas fields, wind power projects, solar power projects, Biomass power plants and even Nuclear power projects. Completion of these projects to a reasonable level will be a water shade in the power and energy sector of the economy.

The power and energy security arising from these projects will put Nigeria on a sustainable growth and development path and will not only make Nigeria a comfortable partner in the third and the fourth Industrial revolution but prepare her for any future Industrial revolution. An ambitious program of this magnitude and importance cannot come without challenges that include funding, technical knowhow, sincere development partners, political risks, energy storage, goodwill, attitude and time to mention a few.

Funding from within and outside is a major challenge. The good news is that the sector is a growth area and highly profitable. The Saudi ARAMCO is an example. It is the most profitable company in the world. It is going for the largest IPO in history that will jerk up its value to about two trillion dollars. Investors always rush because of assured and short payback period. On technical knowhow, Nigeria now produces one of the best engineers and technicians in the world. Technology adaptation and customization is easy with highly skilled and experienced graduates.

With PMB in power, Nigeria can now transact from position of strength and trust. Our transactional reputation has been enhanced. The willingness with which countries now want to partners with Nigeria gives latitude to select sincere partners. Nigeria is no more a political

risk. Transitions from one government of a different political party to another have been smooth and successful, and no one expect to a group to seize power forcefully in Nigeria again. There is consistency of policies and procedures and corruption has been reduced to the lowest level. Energy experts have always brought to forefront the problem of energy storage. To store energy you have to use lithium battery.

They point out that dams are incapable of storing energy. That has been put to lie by a report of research findings by the Harvard International Review and Fareed Zakaria's GPS (2018) Review on the Hoover dam project. The dam will very soon be turned into a battery. Cheap wind and solar powered pump will pump water down stream to the lake Mead- the name given to the reservoir- upstream that feeds the dam which could be released to generate electricity when needed. The same technology could be applied to all our hydro-electric projects in Nigeria. Goodwill is another area to look into it. Rivers that pass through many countries become source of conflict when dammed upstream. The recent case of Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Eritrea is vivid in the minds of observers. Nigeria and Cameroon have had disputes on water released or held. Even at home goodwill could be scarce sometimes.

After the report on the discovery of oil and gas in some parts of the country, a Nigerian sulking said "The era of oil and gas is over". The era of fossil fuel will not be over. Scientists working at MIT, Harvard, Imperial college England, Japan, Australia and King Abdul-Aziz University Saudi Arabia have succeed in splitting water molecule(H<sub>2</sub>O) into hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) and Oxygen(O<sub>2</sub>). The H<sub>2</sub> come from fossil is energy and is used in manufacturing hydrogen bombs. Even in the ITER project hydrogen is the most important component. The splitting effort is creating the indispensability of fossil fuel.

Recent estimates show that one ton of fossil will generate twice the energy ten tons of batteries can. There must be attitudinal changes. Utilities are seen as providers of free services. A manage saying goes "There is no free lunch". Nigerians must be ready to pay for services this sector will provide.

Lack of power and energy has been standing on the ways to our prosperity. These projects are not glory-seeking projects. They are legacy projects like the Kainji dam, Lagos, Port Harcourt, Warri Ports projects, ABU, Ife, UNN, Ibadan, Lagos Universities projects, Lagos to Kano, Port Harcourt to Maiduguri roads and railway projects, Murtala Mohammed and Mallam Aminu Kano International airports projects that were the bedrock and levers for modern Nigeria.

Our population growth, requirements for our basic needs, our ambitions, challenges arising from the convergence of the third and fourth Industrial revolutions in the 21st century have created, and will create demand for power and energy that only power and energy regeneration is the answer. The good news is that we have the infrastructure, excellent leadership and we are now enjoying some form of relief from the insurgency in the North East and Niger Delta. Border closer has improved internal security.

Nonetheless, a power and energy revolution requires goodwill, understanding, advocacy, education, enlightenment and time, more especially one that foreign inputs are inevitable. When these projects are fully afoot, the synergy and promises they hold for the present, future and generations yet unborn will convince Nigerians to give PMB and Prof. Osibanjo unalloyed loyalty, full support, required time and prayers to address "The fierce Urgency of now".

Ayuba Buba Kinafa is a management consultant in Gombe.

## Only PhD holders should use Doctor's title (II)

By Abdulrazaq Hamzat

Historically, lawyers in most European countries were addressed with the title of doctor, and countries outside Europe have generally followed the practice of the European country which had policy influence through modernization or colonialization. The first university degrees, starting with the law school of the University of Bologna (or glossators) in the 11th century, were law degrees and doctorates. Degrees in other fields were not granted until the 13th century, but the doctorate continued to be the only degree offered at many of the old universities up until the 20th century. As a result, in many of the southern European countries, including Portugal, Spain and Italy, lawyers have traditionally been addressed as "doctor," (as well as Macau in China).

Additionally, the doctor's title was not known to be a title for medical practitioner, until in 1703, when the "University of Glasgow's first medical graduate, Samuel Benion, was issued with the "Academic degree" of Doctor of Medicine. That marked the beginning of medical practitioners using the Doctor's title.

In recent time however, laymen had associated the doctor's title only to medical practitioners. Apart from laymen, some doctors even feel it is unworthy for none medical practitioners to use the title. Reports of medical doctors feeling dismayed that there are so many academics these days who insist upon being addressed as "doctor," when that title properly belongs to physicians abound. These medical practitioners do not know that from Roman times through the middle Ages until well into the 18th century, the honorific doctor applied only to eminent scholars - e.g., the Four Doctors of the Western Church in the 5th and 6th centuries (Saints Ambrose, Augustine of Hippo, Jerome, and Gregory).

History has it that, jealous of the respect shown to scholars by the title doctor, medical schools in the 18th century (particularly Edinburgh in Scotland) began the practice of addressing their graduates as "doctor." The schools argued that since their graduates generally earned bachelor's degrees before admission to medical studies, they were entitled to the honorific in the same manner as university scholars. In one of life's great ironies, many uninformed laymen now perceive the medical degree to be more prestigious than the PhD, declaring that people who have earned the latter are "not real doctors."

"Doctor" signifies that an individual has not only gained enough competencies to practice in a teaching field, but

has developed enough expertise to instruct others. Incidentally, most UK surgeons drop their title of "Dr" and revert to "Mr" after joining the Royal College of Surgeons. I've read through an online medium of at least one surgeon who reacted quite angrily at being addressed as a mere "Dr", which in such circles, due to a collision between traditional titles and modern medical training, could be unkindly translated as "trainee".

Additionally, the confusion in the use of Doctor's title is not only in Nigeria, it existed all over the world. In France for example, only medical practitioners can use the Doctor's title. The mention of Doctor for none medical PhD holders is forbidden, especially in hospitals—even when the type of doctorate is precisely stated. More shocking is the fact that, in some health departments or hospitals in France, PhD holders are not authorized to sign/co-author any article, even if they did all the work and wrote the manuscript; they are mostly retained as ghost writers, whose intellectual work goes to others. But in Poland, doctor is a common degree of education. It is not reserved for medicine.

By convention in most countries, recipients of honorary doctorates do not use the title "Dr" in general correspondence, although in formal correspondence from the university issuing the honorary degree it is normal to address the recipient by the title.

However, this social convention, especially in Nigeria, is not always scrupulously observed; notable people often defy social convention and use the honorary prefix.

Furthermore, it has also been argued that, using the title "Dr." based on an honorary doctorate is unethical, but this is prevalent in Nigeria. But let me state that Doctor's title isn't an honorary title; it's an earned title; an academic degree after much efforts and rigor. It is a title for scholars or teachers, who have acquired enough competence to pass down knowledge.

However, others have equally argued that, whatever one thinks of the merits of an Honorary doctorate, it is not something "claimed" but rather something "awarded" for good reasons or bad.

Finally, let me emphasize that, neither MD's nor PhD's are the original "Doctors", but Doctor of Divinity (DD's). But since Pope granted the right of usage to the University, the right of usage has been transferred to educators, particularly the holders of PhD, which is the highest academic qualification for teachers. For this reason, I believe only PhD holders should use the Dr's title to put an end to the confusion once and for all.

Concluded  
Abdulrazaq O Hamzat,  
Executive Director at Foundation  
For Peace Professionals, Abuja.

## Letter to the Editor

e-mail letters@dailytrust.com text 08131800030

CARTOON by AKILA JIBRIN



## Saraki land revocation: Questions begging answers

Why do we have to continue dissipating energy on the Ile Arugbo land re-acquisition by the Kwara State government that originally owned the land? Bukola Saraki knows the truth that he used his position as the then sitting governor of the state to corner the land for his father. Questions to be answered by all discernible minds are as follows:

1. When the said land was unprocedurally allocated by self by Bukola were there no physical government structures for the phase 3 of the state secretariat on the land?

2. Was any payment made as compensation for the physical structures met on the land to Kwara State government before the illegal demolition of the same by Saraki?

3. Was any payment made to the state government for the acquisition?

The Yoruba saying is apt here that, *Baloo Baloo, Abo nboo. Iyan Ogun odun a man joni lowo.* It is illogical to start to draw battle line when you are completely on the wrong side of the law. It is instructive to know that all papers relating to the land are invalid. It is also a thing of common knowledge that Ile Arugbo was constructed with local government funds. The plastic chairs in Ile Arugbo are state

government owned.

The Land Use Act and the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended place all land within the state on the governors hands. Assuming without conceding that the Ile Arugbo land was Saraki's personal land, the state reserves the right to acquire same for overall public purpose and interest.

Further investigation will show that the same ASA company of late Saraki was dashed Shonga farms from CAC record. So many stupid things were done for 16 years by Bukky/Fatai. So many Lawalites were harassed, hunted, brutalized and put behind bars illegally by Bukola. Some of them died after they were eventually released and a good example is Gani Toye.

All Lawal's legacies that they tried to erase completely e.g. the female hostel and auditorium hall at Kwara Poly were left uncompleted for 16 years not until Governor AA came that the projects got the desired attention.

Up Lawal Ilorin water reticulation was jettisoned and in some cases hopelessly brought down. Their own water reticulation remained comatose till date, despite several billions of naira that went down the drain with the false Ilorin water reticulation.

The Herald permanent site along Asa

Dan Ilorin was turned into Diagnostics Centre in a bid to erase Lawal's achievements and till date the state of the art printing equipment bought for the *Herald* by Lawal took flight since 2003, ditto the gas urbanites equipment purchased for Budo Efoo and Yakuba Radio Kwara & TV station.

All landed properties within the state, at Abuja and Kaduna were cornered, either sold or personalised by Bukky. And here is the man that draws battle line. He who seeks or comes to equity must come with clean hands.

And what about KWASU? Local government accounts was illegally deployed to take several loans to fund the takeoff of the state university but a visit to the university at Malate showed that the federal government, TETFUND accounted for 99% of the physical structures on the campus. Several billions of loans taken for the same purpose took flight.

We are 100 per cent behind the governor, every illegally acquired state property(s) must be returned to the state. If every governor had stolen the resources of the state the way Bukky/ Fatai did, they wouldn't have met anything on ground. Call a spade a spade, heaven will not fall.

Edun A.B. Esq. writes from Ilorin.

## FG's \$29.960bn foreign loan

The *Daily Trust* Editorial of Wednesday, December 11, 2019, on the subject loan is timely, needs to be taken seriously by the members of the National Assembly. As it is, Nigeria seems to be sliding back into the threshold of debt trap and we need the NASS to rein in the slide.

Unfortunately, all the utterances and body language of the NASS leadership, thus far, point to a stupefying worrying posture of a yes-legislature that is willing to, uncritically, approve any proposal from the executive. That would be a sad commentary for a modern day democracy that requires a strong legislature that can provide the needed checks and balances to contain any executive recklessness.

There is not any doubt that Nigeria has a huge infrastructure deficit that needs to be funded, but the way the government's mind is trained on debt sourcing, it would look like it is only with debts that this can be achieved. What has become of the much-talked-about Public Private Partnership (PPP), which has the potential to finance huge chunks of the roads, power, and other infrastructure in the country?

It is high time Nigeria strived for a paradigm shift in the way infrastructure financing is carried out. We need to explore all available alternative sources. We even have a concessioning agency that has rather been dormant but can be revitalised to achieve huge successes in the provision of infrastructure in the country.

One of the long-term measures that Nigeria needs to adopt is to focus on developing the private sector through the promotion of entrepreneurship and fashioning out of some fiscal palliatives like waivers, tax shelter, etc, and financial inclusion vide easy access to credit and, even grant, for the budding entrepreneurs.

All these would translate into a well-developed and strong private sector that can easily fill the gaps in service delivery and infrastructure provision.

Sani Badamasi, 10, Bishop David Abioye Avenue, Andi Kan Estate, Gwarinpa, Abuja.

Text us on 08131800030 &amp; 08112661608



## Time to halt paper qualification in recruitment

Every century has its own example of educational defining and naming in the world of education. In today's interconnected, dynamic world, technology is disrupting and revolutionizing all aspects of our daily lives. In this 21st century, certificates should not be recognized, but skills, creativity and ability to apply the knowledge. That should be the measure of competence and qualification. In fact, most of the billionaires don't have a degree, and they are more successful than those with the highest grades from schools. Therefore dependence on paper qualification and not skills is largely responsible for the myriad problems of certificate racketeering, exams malpractice, fake results, fraudulent foreign certificates, corruption, nepotism, favouritism in public job placements, youth unemployment etc. Most developed countries are re-emphasising on skills than paper qualification.

Bello Shehu Shuni 08035114465.

## Warning for our leaders

Our dear leaders, be reminded that you can never be so rich and powerful that you can defy the call of God. (Death). Thank you.

Muhammad Sanusi Hammaseyo 08036176122.

## Gloomy 2020 message from Secondus

Of all the New Year messages that I read in *Daily Trust* of 1/1/20, I've concluded that the most intriguing and abusive was that of Secondus. Sometimes one wonders the mental capacity of some political leaders. Imagine his message of "APC laid landmines for 2020", which he said "may explode and ground the country in 2020". For goodness sake what does he want to gain or achieve by that seditious message? Abba Dankande 08066011920.

## Re: sordid state of Nigerian roads

It's obvious the statement credited to the Minister of Works in November that our roads aren't as bad as portrayed is a clear pointer that he isn't in the true picture of our roads or that he is only covering up. I challenge him to tour our so-called federal roads and see what has become of them. Why shouldn't it be like that when most of our elected representatives nowadays travel by air in a journey not too far for a bicycle ride. The minister should immediately embark on a nationwide tour to have an on site assessment of our roads in order to ameliorate the sufferings of commuters and drastically reducing road traffic accidents. Contractors handling the projects should be paid and those who performed below expectation should be sanctioned or have the contracts revoked and given to competent contractors.

Salihu Yusuf Abdulkareem, Gegu Beki, Kogi State 08034388258.

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

# Charcoal Anthrax outbreak in Niger

The outbreak of charcoal anthrax in Niger Republic is sad news and a setback to the livestock sector in the West African sub-region. An initial report from the Nigerian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to the World Health Organisation for Animal Health indicated that, as at September 23, more than 20 cows had been killed by the bacteria, while as many as 100 more had been infected. In view of ECOWAS free movement, which has also facilitated the cattle grazing and trading in the sub-region, the charcoal anthrax outbreak is of a great concern to Nigeria as Niger Republic is one of its immediate neighbors.

It is well-known that anthrax is a bacterial infection which even humans are exposed to. The variant that infects livestock, charcoal anthrax, do infect those who consume animals infected with this anthrax. The World Health Organisation, on its website, says, "Gastrointestinal anthrax is caught from eating meat from an infected animal. It causes initial symptoms similar to food poisoning but these can worsen to produce severe abdominal pain, vomiting of blood and severe diarrhoea. Appropriate medical evaluation and treatment are essential."

It is reassuring that the Nigerian Customs Service has said it has taken proactive measures against the importation of this disease into Nigeria. Last week, the agency said, "Given the supply of cattle and sheep from Niger to Nigeria, the CGC has directed on the urgent need to place additional precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease into Nigeria through our land borders." At the moment, Nigeria's land borders with neighbouring countries have been closed, hence animals are not expected to be imported from any of the West African countries into Nigeria. However, we encourage Customs operatives the demonstrate patriotism by abiding by the directive of the Comptroller General of the Service.

Also, a statement by the Director of Veterinary and Pest Control Services of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Olaniran Alabi, that the department had strengthened surveillance in all the frontline states where cattle markets and cross border activities exist with Niger Republic, is a positive step. We would advice the agency that, in addition to Nigeria's borders with Niger, its operatives should be vigilant at Nigeria's borders with other countries that share borders with Niger Republic, like Chad and Cameroon. Unscrupulous merchants could take a decoy through other countries borders in a desperate attempt to penetrate into Nigeria's market. It is well-known that Nigeria has the largest market for livestock in the subregion and, therefore, the target of cattle merchants.

We call on relevant government departments, especially research outfits, to ensure that the country is adequately prepared for an epidemic of this nature which could affect livestock. If Niger Republic livestock could be affected, it follows that cow, sheep, goats and similar animals in Nigeria could also be victims of charcoal anthrax. We, therefore, encourage agricultural research organisations to come up with preventive vaccines. Such vaccines could be used if a trace of such disease is found in any animal. Also, veterinary outfits should stock treatment drugs for both animals and human beings who may be infected with the bacteria.

In addition to preventive and remedial measures, it is important for government agencies to embark on public enlightenment on the causes, manifestations, and prevention of charcoal anthrax. Such publicity should be done in animal rearing communities. If those in the livestock sector are unaware of the features of the bacteria, they would not notice it if their animals are infected. Some, out of anxiety and ignorance, could engage in self-medication if their livestock begin to manifest evidence of unfamiliar ailments. This, too, could be disastrous as a wrong medication could trigger off unexpected health challenges among animals.

Now that Niger Republic has alerted the world about charcoal anthrax, Nigeria should be at alert to ensure the disease does not penetrated into the country's livestock sector.

**MANNIR DAN ALI:** Chief Executive Officer/Editor-in-Chief**MAHMUD JEGA:** Associate Director/Deputy Editor-in-Chief**HAMZA IDRIS:** Editor, Daily Trust**NURA DAURA:** Ag Executive Director, Finance, Account & Investment**AHMED SHEKARAU:** General Manager, Business & Strategy**GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR:** Deputy General Manager (IT)By **Salihu Lukman**

In just 15 months, I was able to successfully wean myself off any diabetic medication or insulin injection. Even doctors are surprised about my relying on dietary modifications and weight loss alone to abstain from taking any diabetic medication. In fact, most of them would be hesitant to tell you to go without taking any medication and rely on dietary modifications and weight loss alone. When I asked my doctor at the beginning of the treatment if I would ever live without taking any diabetic medication again, he replied no.

Well, I have achieved just that and I am sharing my success story to encourage diabetics that they can actually live a healthy life without taking the diabetic medication depending on the extent of their sugar control and adherence to the necessary lifestyle changes. More importantly, they can also live a healthy life while taking the medication without any diabetic complication provided they will control their blood sugar level always. Currently, I weigh 70 kg and still counting down, remember that I weighed 86 kg in 2015 when I started treatment for diabetes and 90 kg in 2013. Now, let me shed light on some diabetic dietary myths by presenting some ABCs of junk foods and healthy foods. Sometimes you can hear a diabetic telling you that the following food items are good for a diabetic: pasta, couscous, Indomie, maize or millet pap, etc.

Vegetable oils are the umbrella that may actually represent soybean oil, corn oil, groundnut (peanut) oil, palm oil or sunflower seed oil. Their chemical structure are similar in that they are all unsaturated oils except palm oil coconut oil which are saturated oil. If you are on a low cholesterol diet, then palm oil is a no-no for you because of its high saturated fat content (50 %). Trans fats are found in processed foods. Food manufacturers in the US must list trans fat on food labels. Words like "hydrogenated" or "partially-hydrogenated" are used to identify trans fats that are hiding in your food. Other saturated fats are those found in meat and dairy products which are generally solid at room temperature. On the other hand, unsaturated fats and oils are generally liquid, even when refrigerated. These trans fats raise your LDL cholesterol levels (the bad kind) and lower your HDL cholesterol levels (the good kind) at the same time. Hence, they raise your risk of developing heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes. Vegetable oils with the exception of palm oil and coconut oil contain the

# How I fought diabetes in just 15 months (III)

essential fatty acids omega-6 which are essential for our body, yet, our body cannot manufacture them and must be taken in through diet. Pure groundnut oil processed from groundnuts and sold by Kuli-kuli (groundnut cake) vendors is the most reliable groundnut oil and has a lower smoke point than the conventionally packaged vegetable oils and that is why it is not economical for frying purposes. Unfortunately, the good unsaturated oils can also be hydrogenated to create trans fats and a more shelf-stable product. I hope NAFDAC ensures that the so-called vegetable oils are not hydrogenated.

What is usually sold on shelves as butter is actually margarine. These are two different fats with different nutritional values and ingredients. While butter contains saturated fats, many brands of margarine contain trans fat listed as "hydrogenated oil" or "partially hydrogenated oil" on the ingredients list. Trans fat should be completely avoided according to health experts. Before 1990s, trans fats were regarded as a healthier alternative to saturated fats, hence margarine was promoted as a heart-healthy option over butter. However, since the recent discovery that trans fats are bad, many margarine companies in the US have reformulated their product and eliminated trans fats. The popular Blue Band 'butter' is nothing but margarine. Pure and natural butter is sold by Fura Da Nono vendors as Man Shanu. The best and recommended butter for diabetics is peanut butter called Tunkuza in Hausa. Health experts recommend that one takes one tablespoon of Extra Virgin olive oil daily owing to its heart-healthy benefits.

Processed foods have a generally bad reputation and bring to mind things like additives, preservatives, sweeteners, colors, excess sugar or sodium. They contribute to public health problems like obesity, high blood pressure, and type 2 diabetes. Processed foods are better viewed on a spectrum of minimally (e.g. roasted nuts, canned tomatoes, canned sardine) to heavily (e.g. crackers, potato chips, cookies, microwaveable dinners, hot dogs, sausages) processed foods. However, certain foods benefit from processing. These include milk (pasteurized to kill bacteria), dried fruits (have

more fiber and phenols – an antioxidant), etc. Refined foods mean they have been stripped of nutrients through processing such as white flour instead of whole grains. Pasta and couscous are made from refined wheat, hence possess a higher glycemic index than pasta made from whole wheat. The same thing applies to processed and refined parboiled or white rice and brown rice. Processed foods are linked to increased rates of anxiety, depression and colon cancer. Glycemic index (GI) is an estimate of how blood glucose levels are affected by carbohydrate foods. A high GI food can raise blood glucose level faster than low GI food. A sudden spike in blood glucose level is undesirable in persons with T1D. As a rule, proper diabetic diets should have low glycemic index or load. Junk foods are usually heavily processed and refined, hence possess high GI and calories. Healthy diets are unrefined fresh or minimally processed foods that possess high fiber and other nutrients and have a low GI. Examples of healthy foods and snacks for diabetics include whole beans (starch-resistant and high in insoluble fiber), oats (whole grains and contains soluble fiber), whole grain wheat, carrot (high in insoluble fiber), apple (high in insoluble fiber), avocado, almond, salmon, veggies, Zogale (moringa), etc.

One key point for the successful management of any disease is the patient's ability to read and research about the disease as widely as possible irrespective of one's discipline. This is will go a long way in simplifying the work of the doctor. You should be able to take charge of your wellbeing and discuss extensively with your doctor about any management plan. Based on your readings, be willing to provide the relevant details that could guide your doctor in charting an appropriate management plan for you, do not wait for your doctor to ask you for the details. This is one thing that has been helping me to manage any disease that comes my way. You can find articles with more details on diabetes and nutrition than what I presented above in the following websites: [www.verywellhealth.com](http://www.verywellhealth.com) and [www.verywellfit.com](http://www.verywellfit.com).

*(Concluded)*

*Dr. Salihu Lukman is an assistant professor at the University of Hafr Al-Batin and writes from Saudi Arabia. [slukman@uhb.edu.sa](mailto:slukman@uhb.edu.sa)*



## NEWS



■ From left: Chairman, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Lagos Chapter, Mr. Olusegun McMedal; Group Chief Executive Officer, CMC Connect Limited and President, African Public Relations Association (APRA), Mr. Yomi Badejo-Okusanya and Chief Executive Officer, Modion Communications, Mr. Odion Aleobua, winner, Rising Practitioner of the Year 2019 during the Lagos PR Industry Gala & Awards (LaPRIGA) held in Lagos, recently.

## Final passage of PIB expected by mid 2020 – Sylva

Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, says review of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) is at an advanced stage and full passage of the bill is expected mid-2020.

Sylva made the announcement on Wednesday, in a statement to mark the New Year which was made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos.

The minister, while reviewing the performance of the petroleum ministry, described 2019 as a very busy and prosperous year for the ministry and its agencies.

According to him, the ministry's achievements included Amendment of the Deep Offshore (and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contract) Act, and signing of Final Investment Decision on the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Train 7 project.

He said others were the discovery of crude oil in the Upper Benue Trough and the hosting of the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the African Petroleum Producers Organisation and the emergence of Nigeria's Dr Omar Ibrahim as its Secretary General. (NAN)

## 'Nigeria's infrastructure deficit requires borrowing'

Nigeria's infrastructure deficit requires borrowing to meet the desired revenue generation to propel accelerated development, a financial expert, Mr Momoh Aliyu, has said.

Aliyu said this while speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja yesterday.

Reacting on the rising debt profile of the country, he said Nigeria had a huge deficit in its infrastructure development and something must be done to fill the gap.

He explained that if getting loans were for infrastructure development, there was nothing wrong, adding that such step was a saving grace because Nigeria was at cross road and needed to seek solutions.

According to him, the infrastructure deficit has led to revenue deficit in budgeting, hence the need for external

loan to meet up with the infrastructure.

"It is quite unfortunate how Nigerians are being misled by some mischievous past public office holders on this matter. Nigeria's debt stood at 63 billion dollars as at 2015, and currently stands at 83 billion dollars.

"With the new request of about 29 billion dollars, this means the country's loan profile will be well over 100 billion dollars in 2020 if the loan is approved.

"The Nigeria Debt to GDP is less 30 per cent which is still within the threshold and portends not too much of a problem but of course risky.

"The risky factor is due to sustainability of the debt profile because of downward trend in our internal revenue generation.

"For the past five years, the Federal Government has been having a deficit budget financed by external borrowing. The lack of proper internal revenue

generation is risky to financing the debt," he said.

Aliyu who is also a Managing Director of Cyber1 Systems Network International noted that the challenge for the country had been loan monitoring, saying that most loans were not expended on intended purposes.

He said the 1999 Constitution as amended bestowed an audit oversight function on Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the National Assembly.

According to him, unfortunately, this function has not been effectively carried out, hence the need for a vibrant PAC to address the issue of utilisation.

"Loan is a trend in every part of the world, the issue is what is your loan used for? Do you have a loan monitoring mechanism. Is your legislature reviewing the loan utilisation and performance? these are the challenges." (NAN)

## Air Peace scales 3rd IATA safety audit

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

Air Peace has scaled its third International Air Transport Association Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) certification.

This is coming on the heels of the airline's announcement of flight operations into Ibadan from Lagos, Kano and Owerri.

It would be recalled that the airline set a record when it obtained its first IOSA barely two years into its operations and was subsequently inducted as a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Airline, Mrs. Toyin Olajide said the certification "confirms the airline's un compromised adherence to safety standards in line with global best practices."

"The exercise this time around was tougher than what obtained in previous years but we scaled through every phase of the certification process due to our unwavering drive to keep raising the bar in our operations," she said.

She reassured the flying public of the airline's resolve to continue to comply with best safety standards and promised more seamless connectivity and an expanded route network in 2020.

The COO applauded the IATA for its efforts at ensuring that stakeholders in aviation globally comply with stipulated safety standards.

She stressed that the airline would continue to blaze the trail in Africa's aviation landscape.

"Air Peace has attained an enviable position as

West Africa's leading airline and will continue to raise the bar in in-flight services, while ensuring a 100 percent compliance with all safety codes as required by the industry regulatory bodies".

In a message to Air Peace, the Director of Audit Programmes, IATA, Catalin Cotrut, congratulated the airline on the successful completion of the audit. He implored the airline of the standard reporting responsibilities in accordance with the IOSA Programme Manual (IPM) Section 7.7.1.

The IATA Operational Safety Audit Programme is an internationally recognised and accepted system designed to evaluate the operational management and control systems of an airline. It is the benchmark for global safety management in airlines.

## AfCFTA: NAGAFF tasks FG on human capacity development

The National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF) yesterday appealed to government for support on human capacity development of its members.

The National President, Mr Increase Uche, made the appeal in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), in Lagos.

According to him, the training will equip the staff and help them achieve optimum benefits in the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

NAN reports that the main objectives of AfCFTA include: to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Customs Union.

The AfCFTA is also expected to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level, through exploitation of opportunities for large scale production, continental market

access and better reallocation of resources.

Uche said that the training would enable his members to work effectively with standards and help them operate at the same level with their counterparts in the world.

"Independent freight forwarders do not have the wherewithal to push themselves forward, as they are constrained by cash.

"We are ready to adopt AfCFTA; what we need is capacity development.

"We need government support for us to operate on the same level with our counterparts overseas.

"Kenya, Ivory Coast, South Africa, are almost ahead of us in terms of Logistics Performance Index, so government needs to do something in the area of ease of doing business, to enable us operate at level that we can compete favourably.

"We are preparing for AfCFTA, we are equal to the task in terms of training, we know what to do but we equally need government support for us to move ahead," he said. (NAN)

# Happy 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

**I**, Hon Suleiman Abdurahman Kawu Sumaila OFR, on behalf of the entire **WARAKA Family**, felicitate with my friend and brother, **Rt. Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum**, former Speaker of Kano State House of Assembly, now Member Representing Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency and Chairman House Committee on Pension on his **50th birthday**.

I celebrate your enormous contributions to the development of Kano State and the deepening of our democracy through decades of selfless service.

On the occasion of your golden anniversary, I join family, friends and well-wishers to congratulate and celebrate you and wish you Allah's continuous guidance, protection and wisdom.

Wishing you many happy returns!

## RT. Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum

Member Representing Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency and Chairman House Committee on Pension

**Signed**

**Hon.  
Suleiman Abdurahman Kawu Sumaila OFR**



**ANALYSIS**

# 'Insurance: Extension of recapitalisation deadline good for Nigeria's economy'

Shareholders and operators in the Insurance Sector on Tuesday lauded the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) for extending the deadline for the recapitalisation of the Insurance and Reinsurance Companies, earlier fixed for June 30, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020.

They spoke in separate interviews with News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos on Tuesday.

NAN reports that NAICOM had on Monday, in a circular with reference No : NAICOM/

D P R / C I R / 2 5 - 03/2019 /DECEMBER 30,2019 signed by Mr Pius Agboola, Director, Policy and Regulation, announced the extension of the deadline.

Agboola said that the decision for the extension followed a review of the recapitalisation plans submitted by the operators and various levels of the compliance observed.

It also followed input from various engagements with relevant stakeholders.

In his reaction, Mr Boniface Okezie, National Coordinator, Progressive Shareholders Association of Nigeria, commended Mr Sunday Thomas, Acting Commissioner for Insurance, for ensuring the extension.

"There was no way the commission could stampede the insurance firms with the recapitalisation, considering the warbling and unstable economy and the not clear policy by the Government.

If the Acting Commissioner continues with this trend, then it will be better for the market; as there is no need to be too rigid because you are regulating, but rather consider the plight of the stakeholders," he said.

Okezie urged NAICOM to improve on its policy for the sector, for the insurance companies to take their rightful position in the capital market which would in turn make the re-capitalisation

seamless. According to him, the effort, if made by NAICOM, will build the confidence of the public in the insurance sector.

"As a matter of concern, there is no will and confidence on the insurance sector.

"As at today, how many people patronise them? The share is lavishly below the power value.

"With the present reality, if there is going to be re-capitalisation, at how much price would they offer their Right issue or Public offer to the public or existing investors who will buy?"

"When you have not been reaping or getting appreciable dividends from the one you invested as an investor, how will you invest more?" he asked.

Okezie, however, urged the Insurance and Reinsurance companies not to relax in their efforts and plans to meet up with the exercise despite the deadline extension.

He said that from information gathered, some of the insurance firms which had started the re-capitalisation in a bid to meet up with the initial deadline, might not be successful with their offer.

The shareholder advised that with the extension window, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) should be proactive to extend the offer and even for those already in the market doing the Right issue.

Okezie however stated that based on the new development, there is a future for most of the insurance companies to still be in the control of the local investors, instead of the foreigners.

Also, Mr Valentine Ojumah, Managing Director, FBN Insurance, lauded NAICOM for its courage and listening ear, describing the development as a sign of better times ahead for the sector.

"I think the extension is good for the industry because operators now have more time to ensure they meet the minimum recapitalisation requirements," Ojumah said.

According to him, it is in the best interest



■ Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zaynab Ahmed

of the market to have more operators cross the deadline because it will increase local capacity and generally uplift the status of the industry.

Ojumah said that all stakeholders in the sector would benefit from a strong insurance industry, as it would increase the capacity to innovate, employ very competent staff and train existing staff better.

He said that more viable insurance firms would also generate higher premium

income, pay more taxes and contribute a more robust percentage to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"In essence, I hope the extended time will be used judiciously to source the needed funds," he said.

Ojumah, however, said that the extension did not make any difference in the case of FBN Insurance, as it had enough funds to capitalise both the life and General Insurance companies without

asking its shareholders for new investment.

Mr Edwin Igbiti, Managing Director, Niger Insurance Plc, described the move by NAICOM as a good omen for the sector, but warned operators

not to relent in their efforts to meet up with the exercise.

Igbiti said despite the challenges confronting the insurance company, it had not relented in its journey to meet up with the recapitalisation deadline.

He said that the firm was considering about three to four options.

These, according to him, include serious combination with like-minds to marry, private placement which will be allowed by shares reconstruction and also rights issue.

"By January 2020, we will be on our toes, and all things being equal, I believe we will cross the odds," he said.

Also, Mrs Adetola Adegbayi, Executive Director, Leadway Assurance, said that the extension was not surprising.

She said that this was so, given that the industry clamoured for it, while commending the commission for the

extension. NAN reports that NAICOM, in exercise of its statutory powers and regulatory functions, had on May 20 reviewed the minimum paid-up share capital requirement for all classes of insurers, i.e Insurance and Reinsurance companies.

The directive was with the exception of Takaful operators and Micro-insurance companies doing business in Nigeria.

Following the reviewed minimum capital requirement, the existing minimum paid-up capital share of Life Insurance business was reviewed and raised from N2 billion to N8 billion.

General Insurance business was raised from N3 billion to N10 billion, Composite business was raised from N5 billion to N18 billion and Reinsurance was raised from N10 billion to 20 billion.

The new paid-up share capital requirement took immediate effect for new applications made to NAICOM by companies seeking to carry on insurance business in Nigeria. (NAN)

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**Alh. Sale Bayari**  
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**BAURAN WASE**  
BY THE EMIR OF WASE, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,  
**ALH. (DR.) MUHAMMADU SAMBO HARUNA**

**DATE:** Sat. 4th January, 2020  
**PLACE:** Emir's Palace, Wase.  
**TIME:** 10.00am

**R.S.V.P.:-**  
07039718999, 07038371510,  
08069773512, 08099804903,  
08061298391

Courtesy: TRIPLE CEE MEDIA LIMITED

**INTERVIEW**

# Why foreign firms are afraid of coming to Nigeria - Utomi

From Eugene Agha Lagos

**I**n your opinion, what are the reasons why foreign investors are not coming to Nigeria and others are even divesting to other African countries?

Nigeria's quest to develop her obsolete transport infrastructure may continue to be elusive due to low level of private investment inflow occasioned by weak property rights in the country. Governors should stop the needless and indiscriminate revocation of Certificate of Occupancy (C-of-O) and other land titles.

Funds for the development of transport and other infrastructure do not come from the national budgets. The revocation of C of O frightens foreign investors from coming. This development makes it expedient for government to remove all impediments to inflow of investments into the country. Government should strengthen the country's property right laws.

People do not invest in a country where property rights are threatened. In Nigeria, governors revoke C-of-O's that were approved by their predecessors in order to reallocate such titles to their

Professor Pat Utomi, in this interview gives reasons why foreign investors are not coming to Nigeria, though the market is still viable.

cronies and friends.

We are talking of landed property that people have invested billions of naira to acquire and build only to be revoked due to political considerations. People do not come to countries like that.

**But money is budgeted for the development of infrastructure. Why is it that such funds are either not used or diverted?**

Over the years, capital has remained in the hands of a few people, in California for instance less than 10 people have enough capital that could address the infrastructure gap in Nigeria. These people are looking for where to invest. The right environment must be put in place to attract such huge capital into Nigeria. The federal and state governments must jettison political interference in contracts and concessioned projects.

The country needs to create an enabling environment that supports indigenous and foreign private sector investments to develop transport infrastructure.

The practice of frivolous interruption of legitimate infrastructure concession



■ Prof. Pat Utomi

agreements and contracts have scared Nigerian private sector investors as well as foreign direct investments. The result of this is that the nation suffers the consequences of dilapidated transport infrastructure.

**How can we, as a nation, put our politicians in check as regards the indiscriminate revocation of C of Os?**

We need to develop strong institutions that can hold politicians back. Politicians in the United Kingdom or

anywhere in the world are not different from those in Nigeria but the only thing is strong institutions that hold them back. This is absent in Nigeria.

I tell you one thing; Nigeria is central and crucial for the development of other parts of the African continent. It has become expedient for the country to develop her infrastructure and systems so that other African nations will take a cue from her and develop theirs. The flying geese concept of the Asian nations is a topical example.

In the same vein, transport and logistics are key in economic development. China's dramatic rise is due to the fact that they were able to turn around their logistics sector.

Africa will not make the progress that it is destined to make, unless Nigeria leads the flying geese. What transformed South East Asia economy? One country, Singapore, began to get it right, and others looked across the border and joined in the development stride. Before you know it, Malaysia, Thailand and others had their economies transformed.

**KANO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

*Happy Birthday*  
**TO OUR FORMER SPEAKER**

**RT. Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum**  
Member representing Rano, Kibiya and Bunkure Local Governments  
National House of Representatives

**I**, Rt Hon. **Abdulazeez Garba Gafasa** Speaker Kano State House of Assembly, On behalf of myself and entire members of the Kano State House of Assembly congratulate our former Speaker, **Rt. Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum**, member representing Rano, Kibiya and Bunkure Local Governments at National Assembly on the occasion of his 50th year birthday.

Indeed your life has been a great source of inspiration to many people in Kano and a proud asset to our dear state at the National Assembly.

As you clock 50 years, we at Kano State House of Assembly pray to Allah the Almighty to continue to give you many more years in good health, increased wisdom and strength, Ameen

Once again, happy birthday our former Speaker

**Signed**

**Rt. Hon Abdulazeez Garba Gafasa**  
Speaker Kano State House of Assembly

## NEWS

## ‘Africa’s free trade area worth \$3.3trn’

President of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina, has said that the biggest thing to happen to Africa is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), saying the free trade area itself is worth over 3.3 trillion dollars.

Adesina, who stated this when he addressed State House correspondents in Abuja on Tuesday, expressed hope that the effective implementation of AfCFTA would take the continent to a greater height.

He also supported the creation of a single currency by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), named ‘ECO’, describing it as a great idea.

“Obviously being able to trade in various currencies,

it’s not optimum to trade in so many currencies. So it makes common sense to have a unified currency and of course for that to even be achieved - the Eco, I support Eco greatly, I think it’s a great idea.

“But obviously, there are a number of convergence criteria that would have to be met and I am sure that our President is talking with other presidents to be sure that they can meet those criteria and the region can be fully integrated,” he said.

On infrastructure deficit in Nigeria, Adesina advised the federal government to invest its idle pension funds estimated at N9.56 trillion for infrastructural revolution in the country.

According to him, African

countries with over 1.8trillion dollars pension and sovereign wealth assets, can leverage on such huge resources to develop infrastructure in the continent.

He said: “African countries have an infrastructure gap of between 68 billion dollars to 108 billion, which could be adequately addressed by utilising the 1.8 trillion dollars accrued pension and sovereign wealth funds.”

The AfDB president urged African leaders to explore the possibility of spending the funds by investing in infrastructure development.

Adesina, while noting that “charity begins at home”, said with such huge resources, African governments have no need looking elsewhere to seek funds for development

or investing the funds.

Adesina explained that with good infrastructure, Africa would be better positioned to compete favourably in trading with others.

He commended the continent’s leaders for increasing the banks shareholders’ funds to 115 billion dollars.

According to Adesina, the bank is now better placed to continue to support the development of infrastructure across the continent,

“Today, Africa has an infrastructure gap of about roughly 68 billion dollars to 108 billion dollars infrastructure financing gap. At the AfDB, we have been working so hard to close that particular gap.

“When it comes to the issue

of attracting capital to do that, there are three things that I will say; first, we have to also look at home.

“Today, in Africa, the size of the sovereign wealth fund and pension fund and insurance pool of fund (mutual funds) is about 1.8 trillion dollars.

“If we can just tap a little part of that, we will close very quickly the infrastructure gap that we are talking about. But, you see a lot of sovereign investment funds being invested in other sovereigns outside the continent.

“So, they become the sovereign wealth of others and then you go back and borrow back your own money; it doesn’t really make a lot of sense. I say that charity always begins at home.”

(NAN)

## REA former boss, Ogunbiyi, assumes duty at UN

By Simon Echowofun Sunday

A former Managing Director/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Damilola Ogunbiyi, has assumed duty at the United Nations where she serves as the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All, Co-Chair of UN Energy, and CEO of Sustainable Energy for All.

Ogunbiyi served in the administration of President Buhari for four and half years coordinating the affairs of REA.

In a statement marking her assumption at the UN, Ogunbiyi said she is passionate about her responsibilities as she helps global citizens embrace sustainable energy in line with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 7.

“As we begin this new decade, we are far from achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 7 that promises sustainable energy for all. Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today.

“Around the world, close to a billion people are being robbed of the chance to live in a dignified, healthy way because they have no access to energy. This crisis has gone on for too long,” Ogunbiyi noted.

She said during her career, she has witnessed the transformative effect that bringing energy to people could have, especially for better education for children.

She said with just 10 years left to 2030, the challenge ahead of the team is enormous but assured they are ready to meet it head-on.



■ North West Zonal Operations Coordinator, DPR, Isa Tafida sealing a petrol station over irregularities in Mararaban Rido along Kachia road in Kaduna on Tuesday.

Photo: Maryam Ahmadu-Suka

## DPR seals 10 petrol stations, 4 LPG plants in Kaduna

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

The Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) has sealed 10 petrol stations and four Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) plants in Kaduna State for various offences.

DPR’s North West Zonal Operations Controller, Isa Tafida, told reporters during a monitoring exercise that the facilities were sealed for pump under-delivery, products diversion, operating without licence and non-compliance to safety regulations.

Other offences he listed included non-conformity to standard operations, construction and operation without DPR licence, and installation of facilities without approval.

Tafida revealed that the agency inspected no fewer than 768 petrol stations and 38 gas stations within the last quarter of 2019.

He explained that the aim was to ensure compliance and to also make sure residents were not short-changed by unscrupulous

marketers, especially during festive period.

The zonal operations controller who led other officials on the inspection tour said DPR has intensified its operations within the state, in furtherance of its constitutional responsibilities.

He added that 38 LPG plants and 50 retailers were licensed in an effort to discourage desert encroachment and felling of trees, as well as reducing the associated risk of decanting LPG by unlicensed retailers.

Tafida insisted that the operation of illegal gas plants without licence and under unsafe conditions were illegal and would not be allowed.

“The department was able to achieve this through intensified monitoring activities and constant contact and synergy with all the stakeholders in the downstream sector within the zone.

“Also, 4LPG plants were sealed for installing and upgrade without approval, contravening safety regulations and non-conformity to

standard operating procedure,” he said.

He said the agency had intercepted large consignment of adulterated AGO destined for consumption on various occasions adding, “these products were quarantined and re-blended to meet standard specification before being allowed to be sold to the public.”

Tafida said the agency has ensured availability of unadulterated petroleum products in the zone throughout the festive period in compliance with its mandate and according to the federal government’s directives.

“In line with the FGN’s aspiration of LPG penetration, preventing indiscriminate cutting down of trees and checkmating desert encroachment, DPR has encouraged LPG utilisation and usage in the domestic energy market.

“The DPR Kaduna zonal office has licensed 38 plants and 50 retailers to avert dangers and risk associated with decanting LPG by unlicensed retailers,” he added.

## TCN reports transformer fault in Kaduna, outage in areas

By Simon Echowofun Sunday

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) has reported a fault involving an underground cable connecting 60MVA 132/33kV transformer and its grounding transformer in

Kakuri transmission substation in Kaduna metropolis.

It said the fault was caused by a fire incident that affected the grounding transformer, resulting in the temporary disconnection of power supply to three feeders - Arewa, UNTL

and Ungwan Boro feeders - in the town. A statement by TCN spokesperson Ndidi Mbah said efforts are ongoing by TCN engineers to quickly restore supply to the affected feeders in the evening of Wednesday, by reconnecting supply through

another 60MVA transformer in the substation.

Meanwhile, it said there is enough power at Kakuri Substation to ensure that all affected customers of Kaduna Electric are reconnected to normal supply.

# Appreciation

I hereby express my profound gratitude for the love shown me and my entire family on the occasion of the wedding of my son, Ibrahim Ahmad Lawan, which took place in the ancient city of Kano on Friday, 27th December, 2019.

My special appreciation goes to His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, who in fatherly love sent a special delegation to grace the occasion. I pray for the continued guidance of Allah and wisdom as he pilots the affairs of our beloved country.

I am full of gratitude to my Distinguished senator colleagues and Honourable members of the House of Representatives for their

demonstration of unalloyed support and solidarity on the occasion.

I also heartily thank former and serving Governors, Ministers, other dignitaries from government and the private sectors, friends and well-wishers who supported us with their presence and in other ways to make the event a huge success.

I pray that the Almighty Allah rewards your love with abiding joy in your various homes.

Signed:

**Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan PhD, CON**  
President of the Senate  
Federal Republic of Nigeria



INDUSTRY

# 'Public-Private partnership needed to end poverty in Nigeria'

From Risikat Ramoni, Lagos

An International non-governmental organisation, Global Citizen, has called on the governments, private sector and all stakeholders to intensify efforts at investing in the country to reduce the number of Nigerians living in extreme poverty.

According to Global Citizen and its partner Teneo, a global CEO advisory firm, \$350 billion is required annually for people and the planet to achieve the United Nations Global Goals by 2030 in the 59 poorest countries, Nigeria inclusive.

Speaking during a launch to eradicate poverty in Nigeria, the co-founder of Global Citizen, Micheal Sheldrick said Nigeria tops the list of the African countries where rates of poverty are increasing with 89 million out of its 200 million citizens are living in extreme poverty at the moment adding that six

people fall into extreme poverty every minute.

The figure, he claimed, is the highest anywhere in the world.

He added that more than 40 per cent of the population are extremely poor.

He urged the Federal Government to materialize its pledge to lift 100 million people out of extreme poverty over the next 10 years, an average of 10 million per annum.

Sheldrick further said by 2030, the African continent will account for 90 per cent of all individuals living in extreme poverty as two-thirds of those living in extreme poverty globally live in Africa.

Speaking at the launch of Global Goal live in Nigeria by 2020, Global Citizen Nigeria Chairman, Tunde Folawiyo, said: "Achieving Nigeria's pledge to lift 100 million people out of poverty in the next decade will only be possible if the public and private sector

and civil society groups collaborate closely. A co-ordinated, multi-stakeholder approach is essential".

In his contribution, Global Citizen Nigeria Vice Chairman, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, said: "The government alone cannot deliver the resources we need to win the fight against extreme poverty. At the moment, Nigeria is the poverty capital of the world. We must create multiple entry points to allow local and global influencers come together and make a difference. Innovative financing models, creative partnerships and new technology is what this movement to end poverty must deliver".

To reduce extreme poverty as well as achieve the UN SDG, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, Mrs Adejoke Orelope Adefulire insisted that private sector participation is necessary in the implementation of SDG in Nigeria.

## How to promote sustainable devt through SMEs

A financial expert, Dr Samuel Nzekwe, on Tuesday called on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to provide more loans to the nation's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the new year in order to promote sustainable development.

Nzekwe, a former President of Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ota that such loans would drive sustainable development in the country.

The financial expert said that it had been difficult for Nigeria's SMEs to access loanable funds from the CBN, adding that in spite of the apex bank's

intervention, SMEs were still finding it difficult to access loans.

Nzekwe also called on the Federal Government to reduce its borrowing from local banks so that more funds would be made available to SMEs and the productive sector

The former ANAN president also enjoined the government to expedite action on improving the nation's infrastructural development in the new year.

He further urged the Federal Government to rededicate itself to its measures aimed at managing inflation in the country as well as create more job opportunities for the youths. (NAN)

## 'Effective metering, best option to solve Nigeria's electricity problem'

From Risikat Ramoni, Lagos

The Minister of Power, Mr Saleh Mamman, has expressed readiness to improve the country's power sector through effective metering that will meet consumer's demands and also address liquidity challenges.

He said effective metering of electricity consumers remained the best option to help distribution companies get more money to pay generating companies.

He stated these during the facility inspection of Momas Electricity Meters Manufacturing Company (MEMMCO) factory in Ogun State, to enable him see things for himself on the company's capacity to meet metering demands.

Mamman said, "Metering was one of the issues bothering Nigerians, particularly electricity consumers, when I resumed, and I took it as my priorities - as one of the important areas on electricity market liquidity and sustainability.

"I have to produce meters to get more money for the sector. We will get more money from distribution companies to

pay GenCos. That is the only way to justify that; go by metering. That is why I am here to see it and believe it and to also direct on how to get meters soonest."

The minister commended the management of MEMMCO for putting up the gigantic meter manufacturing company that has capacity to meet the Meter Assets Providers (MAPs) specification in the country.

Mr Kola Balogun, Chairman of MEMMCO, said his company has the capacity to produce above 50,000 smart meters per month if given support by government and adequate patronage from distribution companies.

He commended the minister for inspecting his meter company, while assuring that the company will continue to produce quality and standard meters that meet international best standard.

On MAP, Balogun said lack of liquidity and sufficient funds, in terms of single digit lending from financial institutions, posed serious challenge to meeting metering requirements by the meter providers.

CORPORATE IMAGES



■ From left: Joseph Ogbeide, Brand Manager, The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE); Olufemi Shobanjo, Head, Broker Dealer Regulation, NSE; Elsie Okpocha; Bola Adeeko, Divisional Head, Shared Services, NSE; Bright Okpocha aka Basketmouth, Ace Comedian; Ann Obaseki, Talent Manager; Kenneth Nwafor, Head, Market Operations, NSE; and Opeoluwa Adesanya, Head, State Owned Enterprise Listings, NSE at the End of Year Closing Gong Ceremony which held at The Exchange, Lagos on Tuesday



■ From left: Global Citizen Co-Founder, Michael Sheldrick; Senior Special Adviser to the President on SDGs, Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire; Global Citizen Nigeria Chairman, Babatunde Falawiyo; Global Citizen Senior Vice President Events & Broadcasts, Lee Rolontz and Global Citizen Nigeria Vice-Chairman, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, during the inaugural Global Goal Live: Nigeria Policy Forum in Lagos recently



■ Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr Dakuku Peterside displays the 'Fellow' certificate and plaque awarded to him by the Chartered Institute of Transport Administration of Nigeria, during the recent National Transport Summit in Abuja



■ Minister of Works Babatunde Fashola (left) with the President/ CE Dangote Industries Limited, Aliko Dangote, during the inspection of reconstruction work at the Apapa, Oworonshoki-Ojota road in Lagos recently



## KADUNA STATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

# PUBLIC NOTICE

The Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) hereby gives notice to all self-employed Individuals and employers of labour (Public and private organizations to file their returns for 2019 Year of account in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Personal Income Tax Act, 2011(as amended) and The Kaduna state Tax (Codification and Consolidation) Law, 2016.

### 1) Self Employed person(s) :

Taxable individuals (professionals, lawyers, Doctors,Architects,Consultants,Contractors, traders, Businessmen and women etc.) are required to file returns by the 31st of March, 2020. This is as stipulated in Section 41(1&3) of the Personal Income Tax Act (PITA) and Section 26(1) of the Kaduna State tax (Codification and Consolidation law, 2016).

### 2) Employers of Labour :

Every employer shall be required to file a return with Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service of all emoluments paid to its employees, not later than 31st January of every year. This is as stipulated by Section 81(2) of the Personal income Tax Act (PITA), 2011 (as amended).

The following returns are also expected from employers of labour

- a) Employers Annual Returns
- b) Expatriate Quota (if any)
- c) Immigration Returns for Expatriates (if any)
- d) Salary structure of employees (Hard and

Soft Copies) in prescribed format.

### 3) Withholding Tax Returns :

Withholding tax on services rendered by individuals, partnerships or enterprises are to be deducted and remitted to the State Internal Revenue Service; and the returns are to be filed within 30 days after deduction. This is in accordance with the provisions of Personal Income Tax (Rate, ETC..of tax deducted at source (Withholding tax)) regulations of 1997.

In addition to the forgoing, all taxable person(s) are by this notice required to prepare their 2019 Annual Tax Returns in the prescribed form and submit to KADIRS copies of:

- a) Income tax return form
- b) Evidence of payment

**4) Please note that self** -employed individuals or Employers of labour that fail to file their 2019 annual returns on or before the due dates shall leave KADIRS with no option than to rely on relevant sections of the tax laws to prosecute defaulters.

For Information or enquiries please contact  
Phone: 07061008333, 08083350821,  
07026241298

Email: [kadirs.info@gmail.com](mailto:kadirs.info@gmail.com)

Website: [www.kadirs.kdsg.gov.ng](http://www.kadirs.kdsg.gov.ng)

Facebook: Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service

Tweeter: [@kadirs\\_info](https://twitter.com/kadirs_info)

Instagram: [Kadirs.info](https://www.instagram.com/kadirs.info)

SIGNED

**Zaid Abubakar. P.hD**  
Executive Chairman



## Most small biz don't need large sums to start - Maryam

By Latifat Opoola

**T**ell us briefly about yourself and what you do?

I was born and brought up in Bukuru, Jos South LGA of Plateau State. I started my medical education in Sudan, and then attended FCT School of Nursing Gwagwalada, Abuja. And because of the activism I do, I have attended a lot of conferences and trainings on conflict resolution, women/gender emancipation and girl-child development in Tanzania, Sudan, Namibia, UAE, and also in several states in Nigeria, including Abuja, Kaduna, Jos, Kano and Sokoto.

I am the CEO BB's Fura da Nono. I am the chairperson of Women in Leadership Initiative, a non-governmental organisation that caters for women and girl-child. I am also a book reviewer, a mentor and a motivational speaker.

I am a serial entrepreneur. I always love to solve societal problems.

I started my Fura da Nono business because I believe there are people like me looking for pure natural 'kindirmo' (yoghurt) and from a hygienically trusted source, so I took up the opportunity.

**What makes your fura da nono special?**

My products are natural. I make my yoghurt from pure cow milk known as kindirmo and the fura, is made from millet or sweet potatoes. I don't trust the ones made by the roadside vendors and malls in Abuja as they put different additives, like powdered milk, flour etc to it which is not healthy.

I decided to expand my business to the three states - Jos, Abuja and Kaduna - with the hope that the business will grow to other states in the future.

**How much was your starting capital?**

The good thing about small start-ups is that with very little one can start the business. I

Maryam Baba Mohammed is a business woman, champion for women empowerment, nurse and also a book reviewer. In this interview, the indigene of Bukuru, Jos South LGA of Plateau State, explains how she juggles everything including her career and business.



■ Maryam Baba Mohammed

started with N10,000. I wasn't waiting until I had so much money to start big. I have always known I would start small and invest more as the business progresses.

The capital came from my other businesses and I chose to dedicate the profit of this business to the empowerment of women and the girl-child. So all profit from fura da nono goes to Women in Leadership

Initiative I earlier mentioned.

**How lucrative is the business?**

It is very lucrative. Especially now that we do make customized BB's fura da nono for events like graduations, naming ceremonies, coronations, weddings, appointments and meetings, the turnover depends on the orders we get. So 25 litres can give us a profit of N5,000 to N7,000.

**How do you advertise**

**your products and have you employed anyone at the moment?**

We sell them at selected shops. I also try to advertise using the different social media platforms I am in. I have seven people working for me and when we have large orders, I employ local staff because delivery service is very important. My mum is the overall manager.

**What major challenge do you**

**face?**

Power supply has been my greatest challenge as we have freezers to keep our product chilled but power is just unreliable in this country. I have also trained some people to run the business in other parts of the country but they instead spend the capital. It has been very challenging.

**What advice will you give women starting business like you?**

Start small, any business idea you have, explore it. Don't wait to gather a lot of money. Perseverance and focus will keep you going and do not relent, it may not be rosy in the initial stage but after a while it will pick up. Sometimes it takes long before I get orders. And sometimes it even takes a longer time before I sell the ones stocked. But when the orders begin to come they come in bulk and that makes it worthwhile.

**Why do you think women should embrace leadership roles?**

Women leaders bring something different to the table. We have been known for our transformative leadership styles which are in line with qualities such as empathy, inclusiveness and an open negotiation style. When mothers take leadership roles, young girls see that and can believe that anything is possible and the sky is the limit.

Our organisation tries to encourage women to be more confident in their work because research has shown that women at work suffer from lack of confidence not incompetency. We try to encourage them to be knowledgeable about what businesses or fields they are entering, because only that will help boost their confidence and make them excel.

## 5 reasons good customer service is important for your business growth

Compiled by Latifat Opoola

Businesses that provide positive experiences for customers can dramatically impact their growth. But often, customer service takes a back seat to the daily demands of running a business and most times it hurts the growth of the business.

Provision of value – businesses with great customer service focus on treating customers well, providing them with what they need as long as it is in line with what service the business is offering, and

if possible exceeding their expectations. This approach helps businesses engage customers and build strong relationships.

Retain customers – Keeping loyal customers is way less expensive than getting new ones. Research shows that it costs about six to seven times more to attract new customers than to retain existing business.

Satisfied customers become devoted buyers when a business is trustworthy. Research shows there is 60 to 70 percent likelihood that existing customers will return

to make new purchases.

Create endorsements – Loyal customers provide positive endorsements and online reviews that can help businesses strengthen their brand.

A loyal customer on average is 10 times more valuable than their first purchase. Research shows that people often make purchasing decisions based on recommendations from family and friends, rather than on advertising messages. Ninety-seven percent of customers will tell others about very good or excellent customer service experiences.

70 percent would spend more money with a company that has excellent customer service. 24 percent will return to businesses two or more years after a good customer service experience. 59 percent would try a new company to receive better customer service.

Prevent business failure – About 90 percent of businesses close their doors within 10 years. One of the contributing problems is poor customer service. Buyers become frustrated over small problems that are not addressed, such as unclear

communication, slow follow up on questions, or ignored requests.

Reduce employee turnover – Employees want to work for businesses that appreciate worker contributions, encourage new ideas and treat customers fairly.

When people work for an employer that provides excellent customer service, they are more engaged in their work and become an advocate for the business. They are more willing to stick with the company through business challenges and economic changes.



No. 3, Abriba Close, off Yola Street, Garki, Abuja.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## FILING OF ANNUAL RETURNS BY EMPLOYERS OF LABOUR

In line with Section 81 (2) of Personal Income Tax Act (PITA) 2011 (as amended), FCT Internal Revenue Service (FCT-IRS) directs all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Corporate Organisations and all employers of labour within the FCT to file the Annual Returns of all emoluments paid to their employees resident in the FCT for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 not later than 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 using the prescribed Forms.

The employer's Annual Declaration and Certificate shall include the following documents:

1. **Hard and Soft copies of Forms H1 & G; and**
2. **Details of a designated contact person to liaise with FCT-IRS on Personal Income Tax Matters as follows:**
  - i. **Name;**
  - ii. **Telephone Number(s); and**
  - iii. **e-Mail Address.**

FCT-IRS shall enforce penalties and interest against any employer of labour who fails to comply with this directive.

Copies of Form H1 & Form G can be obtained from any of the FCT-IRS Tax Offices or downloaded from the website [www.fctirs.gov.ng](http://www.fctirs.gov.ng).

Please find below the formats of the two forms:

**Form H1**

**EMPLOYER'S ANNUAL DECLARATION AND CERTIFICATE (H1)**

ORGANIZATION/EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYER TIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**TAX YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 20.....**

S/No.	FCT-IRS Staff TIN	Staff Names	Details of Earnings			Details of Deductions			Details of Reliefs			Remarks
			Earnings in Previous Employment	Earnings in Current Employment	Total Earnings for the Year	Net Tax Deducted in Previous Year	Net Tax Deducted in Current Year	Total Net Tax Deducted for the Year	Pension	NHF	Other Statutory Deductions	

Signature of Responsible Officer (CEO/MD/ED): \_\_\_\_\_  
Designation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stamp/Seal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Form G**

**EMPLOYERS REMITTANCE CARD**

ORGANIZATION/EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER TIN: \_\_\_\_\_

**TAX YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 20.....**

Month	Date of Remittance	Tax Type	Channel of Remittance	Channel Ref. No.	Amount of Tax Remitted	For Official Use
January						
February						
March						
April						

Signature of Responsible Officer (CEO/MD/ED): \_\_\_\_\_  
Designation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stamp/Seal: \_\_\_\_\_

For further enquiries, contact any of the following FCT-IRS Tax Offices:

LOCATION	ADDRESS
<b>GARKI (HEADQUARTERS)</b>	No. 3, Abriba Close, Off Yola Street, Garki, Abuja.
<b>ASOKORO</b>	No. 70, Yakubu Gowon Crescent (AYA) Asokoro District, Abuja.
<b>CENTRAL AREA</b>	Yobe Investment House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ralph Shondeinde Street, Central Area, Abuja.
<b>GARKI AREA 11</b>	No. 12 Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.
<b>GWAGWALADA</b>	Plot 613, Paiko Road after University of Abuja, Gwagwalada Abuja.
<b>KAURA</b>	No. 8, FCT-IRS Drive, Off Oladipo Diya way, Behind NNPC Filling Station, Kaura District, Abuja.
<b>MAITAMA</b>	No. 61B, Usuma Street, off Gana Street, Maitama Abuja.
<b>MDAs</b>	No. 1, Dambatta Close Off Yola Street, Garki, Abuja.
<b>UTAKO</b>	No. 35, A.E Ekuinam Street, Opp. ABC Transport, Utako, Abuja.
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SIGNED

**Abdullahi O. Attah**  
Executive Chairman



# STAR FEATURE

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In Jibi Deidei, an Abuja community, an intervention programme by a non-profit organisation has seen girl dropouts returning to school and transforming their lives and the community as our reporter observed.

By Olayemi John-Mensah

The number of out-of-school children across the world continues to be high despite many thinking the number would reduce with time. More alarming is the number of out-of-school girls across the world, with Nigeria leading the way globally.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) reported that more than 130 million girls between the ages of six and 17 across the globe are out of school. Fifteen million girls of primary-school age, with half of them in Sub-Saharan Africa, will never enter a classroom, as poverty remains the most important factor for determining whether a girl gets to access education.

The result of a survey conducted by the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) also indicated that the population of out-of-school children in Nigeria has risen to 13.2 million from the initial 10.5 million, the highest in the world with the number of girls also higher than that of boys.

Educating the girl-child refers to every aspect of education that aims at developing the skill and knowledge of girls and women which includes the general education at colleges, schools, professional education, technical and vocational education, health education, and others. It is stated to encompass both non-literary and literary education.

Every part of the country is affected including Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT) where some people may think it is all rosy. But most affected is the northern region due to insurgency, which has ravaged the area in recent times.

Some of the factors militating against the girl-child education include: poor family background, religious isolation, disability, early marriage and pregnancy, gender-driven violence, cultural discrimination and attitudes against women's status and role, amongst others.

But some communities are changing the narrative by given more support to their girl-children by enrolling them in schools, just like the boys.

At Jibi, a community in Bwari Area Council of the FCT, consisting of mostly farmers, traders and low-income earners, most of the girls have not attended school, or have dropped out to get married or engage in hawking to support their families.

However, a recent intervention by Non-profit organization along with the support of the community is trying to

## 'We too can be great'

### How return of girls to schools has changed lives in Abuja community



One of the girls answering a question at Jibi Community Learning Centre

get most of the girls back in school, while also teaching them skills to support their education.

For instance, eight years ago at the age of 15, Fatimah Ahmed dropped out of school in JSS 3 to get married. She has recently re-enrolled in school under the Mercy Corps project codenamed: "Educating Nigerian Girls in New Enterprises (ENGINE II)", which was sponsored by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

The project is aimed at improving learning of in-school and out-of-school girls and their transition to higher level education or other income-generating opportunities.

Her return to school has changed her



A traditional leader at Jibi community, Mal Ibrahim Galdimawa

perspective on life, Fatima said, including how she planned to raise her daughters.

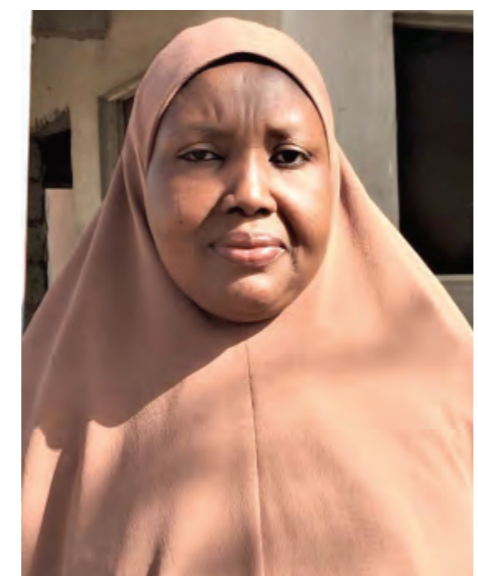
"We have learnt so much at the Centre on financial education, literacy, numerals and others and through that, I have been able to learn how to plan, set my goals and achieve them," she said.

The 23-year-old mother of three said, "My understanding of girl-child education has been broadened."

Her plans had been to raise her two daughters to a suitable age before giving them out in marriage.

"But with what I have learnt and come to understand, I'm determined to make sure my girls have equal access to education the same way my son will.

"When I stopped going to school, it



Jibi community women leader, Hajia Hauwa'u Muhammadu

**"I dropped out of school because my parents have no money and it was becoming difficult so, I decided to be hawking so that I can support them**

did not bother my parents because my parents thought girls' education didn't really matter. Their belief was that it was only the boys that can go to school and become somebody great in life; that no matter how you educate a girl, the end point is that she will go and marry," she said.

Fatima enjoys the support of her husband in her efforts to return to school. He encouraged her to enrol and helps out with the children so she could attend classes.

"He said if I am educated, I can be a great woman and also contribute my quota to the family and the country," she said.

For Hauwa Ahmed (not related), 19,

her reasons for dropping out of school are slightly different from Fatima's.

"I dropped out of school because my parents have no money and it was becoming difficult so, I decided to be hawking so that I can support them," she said.

When Mercy Corps brought the project to their community about three years ago, it gave her an opportunity to return to school in time to write the 2019 Senior Secondary School Certificate examinations (SSCE).

This means that her dreams of becoming a doctor in the future is still alive but in the meantime, she has earned a grant for her business so that finance wouldn't be an issue for her education.

"I started selling charcoal from the first five bags given to me but it has now increased. Now, I buy pick-up (vehicle) load containing 40 bags. This is because I have learnt how to do my business better, how to manage and also save money, how to control my lifestyle because I now know my needs from my wants," she noted.

For girls hawking in Jibi community, it is no fault of theirs but their parents, said Hadiza Saleh, another 19-years-old girl of the Centre who has been part of the programme for over three years now.

"If parents support their girls, they don't have any choice but to go to school but many parents don't even advise their girls while some want them to go into trade because they believe education for woman will end at her husband's house. They believe that only boys can make them proud. Because of this, I lost interest in education at a tender age until my orientation changed when this

programme came into the community," she said.

Hadiza, who prides herself on her ability to read and write, says she is also happy her parents' orientation on girl-child education has changed and they are now supporting her education.

The Programme Director, ENGINE II, Mercy Corps in Nigeria, Mrs Joy Aderole said the implementation of adolescent girls' education is actually targeting both girls that are in school and those that are out of school.

"For the in-school girls, the aim is to support them and add to their subject areas by providing extra tutorial so that they will be able to complete their cycle of education, their cycle of education being secondary education. This is because research has shown that, if a girl completes her secondary education, she will earn four times higher than the girl who didn't."

She also said beyond income is her general well-being adding that if a girl is educated, she will be able to make better choices, she will be able to delay marriage and childbirth and all those indicators that contribute to her well-being.

"So, we are implementing this program for girls that are in-school and out of school to enable them to complete their education. We are working towards retention and completion.

"We are supporting them to return to school because education is very key, education is the tool for development. We are supporting their livelihoods. So, we are not giving them fish, we are teaching them how to fish," she said.

Mrs Aderole said sustainability has been built into this programme from scratch, while adding that the three major outcomes of ENGINE II was on "Learning" - ensuring the girls learn, on "Transition" - the progress from one phase to the other and the third one is "Sustainability".

"We are also working with the Government of Nigeria and its different line agencies to make sure we get good results on issues relating to girl-child education," she said.

The community women leader in Jibi Deidei, Hajia Hauwa'u Muhammad said since the girls have started going to school, there are lots of changes in their attitudes, relationship with the opposite sex, as they can now read and write.

"Before they have language barrier but we are proud of them now the way they speak English," she said.

She said she goes from house-to-house to encourage the girls especially those that are absent because she visits the learning Centre from time to time to take records of participants and find out the reason behind their absenteeism.

A great supporter and one of the driving forces behind girl-child education in Jibi community has been Malam Haruna Jibrin. He said the return of many of the girls to school has brought a lot of improvement saying only few people are yet to register.

Malam Haruna, whose wife is a beneficiary, said, "I supported my wife because being home bound, taking care of the children and doing other household chores for any woman is not advisable. I had intentions of sending her back to school before the programme started and when it came I told her to key into it if she is interested."

He said he has seen a lot of progress in her, which has reflected in their children as

she now helps the children with their home works, adding that his wife is someone who has passion for education even before now.

"She has been passionate in her business and from the learning Centre, she has learnt more," he said.

"I can see some women in the community that are older than my wife but they are now getting closer to her and she encourages them. Many of them are now learning how to speak English even though they are not fluent but they are picking it little by little," he said.

According to him, the challenge is that some of the women who are absent whenever they have programme give excuses that they did not inform their husband, or they have somewhere to go.

"To me, it is because they don't know the advantage; that is why the excuses. With counselling and proper guidance, they will pick up. The issue is, we have seen many families that are lifted by educated women and it happened because such families understood the importance of education," he said.

One of the Learning Centre Facilitators for ENGINE II work at Jibi Deidei Community, Miss Zara Jibrin, said they go from house to house and talk to parents to release their girls to enroll in schools after securing the support of the community head.

"With these efforts, most of them are now back to school and those that are not in school are in business and planning to be registered. The issue of hawking has reduced seriously because the girls now realise the importance of education as against hawking," she said.

She said the interest in hawking originated from the girls' parents, especially the women, who want them to make money so that they could be saving for marriage.

Miss Jibrin further added that some

mothers still make their girls stay at home on some lecture days.

"Whenever we have classes and we wait and didn't see them, we go to their houses to start calling them out because their mothers would have given them items to go and sell," she said.

A traditional leader in the community, Ibrahim Galadima, acknowledges the changes the programme has introduced to the community.

"In the past, if you tell them to go to school they will decline saying they want to marry but with the help of this programme, some of them are in school, secondary and some already in College of Education," Galadima said.

Galadima who said many of them now prefer completing their education first before marriage, added that "no matter which venture you want to enter into, you must have little education."

The District head, Jibi Deidei community, Mallam Abdullahi Madaki mobilized his officials after the organisation visited the community last month to call on all the hamlets head, cabinet members and the seven zone leaders to appeal to every parent to allow their children, especially the girl-child, to register in the school and learning Centre.

ENGINE I commenced intervention in the year 2014 to 2016 for the first phase of the project in Jibi community and about 60 out-of-school girls aged 16 to 19 were enrolled in the community using the programme's marginalisation criteria.

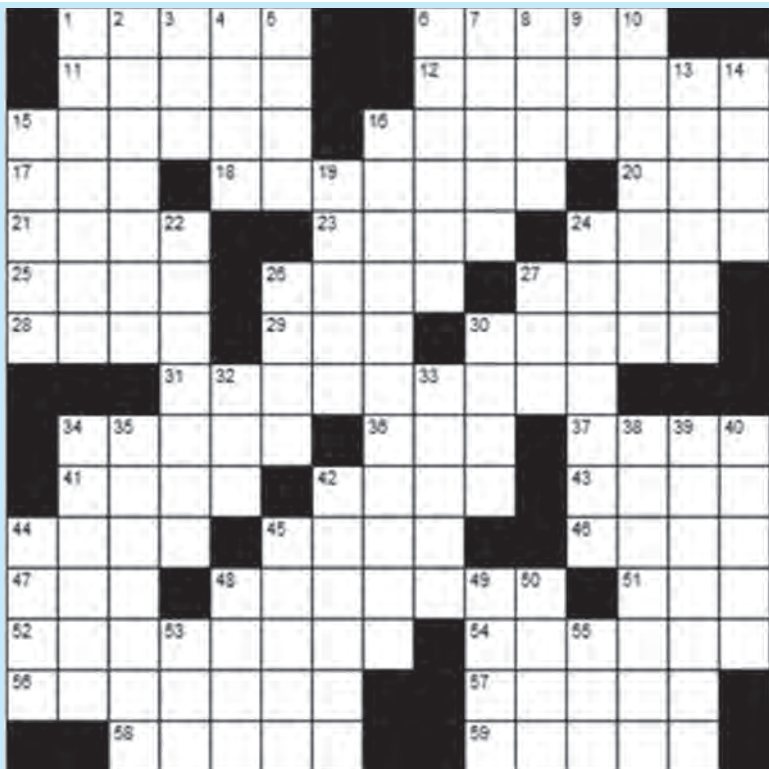
All the 60 girls accessed the life skills, financial inclusion and livelihood interventions of the programme and have now moved into the second phase (ENGINE II from 2017 to 2020) which is in line with Girls Education Challenge (GEC) goal of transforming the lives of marginalised Nigerian girls.



The Learning Centre facilitators, Left, Khadija Sukura and Mis Zara Jibrin

(14)

EASY CROSSWORD >>



ACROSS

- 1. Graven images
- 6. Flower part
- 11. Wish granter
- 12. Emit long loud cries
- 15. Not observed
- 16. Not yet cut (bread)
- 17. Hit on the head
- 18. Implement
- 20. Beer barrel
- 21. Death notice
- 23. Biblical garden
- 24. Fully developed
- 25. Too
- 26. Fuss
- 27. Part of a skeleton
- 28. Adolescent
- 29. What we breathe
- 30. Edge tool
- 31. Emphasizing
- 34. Adage
- 36. Black gunk
- 37. Sister and wife of Zeus
- 41. Expunge
- 42. Gloomy atmosphere
- 43. Former lovers
- 44. Taverns
- 45. Handguns
- 46. Catches
- 47. In the past
- 48. Indebtedness
- 51. Spy agency
- 52. Long, tedious recitals
- 54. Omen
- 56. Dampen
- 57. Strike
- 58. Chin indentation
- 59. Desired
- 8. Tug
- 9. Former boxing champ
- 10. Deficient
- 13. A Native American tent
- 14. Border
- 15. Submarine
- 16. Minimizes
- 19. Creepy
- 22. They're found in the throat
- 24. Make "not smooth"
- 26. Ranch
- 27. French for "Good"
- 30. Lass
- 32. Foot digit
- 33. Chip dip
- 34. Slowly, to a conductor
- 35. Dry
- 38. Kill
- 39. No longer working
- 40. Test, as ore
- 42. A father or mother
- 44. Emollient
- 45. Sorrow
- 48. Blind (poker)
- 49. Impetuous
- 50. Japanese wrestling
- 53. American Sign Language
- 55. Defraud

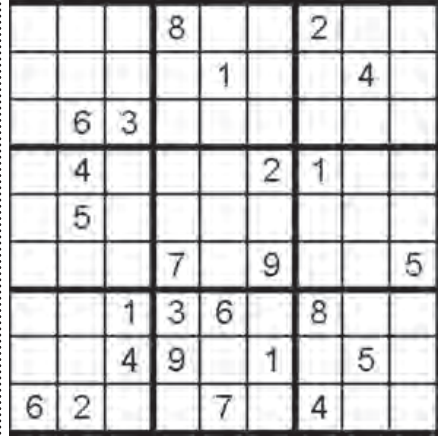


SUDOKU >>

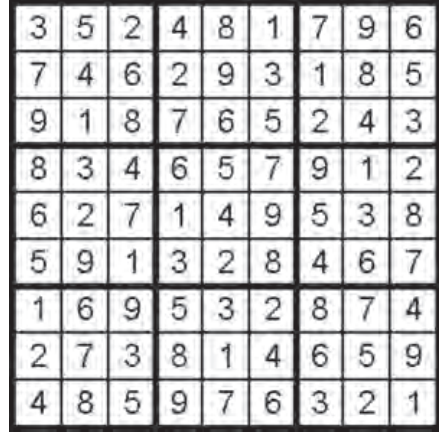
How to play: The number 1 through 9 will appear once only in each row, column, and 3 x 3 zone. There are 9 such zones in each sudoku grid. There is only one correct Solution to each sudoku.

Good luck!

14



Solution to Sudoku 13



SNAPSHOT >>

SUBWAY SNATCH: Terrifying moment man tries to abduct sleeping girl on subway train



This is the terrifying moment a kidnapper tried to abduct a teenage girl from a New York subway train after her dad fell asleep. Sonny Alloway, 48, was charged with unlawful imprisonment after grabbing the schoolgirl and trying to carry her onto the platform in the early hours of Monday morning. She can be seen sitting next to her sleeping dad as the train slows down. As the doors open, Alloway strikes, scooping her into his arms then dragging her through the doors. But she fights back when Alloway stops near a platform bench, and hurries back onto the train. She tells her dad: "Get up! He grabbed me off the train." He replies: "Who grabbed you?" As the suspect strolled away. He was arrested on Tuesday afternoon near the intersection of Rosedale Avenue and Randall Avenue.

Photos: Facebook

SIGN LANGUAGE >>



■ Merry(or Marry) Me? This guy's efforts is not guaranteed with this bad spelling. Photo location: US. Spotted by Martha Cliff

— Source: mailonline.co.uk



YOUR GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL FARMING

## GOLDEN HARVEST

DAILY TRUST  
COMMODITY INDEX

Comdty	Sokoto (Achida mkt)	Kano (Dawanau mkt)	Katsina (Sheme mkt)	Benue (Wadata mkt)
Maize (100kg)	N9,000	N9,000	N8,500	N13,000
Beans (100kg)	N12,000	N12,000	N12,300	N23,000
Sorghum (100kg)	N8,000	N7,500	N7,500	N17,000
Millet (100kg)	N9,000	N8,500	N9,500	N15,000
Rice (100kg)	N27,000	N38,000	N31,000	N26,000
Wheat (100kg)	N19,000	N20,000	-----	-----
Tomatoes (B/basket)	N4,000	N7,500	N1,700	N6,500

## Quote

"Like any other business, farming comes with its own risks. You plant, you spend a lot of money on inputs then diseases like TUTA attacks, you lose the whole investment. Don't stop! You either win or you learn."

- Tanaka Farm, Seedlings and Ranch

By Vincent A. Yusuf

# 1m rice farmers ready for dry season production

## ...as RIFAN meets CBN, tours producing states ...farmers target N650bn income

No fewer than one million rice farmers are currently being mobilised to begin massive rice production for the 2019/2020 dry season programme.

The momentum for this year's production is fired by the land border closure and the apparent benefits, among them widening of the internal market.

The border shutdown is a turning point for rice farmers across the country, motivating many who hitherto left production to return with greater enthusiasm.

National president of the Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria (RIFAN), Alhaji Aminu Goronyo, while speaking with *Daily Trust* Monday said arrangements have been concluded to motivate one million farmers nationwide under the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Anchor Borrowers' scheme.

"The major preparation that we started is that the CBN invited RIFAN last week; met with us and gave us the nod to quickly identify the participating farmers and also gave us the go-ahead to do everything possible to achieve more production in the dry season that is already in place.

"And he (the CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele) has given us the go-ahead to consider at least one million farmers for the dry season which, by extension if we are able to achieve that one million, five million metric tons will be produced," Alhaji Goronyo stated.

Following the directive, the RIFAN president has begun a tour of the major producing



■ A dry season farm in Mutum-Biyu, Taraba state

Photo Vincent A. Yusuf

areas to motivate and mobilise farmers to meet the five million tons target.

"I'm on a tour to all the producing states. I started touring Sokoto, Kebbi, and will be going to Zamfara, Taraba, Cross River, Ogun, Ekiti, Ebony and Anambra, virtually all the producing states," he said, explaining that the dry season was already in place virtually across the country and the

preparation was in top gear to make sure that there are enough paddies for millers to mill for consumers in the country.

**No shortage of seeds, fertiliser**

For the dry season, the leader of the rice farmers does not envisage any problem occurring in the areas of availability of quality seeds and fertiliser.

"As I'm talking to you, we have more than enough fertiliser in all the production areas that we have already deployed; the seeds also are already there.

"In Cross River, we have signed a MoU to work with Governor Ayade who has a seedling factory that has enough to cater for all the farmers that are going to transplant during the

cultivation period. So we don't have problem with fertiliser and seed," he stated.

Aminu Goronyo stressed that the CBN has provided all the necessary support, particularly in those two items, adding that they also have major companies that are supplying agrochemicals for the control of weeds, and also herbicides.

If everything goes well and the farmers harvest five million tons on an average of five tons per hectares, they will rake in N650 billion for the dry season alone on an average of N130,000 per metric ton, which is currently the case in some markets across the country.

### A piece of advice for farmers

The RIFAN president advised farmers that they should give adequate attention to their business because rice production today is a business.

"They should know that the president has directed that the entire land border should be closed; it is a big opportunity for those farmers to capitalise on the presidential directive so that what they produce will easily be consumed by millers who will purchase, mill and sell.

"They should pay proper attention to continue to harness the opportunities that are available around that initiative of border closure," he said.



## Prices of farm produce appreciate in Katsina markets

From Idris Mahmud, Katsina

The prices of some farm produce at Katsina markets appreciated in the Christmas and New Year season, DailyTrust reports.

Some weeks back, the price of 100kg sorghum was sold for about N5,500 but it now cost N7,500, said some farmers interviewed by this reporter.

Umar Audi, one of the farmers stated that they were shocked by the initial price of sorghum until recently when they realised it has a bright future in the

market.

"As you have seen, sorghum was not produced much this year because of how most farmers concentrated on rice production; that is why some of us who produced sorghum expected its price to be high initially but to our surprise it started at N5,500 but thank God it is now N7,500," Audisaid.

He added however that the only farm produce that is 'gold' now in the market is rice.

"Because of the Federal Government's policy of banning importation of foreign

rice and closure of land borders, rice has become 'hot cake' in our local markets. A bag of paddy rice is now sold for N10,000 to N11,000 depending on variety. It is in high demand.

Shu'aibu Sani, a grains dealer, told *Daily Trust* that beans, sorghum and chilly have bright prospects this year.

"Despite its bumper harvest, the price of beans remains stable. A100kg bad is now N12,500 and from all indications the produce, along with sorghum and chilly would have a bright future as far as market price is concerned."

# How agric ministry struggled to stay relevant in 2019

By Vincent A. Yusuf

## ...as key FG programmes taken over by other agencies

**T**he Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development struggled through 2019 without any meaningful programme that impacted the lives of smallholder farmers.

This is more so because key successful agricultural programmes of the Buhari administration were driven by agencies or institutions outside the control of the ministry.

Observers said it was difficult to pinpoint any key programme implemented by the ministry since the inauguration of the new ministers, Alhaji Sabo Nanono and Mustapha Baba Shehuri on August 21, 2019.

They, however, attributed the inability of the two ministers to embark on any serious project to paucity of funds in view of the fact that most presidential initiatives are domiciled elsewhere, rendering the ministry ineffective.

**The Anchor Borrowers' Programme**

The Anchor Borrowers' Programme, which was launched on November 17, 2015, in Birnin-Kebbi, Kebbi State to drive self-sufficiency in major crops like rice and wheat, is the initiative of the

Central Bank of Nigeria, which has huge financial muscle.

The ABP soon became the most successful agricultural story of the current administration, which completely blacked out the main ministry.

Former minister Chief Audu Ogbah had at different fora complained of paucity of funds for the main ministry to execute key programmes as the CBN under Godwin Emefiele had taken all the shine.

Also, at the 2019 National Agricultural Show held at the outskirts of Abuja in October, the Chairman Senate Committee on Agriculture, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, expressed his foundation's feelings about where the ABP should be based.

"Let me make an objective intervention on the administration of the Anchor Borrower's Programme (ABP). Our National Agricultural Foundation accepts as laudable the principle behind the scheme, but we honestly do not believe that the Central Bank of Nigeria is properly placed to administer it.

"Part of the reasons that

the scheme cannot be said to be completely successful is because it is not been operated by the appropriate government agency," the senator said.

**The Presidential Fertiliser Initiative**

Another success story of Buhari's administration was the ability of the government to address the hurdles around fertiliser supply.

In February 2017, Buhari flagged off the Presidential Fertiliser Initiative (PFI) which was approved in December 2016.

It started when the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, paid a 2-day state visit to Nigeria in December 2016 leading to signing of different bilateral agreements for the supply of phosphate- a key ingredient for NPK fertilizer by OCP, a Moroccan state-owned company - to blending plants under the aegis of Fertiliser Producers and Suppliers of Nigeria (FEPSAN).

The goal was to make available one million metric tons of blended Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium (NPK) fertilisers to farmers across the country for the wet

season and 500,000 metric tons for dry season farming at the landing market price of N5,500.

Again, that programme is domicile outside the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

It is championed by Jigawa State Governor Mohammed Badaru Abubakar and Thoma Etuh, President of Fertiliser Producers and Suppliers Association of Nigeria (FEPSAN), and the chairman of Unity Bank.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has no stake in that programme as the key drivers are not from the ministry.

**National Livestock Transformation Programme (NLTP)**

Another programme that is implemented outside the ministry is the National Livestock Transformation Programme (NLTP) by the National Economic Council headed by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo.

(NLTP) is a programme of the federal government designed to run from 2019-2028 in partnership with state

governments to be executed by the National Economic Council.

An initial N92 billion will be targeted at providing grants for the development of the country's livestock sector by setting up ranches and developing grazing reserves and to be implemented in seven pilot states of, Plateau, Nasarawa, Taraba, Zamfara Adamawa, Benue and Kaduna.

Sources said the federal ministry was involved at the initial stage but was later taken over by the presidency blacking out the agric ministry even though they have been listed as implementing partners. However, findings revealed the ministry was actually at the back seat of the implementation.

**Bt. cotton, cowpea**

The recent release and commercialisation of Bt. cotton and cowpea has, however, been the success story of the agencies under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.

Again here, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has no share of the glory.

## FG initiates targeted, risk-based surveillance on anthrax

By Vincent A. Yusuf

The federal government says it will not wait for an outbreak of anthrax in the country before taking preventive measures.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, through the Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services, said it was initiating a targeted, risk-based surveillance to prevent any outbreak.

The director of the department, Dr Olaniran Alabi, who stated this during an interview with *Daily Trust* a few days ago added that the ministry would begin implementation of the measures in the next phase of the surveillance system.

"We would, even without clinical suspicion, go and take randomly, samples from animals that are sick that we suspect along those frontlines states especially in the livestock markets. Then we send those samples to the lab for analysis," he said.

The frontline states include Kebbi, Sokoto, Katsina, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno covering 1,608km in length, and the towns in the Republic of Niger that share border with Nigerian states that include Tillabéri, Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder and Diffa. These towns share livestock markets.

Explaining the action government has taken so far, Dr Alabi stated that "immediately we got

information from Niger Republic, we alerted all our frontline states and all the directors of veterinary services in the states.

"We asked them to strengthen the surveillance system and look out for any suspicion; and that sick or sudden death among animal population should be reported immediately to the nearest veterinary service office for necessary action."

He said all the frontline states are on red alert, adding that the federal government asked them to put up a response team to deal swiftly with any suspicion.

"We know all the high-risk locations, where it may likely happen especially in the livestock markets along the borders where you have aggregation of animals coming together, so we are on the lookout.

"Even among the trans-human, we have stepped up public enlightenment so that when there is any death among the animals they can report immediately," Dr Alabi also stated.

At the moment, he said, the country's surveillance system is up and running, adding that the federal government has not gotten any other report apart from the initial one from Nigerien authorities.

Despite that, he said, "we are not lowering our surveillance, we are on the lookout."



■ Grains market at Mutum Biyu, Taraba State

## Benue to partner FTF to boost agribusiness

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State has pledged to partner with Feed The Future (FTF) to improve agribusiness in the state.

Ortom, who noted that his administration would ensure that the programme succeeded in the state, spoke during the Agribusiness Finance and Investment Summit in Makurdi, organised by Feed The Future, a United States Government's global hunger and food security initiative.

The governor said it was based on improving the programme that he established

the Office of Agribusiness in the state, stressing that he would ensure that farmers were adequately trained for enhanced productivity.

Earlier, the state's Commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr Timothy Ijir, urged farmers in the state to venture into mechanised farming in order to better their lot.

He said farmers would benefit more if they embraced mechanised farming because they would be cultivating on large scale, adding that most of the farming population in the state was using manual labour to cultivate as well as harvest their yields.

"Also, some of them farm mainly for subsistence; that is they farm majorly for their family consumption thereby resulting to low productivity as well as low yields. There is need for them to step up their farming activities for their overall good," he said.

On his part, the Managing Director, FTF, Dr Adam Saffer, said the organisation was ready to integrate women and youth in their activities to enable them fend for themselves.

He stressed that the involvement of women and youths was necessary because they are the drivers of the needed change in agriculture.

# KANO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



*Congratulatory  
Message*

*Our Leader is*

**70**  
YEARS

HIS EXCELLENCY  
**DR ABULLAHI UMAR  
GANDUJE, OFR**  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KANO STATE

I, Rt Honourable Abdulazeez Garba Gafasa, the Speaker, Kano State House of Assembly, On behalf of myself and entire members of Kano state House of Assembly, heartily rejoice and congratulate our amiable Leader, His Excellency, Executive Governor of Kano State, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR (Khadimul Islam) on the occasion of his 70th year birthday and at the same time Happy New year 2020.

Your Excellency Sir, it is indeed an honour to be associated with your sterling leadership qualities that ensure the ongoing transformation of Kano into a Mega City, through the execution of gigantic projects in the area of infrastructure development, such as construction of roads across the state, flyover and underpasses to ease traffic congestion, health care delivery programmes, agricultural transformation, free education, urban and rural development etc.

While wishing you good health and strength, we at the State Assembly pray Allah's guidance in the NEXT LEVEL of your administration.

Once again, Congratulations Sir.

SIGNED:

**RT. HON. ABDULAZEEZ GARBA GAFASA**  
SPEAKER, KANO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY





# EDUCATION

## High expectations as Oyo awaits deal on LAUTECH

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan & Misbahu Bashir (Abuja)

Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, which depends on scarce remittances from its two proprietors - Oyo and Osun state governments - has been engulfed in crises that have badly affected its academic activities over the years.

LAUTECH was said to be facing financial stress that eventually led to leadership and labour unrest with unions consistently downing tools. In November 2019, academic personnel issued a strike ultimatum over nonpayment of salaries.

However, by all accounts, the stakeholders are said to be about to end the long-term crises rocking the university as Oyo State Governor Seyi Makinde has assured that the state was ready to take up ownership of the institution after reaching agreement with Osun State.

The governor has said in his twitter account on November 26, 2019 that "We believe our proposal for sole ownership for LAUTECH is the solution the university needs. I reiterated that this was not a rejection of Osun State people as our brothers and sisters but a pragmatic solution as Oyo State is financially prepared to shoulder the responsibility."



This indicates that the state would be responsible for the university's achievement and debts after the deal on ownership is finalised.

The move is likely to bring about new structures and measures that would keep peace among the opposing sides and birth an uninterrupted academic calendar.

Speaking on a radio station, Makinde hinted that his government was in talks with Osun State Government to assume ownership of LAUTECH, adding that a committee has been set up to ensure smooth transition.

"The term of reference is clear; to get a 'divorce' from Osun State regarding ownership. I believe the members of the committee are up to the task.



■ Governor Seyi Makinde

We are not being unreasonable; we are negotiating with Osun on this. Not making unreasonable demands," he explained.

"Our stand on LAUTECH is in the interest of the parents, students and staff. We were given an overwhelming mandate by the people of Oyo State both in

the gubernatorial and House of Assembly elections, so we cannot claim lack of political will," he said.

The chairman of the committee, Prof Deji Omole, said the assignment given to his committee by the state government would receive the fairest decision and that the final report would determine whether or not the plan was a welcome development or not.

A top member of the university management who craved for anonymity told Daily Trust that many of the staff members were in support of the move because joint ownership was the cause of the crises over the years.

He said the whole idea by the state would bring academic stability and progress within the university community.

"Kudos to the Oyo State Government and to the governor; the most important thing is our welfare but we believe if a state takes over the school, there will be improvement," he said.

A former president of the student union government of the institution, Comrade Bakare Solace Olatunde, said transferring ownership of the university to Oyo State, which was willing to shoulder the responsibility, was a welcome development, "provided the state government can afford it."

Also, a former student of the institution, Adeoye Adeniyi, described the development as good news for the students, staff and old students.

"If you look at it very well, you will see that the negligence of one party in the past is responsible for numerous crises in the school over the years. But if a state takes up the responsibility, there will be a revolution in terms of payment of salaries," he said.

Some students of the institution who spoke with our correspondent said that the dual ownership of the school was the major challenge inhibiting effective management, and that the plan to handover the ownership to one state would lead to efficient management and high expectations for both staff and students.

## Ikabigbo old boys pledge to support alma mater

From Usman Usman A. Bello, Benin

Ikabigbo Grammar School's old boys association has held its reunion, pledging to support the school in its quest for academic excellence.

Interim Committee Chairman Kebiru Imhomoh stated this during the event held at the school premises in Ikabigbo, Etsako West Local Government, Edo State.

Imhomoh said the desire to provide quality education and address the challenges confronting the school necessitated the formation of the association.

He said the old boys were worried over the slow but surely declining trend in student performance among others, adding that the association would work toward uplifting education

quality.

Imhomoh said with the association in place, things would change for the best, assuring that the association would support the school in the recruitment of teachers and provision facilities.

Earlier, chairman of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA), Isah Usman, commended the association for coming together in the interest of the school.

Isah listed some of the problems confronting the school to include indiscipline on the part of students and teachers, poor attitude toward learning, lack of teaching and non-teaching staff and non-utilisation of the library among others.

He however assured that the PTA would collaborate with the old boys to deal with the challenges confronting the school.



■ Minister of State for Education Chuckuemeka Nwajibu, Minister of Education Adamu Adamu and Permanent Secretary Sunny Echono at education stakeholders meeting in Abuja

Photo: FME

## Sanwo-Olu to distribute tablet PCs to teachers

From Christiana T. Alabi, Lagos

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has disclosed plans to distribute tablet PCs to teachers in the state's public schools as part of efforts to enhance the standard of education.

He made the disclosure while flagging-off the Eko-Excellence in Child Education and Learning

(Eko-EXCEL), a training organised by the Lagos State Universal Basic Education (LASUBEB) to scale-up teachers' development for global competitiveness.

The Commissioner for Education, Mrs. Folashade Adefisayo, who represented the governor, stated that the training would improve the integration of technology into education from

the primary school level and help to close the gap between the rich and the poor by ensuring that all children get access to quality education.

According to him, a critical investment in basic education was required to build the quality workforce needed to achieve access to quality education for all children in the state.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

We think too small, like the frog at the bottom of the well. He thinks the sky is only as big as the top of the well. If he surfaced, he would have an entirely different view- Mao Zedong

# PG courses at FUT Minna reasonably priced – VC

From Ahmed Tahir Ajobe, who was in Minna

**A** member of the House of Representatives in a motion questioned the decision of the Senate of the university to increase fees and charges for fresh and returning Post Graduate (PG) students. What informed the review in the first place?

Let me first say that the PG programmes are not subsidised by the federal government but are rather self-funded. We don't get support from the government in terms of these programmes except probably through payment of salaries to academic staff we use for the programme and existing structure and equipment which are essentially meant for the undergraduate programmes. But the Post Graduate School is unique in the sense that it engages in more research and there are also certain equipment needed for higher level of research. But beyond that, you have to pay the supervisors for the postgraduate students and there are also different types of seminars that they have to undertake.

We have to pay for all these and the examinations. We have to make provision for chemicals used for practicals in the laboratories, studio and even on the farms so you have to factor all these into operational expenses. For instance, if you are using a tractor on the farm, you must use diesel and all these are not paid for by the government; the university senate has to make provision for them.

Over the years, we have had representations from the PG School to say that we are not getting sufficient fund for the programmes. We asked them to look into the matter; they set up their committee at that level and came up with a proposal. The review did not just come out of nowhere, they considered the existing fees structures of all other federal universities in the country, both first, second, third and even specialised and conventional universities. They came up with their

proposal and we debated every component for two days. After careful consideration and considering the economic reality of the country at the moment, we asked them to go back, rework and come up with a clean copy. When they returned with what is supposed to be the final copy we asked them to review it again downward by 40 per cent. So, we were surprised that a member of the House of Representatives could present a motion condemning the review.

The member concerned is from your catchment area, that is, Niger State and must have reached out for explanation on why the fees and charges were reviewed upward.

I wish he did that before going public with the impression that we are deliberately doing what has become necessary in the circumstance we find ourselves. I was driving to the office that fateful day when I started receiving messages apparently drawing my attention to what was going on at the House of Representatives. This action no doubt, will have serious implications and connotations especially coming from the National Assembly.

To me, this is an unnecessary intrusion into what is purely an internal affair of the university because it's only the University Senate that is empowered by law to decide on academic matters. The National Assembly has power to make law and if they are not happy with existing legislation, they are at liberty to change same through appropriate means and not to dictate to universities what to do. The PG programmes are not mandatory for us to run if we are going to do so in a way that threatens the quality of our graduates. If it comes

to that we might as well stop altogether. Even the running cost for the undergraduate is grossly inadequate and we have to also use that to support the PG activities. If you are inviting an external examiner for PG examination for instance, you have to provide accommodation, transportation and pay him honorarium. Even if you are using internal examiners and supervisors you must pay honorarium and the government is not responsible for all these.

What we are saying is that we have been subsidising the programmes using resources from the undergraduate programmes. By doing so, we are also denying the undergraduates certain rights which are already paid for. In any case, the fees we



■ Professor Bala Abdullahi

are charging are not even commensurate with what is on ground but we are also concerned about the situation of things in the country and that is why we decided to charge 40 per cent of what the committee earlier proposed. If we don't do that the postgraduate students will not have the right to complain that we are not doing certain things. Look at electricity which is supposed to be a utility enjoyed by everybody; we pay for it from the undergraduate registration. So, the PG students have to also contribute to the running cost.

One of the concerns raised by the lawmaker was that your fees are the most expensive. How would you react to that?

It is wrong to say that our fees are the most expensive or

our institution is among the most expensive. If the member had done his research very well, he will know that our fees are reasonable. My son is in one of the federal universities for his masters and I pay about N170,000 a year.

We are also parents and our children are doing their PG study in universities across the country and we know how much we pay. When you compare what is obtainable in private primary and secondary schools, how much are those complaining paying as fees for their children in those schools?

How much did the committee propose which was reviewed as the fees?

The committee proposed about N300,000 but we insisted it must not be above N200,000 thresholds so the charges were pegged at between N160,000 to N190,000 depending on the programme.

How has the review affected registration by applicants into the university?

Nothing has changed as a result of the review; we are still battling with the increasing influx of students wanting to take our programmes. We have problem admitting 40 per cent of the applicants because of the large number.

What is responsible for this high influx of PG students to FUT Minna?

It's largely due to the quality we have maintained over the years. The university is well known for producing quality students and in addition to that, the timely completion of our programmes is also one of the key factors for the rising interest.

The institution has zero tolerance for students spending extra years before graduation. We know in some universities, master's students spend years but here we insist on 18 and maximum of 36 months for masters. Where students are not measuring up, we ask them to go because there is no sense in lingering around. If you cannot make it within the minimum, you must work hard to do so within the maximum time set and that is why they are coming.

## VC urges collaboration on students' accommodation

From Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt

The Vice Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Prof Lawal Bilbis, has called on corporate organisations to work with higher institutions in the provision of decent hostel accommodation for students.

Professor Bilbis, who spoke in Port Harcourt shortly after the presentation of the first installment of cheque of

N40.8 million for the construction of hostel accommodation to the university management by Belema Oil, said the institutions cannot on its own provide all that is needed for its smooth operation.

He said the university's management approached the company for assistance, adding that the company, within one month, responded and directed the management to make a

request.

He said the request was granted with issuance of first installment bank cheque of N40.8 million for the takeoff of the hostel project.

"We approached Belema Oil for assistance and within one month they responded and we were asked to make a request and we did that," he said.

He commended the company for its candid gesture and urged other

corporation organisations to emulate it.

Earlier, the Managing Director of Belema Oil, Engr. Mufan Welsh, said the signing of contracts for hostel accommodation for both University of Port Harcourt and Danfodiyo University was part of the company's corporate social responsibility.

He said the company has sponsored 23 students to pursue various degree programmes overseas.



# CITY NEWS

## We are working to combat crime – Council boss

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The Chairman of Gwagwalada Area Council, Alhaji Adamu Mustapha, has assured residents of the council that his administration is working with relevant security agencies to curtail crimes in the area.

Mustapha gave the assurance in a statement by the information officer of the council, Ismaila Suleiman

Ibwa, as part of his New Year message to residents of the council yesterday.

He stressed on the need for residents to cooperate and always provide useful information to security agencies to make their work easier.

The chairman further stressed that as the country ushered in a new year, residents of the council should continue to have faith in the present council

in his administration.

He said modalities have been put in place to improve on the well-being of the people through the provision of basic social amenities.

According to him, year 2020, which he described as year of renewed hope for the people, was the beginning of good things to happen to residents of the council in both infrastructural and human capital development.

He revealed that the policies and programmes of his administration have been captured in the 2020 budget proposal of the council to better the lot of residents of the council.

The chairman then expressed appreciation to the residents for the support given to his administration since 2019, saying the little he had achieved was a result of their support and cooperation.



■ An accident scene where 13 passengers sustained injuries at Kwaita, along the Abuja-Lokoja Road yesterday

Photo: Abubakar Sadiq Isah

## FCTA warns VIO against indiscipline

By Tijani Sanni

The Acting Secretary, FCT Transportation Secretariat, Mrs Odey Achu, has warned officials of the Directorate of Road Traffic Service (DRTS) of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) against indiscipline.

She issued the warning at the passing out parade of 231 newly recruited officers of the directorate, popularly known as VIO on Tuesday at the Old Parade Ground Garki, Area 10, Abuja.

Mrs Odey who was represented by the Director of DRTS, Alhaji Aliyu Wadata Bodinga, said the recruitment of the officers was aimed at beefing up staff strength of the directorate who are saddled with the responsibility of ensuring road safety within the FCT.

She said this was the first time in about

10 years that such number of officers was added to the staff strength of the directorate, which she described as commendable.

While commending the efforts of the directorate's management in ensuring safety across roads in Abuja, she urged all staff to desist from activities that could ridicule the directorate.

"I use this medium to warn all staff to desist from unwholesome attitudes that are inimical to the good image of the directorate and the public service.

"All staff are expected to be on the path of righteousness as required by the service, as the administration will not condone any act of indiscipline or corruption in the discharge of your responsibilities," she said.

FCT minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello in his keynote address,

said the recruitment and training of the 231 officers which commenced on December 8, 2019 was to sanitize and scale up service delivery in the transportation sector of the FCT.

The minister, who was represented by the Director, Office of the Permanent Secretary of FCTA, Samuel Atang, said the recruitment was timely and was in view of recent efforts by the FCT Administration in keeping with the vision and mandate to build a world class capital.

Malam Bello also cautioned the VIO to shun acts capable of tarnishing the image of the service as the FCTA was the seat of government of the federation and the window through which the world viewed the country at large. He charged them to exhibit enviable moral conduct and eschew all forms of corruption.

## Cleric cautions Nigerians against blaming leaders for national challenges

The General Overseer of House on the Rock Church, Pastor Paul Adefarasin, has advised Nigerians to stop blaming their leaders for the challenges facing the country.

He gave the advice during a live broadcast at the New Year church service at the House on the Rock Citadel and Towers in Abuja.

"The blame game is an act of irresponsibility and demonstration of ignorance of accountability on the part of Nigerians.

"Stop blaming the government and political parties because that's the first symptom of irresponsibility on our part.

"We go to the office and abuse the office of power and we become a community of blames but they are not the problem because we are irresponsible.

"It is time for churches to grow up and take responsibility for educational and societal development, as we have nearly 100 people leaving under poverty because of mismanagement.

"The church should become representatives of God in government," he said.

He pointed out that the nation needed the light of God to shine on its dark side.

"Our country is the way it is because the light of God is not shining on the part of darkness.

"If you are going into government, you have to be the light and be responsible," he said.

Adefarasin said it was time for the church to start putting in place structures to achieve what the country was praying for.

"Stop only praying but start organising structures for what you are praying for," he said.

He also said the present generation might not be the generation to transform Nigeria but there will be restoration in the country.

"The generation to transform must have a good sense of responsibility for the country.

"They will have the passion and responsibility for good governance and when that happens we will see a new Nigeria," he said. (NAN)

## Coalition advocates better deal for older persons in 2020

Sen. Eze Ajoku, president of Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN) on Wednesday said older persons deserve better treatment as a deal in the new year.

Ajoku said in Abuja that a better life for senior citizens from government in 2020 was imperative.

He restated the determination of COSROPIN to partner with state governments to ensure that programmes designed to benefit older

persons succeeded.

The COSROPIN boss, who called for palliatives for older persons, commended the Lagos State governor, Sanwo-Olu, for his planned free bus scheme and other incentives for older persons.

He described the development as laudable and called on other states of the federation to same for older persons.

"I commend Sanwo-Olu for his planned introduction of free bus plan

for older Lagosians. Gov. Fayemi in his first term paid monthly allowances to older persons in Ekiti.

"The introduction of the planned monthly allowances to older Lagosians should be adopted by all states," Ajoku said.

According to him, such older persons included former civil servants, farmers, factory workers, parliamentarians, politicians, armed forces and many others who helped to build our nation and deserved a better deal.

Ajoku explained that some of the governors, ministers and policy makers had older persons as either fathers or mothers, urging them to create programmes that would take care of the elder citizens.

He, however, expressed optimism in the speedy passage of Older Persons Rights and Privileges bill and called on international organisations like World Bank, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF to device policies and programmes for the care of older persons in Nigeria. (NAN)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### List of Authorised Space Stations in Nigeria

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), in exercise of its functions enshrined in the Nigerian Communications Act NCA-2003, developed the Commercial Satellite Communications Guidelines for the telecommunications industry in Nigeria, which came into effect in November 2018.

In line with the provisions of Section 13 of the Commercial Satellite Communications Guidelines, the Commission to date, has issued Landing Permits to 55 Space Stations providing coverage over Nigeria's territory.

This list of authorised Space Stations with permit to provide coverage over Nigeria is available on the Commission's website via the URL <https://www.ncc.gov.ng/technical-regulation/spectrum/list-of-authorized-space-stations-in-nigeria>.

This is to inform all relevant stakeholders/operators in the Nigerian telecommunications market.

Signed:

**Henry Nkemadu**

Director, Public Affairs



#### Nigerian Communications Commission

423, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja.

Tel: +234 - 9 - 4617000 - 29. Fax: +234 - 9 - 4617514.

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...Connecting Nigeria

## WHY THE SANCTITY OF THE COURT MUST BE SUPREME:

### A REJOINDER TO ASD

A lot of social commentators and analysts took to various media outlets and social media platforms commenting on issues over which they have no knowledge of. This is in response to the comments published by the Blueprint newspaper of Tuesday the 24th day of December, 2019 regarding the arrest of Alhaji Sani Dauda (ASD).

I wonder why none of these sympathetic social commentators and interlopers refused to see any reason to condemn the judgement of Grade 1 Sharia Court, Tudun Wada for the reason that the court has no jurisdiction. The fact is that the judge was asked to recuse himself from the case for some obvious reasons, he did not.

The reason for asking him to step aside is simple. He caused the police to wrongly restrained lawyers from going out of court after withdrawing their representation, for denying Abubakar Musa his Constitutional right to fair hearing to defend himself.

But thanks to the Upper Sharia Court, Kawo Kaduna for setting aside the said Judgement thereby restoring the marriage between Abubakar Musa and Nasiba Sani Dauda.

Dissatisfied with the judgement of the Upper Sharia Court, Kawo, Kaduna, ASD's daughter (Nasiba Sani Dauda) appealed to the Sharia Court of Appeal, Kaduna in appeal no. KDS/SCA/KD/33/18 between NASIBA SANI DAUDA VS. ABUBAKAR MUSA ABUBAKAR, that appeal is still pending and never determined by the Sharia Court of Appeal, Kaduna up till today. She equally filed a Motion for Judicial Review before the same Sharia Court of Appeal, Kaduna in motion no. KDS/SCA/KD/MOT/1/18 between NASIBA SANI DAUDA VS ABUBAKAR MUSA ABUBAKAR, UPPER SHARIA COURT JUDGE, KAWO AND ATTORNEY GENERAL, KADUNA STATE (as 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents respectively) challenging the Order for Stay of Execution granted by Upper Sharia Court, Kawo, Kaduna. That Motion for judicial Review is still pending and never determined by the Sharia Court of Appeal, Kaduna up till today.

The above facts and information are available for anyone to go and verify. Why would someone who only relied on hearsay and rumours can say that the Judgement of Upper Sharia Court, Kawo Kaduna has been quashed, when the above appeals/cases as filed by ASD's daughter Nasiba are still pending before the Kaduna State Sharia Court of Appeal, if quashed, then what is the essence of her appeal and what is her appeal still doing before the Kaduna State Sharia Court of Appeal? Even non-lawyers in our society knows that the judgement of a court remains valid and subsisting until set aside by the appellate court and in the instant case, the appellate court

is the Kaduna State Sharia Court of Appeal and this appeal is still pending before it and never determine.

The Grand Kadi or any person no matter how highly placed, has no power whatsoever to unilaterally quash the judgement of a court unless sitting as a judge in appellate capacity via a judgement and not a report so to do. To say that the Judgement of Upper Sharia Court, Kawo, Kaduna has been quashed when the appeal and the Judicial Review filed by ASD's daughter Nasiba still pending, is making the mockery of the judiciary.

How can a father give his daughter in marriage to another man when the appeal and Judicial Review filed by his own daughter challenging the decision of Upper Sharia Court, Kawo are still pending in Court? All of these things are verifiable in nature, anyone in doubt as to whether the above named cases exists as filed by the plaintiff should go to Sharia Court of Appeal, Kaduna and ask the position of these cases with the appeal no. KDS/SCA/KD/33/18 between NASIBA SANI DAUDA VS. ABUBAKAR MUSA ABUBAKAR as well as the motion no. KDS/SCA/KD/MOT/1/18 between NASIBA SANI DAUDA VS ABUBAKAR MUSA ABUBAKAR, UPPER SHARIA COURT JUDGE, KAWO AND ATTORNEY GENERAL, KADUNA STATE (as 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents respectively). These facts are available for public consumption, people do not have to go extra miles and being too economical with the truth simply because you want to register unnecessary sympathy. People should learn to speak the truth and nothing but the truth in respective of the personality involved.

It is worthy to emphasized also that the arrest of ASD was hinged on a criminal complaint (not civil case) lodged to the Kaduna State Commissioner of Police bothering on the offences of Criminal Conspiracy, Abetment of an Offence, Criminal Assault, Wrongful Confinement, Wrongful Restraint, False Imprisonment, Voluntary Causing Harm, Enticement of a Married Woman, Bigamy, Re-Marriage With Concealment for Former Marriage and other related offences of the same genre contrary to Sections 45, 46, 58, 217, 229, 230, 239, 365, 366 and 369 respectively of the Penal Code Law of Kaduna State. The ASD's sympathizers cannot tell us that all the above mentioned offences of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law are Civil and not Criminal offences.

Nobody is above the law of the land and must be subjected to equal treatment not minding whether he is a rich or influential, the media and the general public need to know all the above facts without being diluted and misinformed.

**SIGNED**  
**BAR. SAFIYANU SAIDU TAMBAL**  
**(07037808808)**



## AROUND THE WORLD

### AFGHANISTAN

#### Taliban attacks kill more than 20 Afghan security forces

In a new wave of attacks, the Taliban targeted Afghan security forces in the country's north, killing at least 23, local officials said. The assaults hit checkpoints in at least three northern provinces.

In Kunduz, at least 10 Afghan forces were killed and four others were wounded in an attack on a police checkpoint in the district of Dashti Archi on Tuesday night, according to Mohammad Yusouf Ayubi,

head of the provincial council. In Balkh province, the Taliban killed nine police officers in an attack on their checkpoint.

The condition of four other policemen who were at the checkpoint was unknown, said Mohammad Afzel Hadid, head of the provincial council. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed the fighters in the Balkh attack had infiltrated police ranks a while back and were waiting for a chance to strike.

### AUSTRALIA

#### Bush fires: Death toll rises as blazes destroy 200 homes

Bushfires have killed at least eight people in south-eastern Australia since Monday, while two others remain unaccounted for.

The latest fires, which raced towards the coast this week, have also destroyed more than 200 homes.

Seven people have been confirmed dead in New South Wales and one in Victoria.

Conditions have eased slightly, and a major road that was closed in Victoria was reopened for two hours on

Wednesday to allow people to leave.

But many people remain in fire-hit areas. In one town, police dropped off 1.6 tonnes of drinking water by boat.

The deaths bring the total fire-related fatalities across Australia this season to at least 18, with warnings this could rise further.

Of the homes destroyed in this week's blazes, 43 were in East Gippsland, Victoria, while another 176 were in New South Wales.

### IRAQ

#### US embassy attack: Protesters withdraw after standoff

Protesters who had been demonstrating outside the US embassy in Iraq for a second day have withdrawn from the area after a tense standoff.

On Tuesday, the embassy was attacked by a crowd angered by US air strikes targeting an Iran-backed militia.

Clashes continued on Wednesday as demonstrators hurled stones while US forces fired tear gas.

The hostilities came amid escalating tension between the US and Iran - the two main Iraqi government sponsors.

Tuesday's attack - which sparked a war of words between US President

Donald Trump and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei - had threatened to escalate.

But by Wednesday evening the Iraqi government announced that all groups had withdrawn from the perimeter of the US embassy in Baghdad following an appeal for calm.

President Trump has threatened Iran after blaming it for Tuesday's attack, in which no US personnel were injured.

But Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei responded by saying the US "can't do a damn thing". Anti-American sentiment was widespread in Iraq, he added.

### MEXICO

#### Sixteen inmates killed in fight in prison

Sixteen inmates were killed and five were wounded in a prison fight in the northern Mexican state of Zacatecas, authorities said.

The fight broke out around 2:30 pm on Tuesday afternoon at the Regional Center for Social Reintegration in the town of Cieneguillas, located on the western flank of state capital Zacatecas, the state government said in a statement issued on Tuesday

evening.

An inmate was arrested with a firearm, and three more guns were found in the prison, as well as various knives.

The government has launched an investigation to determine those responsible for the fight and how the weapons entered the prison, according to the statement.

Security will be boosted at prisons in the state after the fight, the government said.

### GUINEA-BISSAU

#### Opposition leader wins presidential election

Guinea-Bissau opposition leader Umaro Cissoko Embalo, a former prime minister, won the presidential election with 53.55 percent of votes, the National Electoral Commission (CNE) announced on Wednesday.

His rival Domingos Simoes Pereira, head of the country's ruling PAIGC party, took 46.45 percent in Sunday's runoff.

"I declare Umaro Sissoco Embalo to be the winner of this second round," said CNE President Jose Pedro Sambu.

After the announcement, Pereira told his supporters he will contest the result at the Supreme Court. Outgoing Jose Mario Vaz came to power in 2014 on hopes of stabilising a country notorious for coups and assassinations since

gaining independence from Portugal in 1974. But his tenure was hampered by a paralysing face-off with Parliament under the country's semi-presidential political system.

The CNE put turnout at 72.67 percent, similar to the first round of voting on November 24, which Pereira won with 40.1 percent against 28 percent for Embalo.



■ A lady (left) grabs at Pope Francis' hands as he greets Catholic faithful during his arrival to celebrate New Year's Eve mass in Vatican City on December 31, 2019. Pope Francis apologised yesterday for his widely-viewed slap on the hands of the woman

Photo: VATICAN MEDIA/AFP

### SYRIA

#### Four children killed in New Year's Day attack on school

At least eight civilians were killed on Wednesday in a rocket attack by Syrian government forces on a school in Idlib, the country's last opposition stronghold of Idlib.

The victims included four children and two women, the White Helmets civil defence agency reported.

The school was packed with students and teachers at the time, the group added.

The attack took place in the rebel-held town of Sarmeen in Syria's northwest province of Idlib, said war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR).

At least 16 others were

injured in the attack, part of a months-long government offensive in Idlib, the Britain-based watchdog added.

The attack was part of a continuing offensive which has seen Syrian troops capture more than 40 villages and hamlets in Idlib over the past two weeks.

### INDIA

#### Third moon mission approved, months after landing failure

India has approved its third lunar mission months after its last one failed to successfully land on the moon, its space agency said on Wednesday, the latest effort in its ambitions to become a low-cost space power.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission will have a lander and a rover, but not an

orbiter, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K. Sivan told reporters at its headquarters in Bengaluru, according to an official telecast.

The Chandrayaan-2 mission in September successfully deployed a lunar orbiter that relays scientific data back to earth, but was

unable to place a rover on the lunar surface after a "hard" landing.

That mission had aimed to land on the south pole of the moon, where no other lunar mission had gone before. The region is believed to contain water as craters in the region are largely unaffected by the high temperatures of the sun.

### NORTH KOREA

#### Pyongyang ends moratorium on nuclear testing

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has said he is ending the suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests put in place during talks with the US.

Mr Kim also said his country would soon introduce "a new strategic weapon". But he left a door open for dialogue, and said the scope of any testing would depend on the US's "attitude".

The momentum of the past few years has stalled, as Washington refuses to lift sanctions until Pyongyang fully abandons its nuclear programme.

The North conducted several smaller weapons tests late in 2019, in what was seen as an attempt to pressure the US into making concessions.

### INDONESIA

#### Floods kill nine, force thousands to evacuate

Flash floods inundated swathes of Indonesia's capital and nearby towns on the first day of the New Year after torrential rainfall overnight, killing at least nine people and forcing thousands of people to evacuate, authorities said on Wednesday.

"As of 4 pm today, there are 19,079 displaced residents who have been evacuated at temporary shelters throughout Jakarta," city governor Anies Baswedan told a news conference. Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) said at least 9 people had died in flash floods and landslides triggered by the rain in Jakarta and nearby towns.

### YEMEN

#### Six Saudi prisoners freed by Houthis return home

Six Saudi Arabian prisoners held in Yemen by the Iran-aligned Houthi group returned home on Wednesday, in a move welcomed by the United Nations as it pushes for political negotiations to end almost five years of war.

Facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the six men arrived in Riyadh, the spokesman for a Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis in Yemen said in a statement.

He said the exchange had been part of the Stockholm agreement, a U.N.-mediated deal reached last December in a breakthrough in peace efforts.



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# PHOTO NEWS

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Photo Editor

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■ Fun seekers at Ikorodu Fun Park in Lagos yesterday, during the New Year celebration  
Photo: NAN



■ Parishioners of Sacred Heart Catholic Church at Gwagwalada in Abuja, dance during the crossover night service that ushers in the New Year  
Photo: NAN



■ Muslims from Doka Central Mosque at Kano Road worship with members of the Bishara Baptist Church at Hadeja Road, during the New Year service in Kaduna yesterday  
Photo: Shehu K. Goro



■ Fireworks light up the sky above the London Eye in London, England yesterday  
Photo: Anadolu Agency/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images



■ Fireworks over the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France yesterday  
Photo: Xinhua/Rex/Shutterstock



■ Children at Beautiful Gates Recreational Park, during the New Year celebration in Abuja yesterday



■ From left: Asst. Director, Nursing Service, Mrs. Cole Adebukola Oluwabusayo; Mother of the year's First Baby, Mrs. Mary Momoh; Father, Abduykeni Momoh; Commercial Director, Vitaform Plc, Mr. Owoade Bamidele Sola; Chief Medical Director, Lagos Island Maternity Hospital, Dr. Olufemi Omololu; and Head of Admin. and Human Resources, Lagos Island Maternity Hospital, Miss Sessi Adedotun, during Vitaform Plc's First Baby of the Year presentation at Lagos Island Maternity Hospital in Lagos yesterday  
Photo: Benedict Uwalaka



■ From left: Chief Medical Director of Randle General Hospital, Surulere, Dr. Aduke Odotayo; Speaker of House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila; Chairman Lagos Assembly House Committee on Environment, Desmond Elliot; and Mother of the Surulere Baby of the Year, Mrs. Oyindamola Andu at the presentation of gift items to 2020 Baby of the Year in the Speaker's Surulere 1 Federal constituency in Lagos yesterday  
Photo: Speaker's Media Office

**NIGERIA STOCK EXCHANGE** MARKET CAP. **12,958TRN (0.87%) ↑** ALL SHARE INDEX **26,842.07POINTS (0.87%) ↑** MARKET TURNOVER **1.053BN SHARES**

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

 <b>OIL AND GAS</b> <b>262.54 6.71%</b>	 <b>BANKING</b> <b>356.84 1.37%</b>	 <b>CONSUMER GOODS</b> <b>592.85 -0.28%</b>	 <b>INSURANCE</b> <b>125.82 1.96%</b>	 <b>INDUSTRIAL</b> <b>1,075.60 2.17%</b>
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**NSE GENERAL INDEX**

COMPANY NAME	MARKET(NM)	PRICE	CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
<b>BANKING</b>					
ACCESS BANK PLC	355,452.26	10.00	2.56	140	47,313,001
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	244,525.86	7.15	0.70	149	37,398,900
ZENITH BANK PLC	583,974.78	18.60	0.54	262	29,786,039
FBN HOLDINGS PLC	220,756.05	6.15	-3.15	95	12,945,955
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	2,137,223.87	105.00	1.90	96	1,036,866
<b>INDUSTRIAL GOODS</b>					
DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	2,419,752.05	142.00	0.35	183	16,782,410
LAFARGE AFRICA PLC	246,449.27	15.30	9.29	61	13,002,864
<b>OIL AND GAS</b>					
SEPLAT PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	387,078.83	657.80	10.00	29	311,014
<b>CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE</b>					
SKYE SHELTER FUND PLC	1,710.00	85.50	-	0	0
UNION HOMES REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT)	10,175.81	40.70	-	0	0
UPDC REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST	11,340.15	4.25	-9.57	1	87,374
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
NIGERIA ENERGY SECTOR FUND	411.91	552.20	-	0	0
VALUEALLIANCE VALUE FUND	3,312.39	103.20	-	0	0
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	440.00	0.20	-	0	0
OKOMU OIL PALM PLC	53,037.40	55.60	1.09	12	122,040
PRESOCO PLC	47,500.00	47.50	-	4	3,945
<b>FISHING/HUNTING/TRAPPING</b>					
ELLAH LAKES PLC	8,500.00	4.25	-	0	0
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	1,500.00	0.50	-	8	261,850
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES</b>					
A.G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC	1,456.01	0.55	-	0	0
JOHN HOLT PLC	217.92	0.56	-	0	0
S C O A NIG. PLC	1,903.99	2.93	-	0	0
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION OF NIGERIA PLC	40,241.51	0.99	-1.01	41	2,582,985
U A C N PLC	24,779.15	8.60	0.58	83	7,953,950
<b>BUILDING CONSTRUCTION</b>					
ARIBCO PLC	521.24	3.51	-	0	0
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	0	0	-	0	0
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	26,268.00	19.90	-	15	86,530
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION</b>					
ROADS NIG PLC	165.00	6.60	-	0	0
<b>REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT</b>					
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	2,598.40	1.00	-0.99	5	200,000
<b>AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS</b>					
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0	0
<b>BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS</b>					
CHAMPION BREW. PLC	7,438.02	0.95	-	1	5,000
GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC	242.22	0.89	-	0	0
GUINNESS NIG PLC	65,821.00	30.05	-	35	107,942
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	81,660.69	9.50	-	3	2,000
NIGERIAN BREW. PLC	471,817.22	59.00	-1.26	57	2,075,360
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	163,200.00	13.60	-1.45	71	1,105,563
FLOUR MILLS NIG. PLC	80,777.48	19.70	-	24	292,117
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	7,850.90	0.99	-	4	69,000
MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	1,340.10	0.36	-	0	0
N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	76.26	4.30	-	1	46,285
NASCON ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC	34,310.23	12.95	-	41	298,109
<b>CONSUMER GOODS</b>					
UNION DICOM SALT PLC	3,321.07	12.15	-	0	0
<b>FOOD PRODUCTS-DIVERSIFIED</b>					
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	19,815.03	10.55	2.93	14	498,400
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	1,165,125.42	1,469.90	-	14	4,875
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	1,680.31	22.10	-	9	2,866
VITAFAM NIG PLC	5,503.71	4.40	10.00	64	2,767,933
<b>PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS</b>					
P Z CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	22,433.20	5.65	4.63	57	663,926
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	126,390.12	22.00	-0.23	45	2,185,736
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	119,272.08	6.50	2.36	51	5,488,446
FIDELITY BANK PLC	59,398.33	2.05	-0.49	29	8,816,384
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC	874,106.02	29.70	2.41	109	6,962,819
JAIZ BANK PLC	18,267.83	0.62	-	24	11,065,469
STERLING BANK PLC	57,292.93	1.99	-	10	27,348
UNION BANK NIG. PLC	174,724.52	6.00	-2.44	25	322,119
UNITY BANK PLC	7,481.18	0.64	-3.03	5	216,591
WEMA BANK PLC	28,545.10	0.74	5.71	26	3,656,220
<b>INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>					
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	1	4,998
AICO INSURANCE PLC	4,989.75	0.72	1.39	22	14,237,981
AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC	20,790.00	1.98	10.00	7	594,917
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	3,170.70	0.39	-	0	0
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	22,820.04	2.20	-	0	0
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	6,628.28	0.45	9.76	7	321,000
GOLDFLINK INSURANCE PLC	909.99	0.20	-	0	0
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	1,228.00	0.20	-	0	0
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSURANCE PLC	487.95	0.38	-	0	0
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	1,830.86	0.25	-7.41	4	260,000
LAW UNION AND ROCK INS. PLC	2,148.17	0.50	-	0	0
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	4,240.00	0.53	-	0	0
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	2,234.55	0.20	-	3	322,159
NEM INSURANCE PLC	12,778.82	2.42	-	2	863
NIGER INSURANCE PLC	1,547.90	0.20	-	4	746,160
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	2,960.40	0.55	7.84	1	100,000
REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC	1,333.75	0.20	-	0	0
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2,502.25	0.20	-	0	0
STACO INSURANCE PLC	4,483.72	0.48	-	0	0
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	2,582.21	0.20	-	0	0
SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC	2,800.00	0.20	-	1	5,000
UNIC DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS PLC	516.46	0.20	-	0	0
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC	3,200.00	0.20	-	0	0
VERITAS KAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	2,773.33	0.20	-	1	2,700
WAPIC INSURANCE PLC	4,550.13	0.34	-	19	2,318,671
<b>MICRO-FINANCE BANKS</b>					
NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	2,629.63	1.15	-	0	0
ABBAY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	4,200.00	1.00	-	0	0
ASO SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	7,370.87	0.50	-	0	0
INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	5,796.93	1.39	-	0	0
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	2,265.95	0.20	-	0	0
UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	2,949.22	3.02	-	0	0
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	8,000.00	4.00	-4.31	29	958,250
CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	35,291.19	6.00	-	14	469,526
DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	60.00	0.40	-	0	0
FOMB GROUP PLC	36,635.01	1.85	0.54	49	6,020,623
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	1,543.61	0.30	-	3	150,000
STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	430,703.66	41.00	5.13	42	3,875,721
UNITED CAPITAL PLC	14,400.00	2.40	-	20	183,291
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>					
EKOCORP PLC	2,119.05	4.25	2.41	6	590,840
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERVICES PLC	781.69	0.22	-	0	0
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>					
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	366.17	0.50	-	0	0
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	6,467.72	3.10	-	2	19,500
GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	7,294.85	6.10	9.91	35	572,516
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	3,329.70	1.93	-	4	139,986
NEMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	1,177.48	0.62	-	3	7,015
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	556.71	3.62	-	0	0
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	325.23	1.50	-	0	0
<b>COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS</b>					
COURTVILLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PLC	816.96	0.23	-4.17	8	2,193,577
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	1,470.89	0.50	-	0	0
<b>COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS</b>					

COMMODITIES PRICE	PRICE	CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
<b>CRUDE OIL (BRENT)</b>				
CRUDE OIL (BRENT)	\$71.76	-	-	-
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>				
NATURAL GAS	\$2.61	-	-	-
<b>COPPER</b>				
COPPER	\$2.81	-	-	-
<b>GOLD</b>				
GOLD	\$1,284.1	-	-	-
<b>SILVER</b>				
SILVER	\$14.650	-	-	-
<b>SUGAR</b>				
SUGAR	\$12.21	-	-	-
<b>COCOA</b>				
COCOA	\$2,314	-	-	-
<b>LIVE CATTLE</b>				
LIVE CATTLE	\$114,000	-	-	-
<b>COTTON</b>				
COTTON	\$75.46	-	-	-
CWG PLC	6,413.06	2.54	-	0
NER (NIGERIA) PLC	486.00	4.50	-	0
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC	316.77	0.64	-	0
<b>IT SERVICES</b>				
CHAMS PLC	1,549.70	0.33	-5.71	9
E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	10,962.00	2.61	-	2
AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	1,123,311.48	298.90	-	7
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS PLC	1,956.31	6.75	-	7
CAP PLC	16,800.00	24.00	-	14
CEMENT CO. OF NORTH NIG. PLC	237,897.37	18.10	-	0
MEYER PLC	286.87	0.54	-	0
PORTLAND PAINTS & PRODUCTS NIGERIA PLC	1,769.32	2.23	-	0
PREMIER PAINTS PLC	1,156.20	9.40	-	0
AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,256.91	2.09	-	0
CUTIX PLC	2,342.56	1.33	-8.28	18
<b>ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS</b>				
BETA GLASS PLC	26,898.49	53.80	-	5
GREIF NIGERIA PLC	388.02	9.10	-	0
<b>OIL AND GAS</b>				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	1,252.54	0.20	-	7
QANDU PLC	49,601.34	3.99	8.42	70
11 PLC	53,332.04	147.90	-	9
CONOIL PLC	12,838.11	18.50	-	3
ETERNA PLC	4,694.92	3.60	9.09	11
FORTE OIL PLC	23,574.91	18.10	-	16
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	4,663.23	15.30	-	4
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	37,652.97	110.90	-	19
<b>AUTOMOBILE/AUTO PART RETAILERS</b>				
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	2,623.26	4.45	-	0
TRANS-NATIONWIDE EXPRESS PLC	431.34	0.92	-	3
<b>HOTELS/LODGING</b>				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	4,259.15	2.75	-	0
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	2,328.25	1.12	-	0
TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC	7,862.53	3.50	-	0
TRANSCORP HOTELS PLC	37,241.98	4.90	-	0
<b>MEDIA/ENTERTAINMENT</b>				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	4,320.00	0.36	-	0
ACADEMY PRESS PLC	223.78	0.37	-	0
LEARN AFRICA PLC	871.74	1.13	-	0
STUDIO PRESS (NIG) PLC	1,183.82	1.99	-	0
<b>ROAD TRANSPORTATION</b>				
ASSOCIATED BUS COMPANY PLC	745.97	0.45	-	1
INTERLINKED TECHNOLOGIES PLC	757.44	3.20	-	0
<b>TRANSPORT-RELATED SERVICES</b>				
GLOBAL SPECTRUM ENERGY SERVICES PLC	3,720.00	4.65	-	0
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING COMPANY PLC	3,898.13	2.40	-	22
SKYWAY AVIATION HANDLING COMPANY PLC	5,671.50	4.19	-	0
<b>PRICES FOR ETP SECURITIES</b>				
GREENWICH ALPHA ETF	910.00	91.00	-	1
LOTUS HALAL EQUITY ETF	419.82	8.71	-	0
NEWGOLD EXCHANGE TRADED FUND (ETF)	790.50	5,270.00	0.76	1
STANBIC IBTC ETF 30	594.28	100.00	-	0
THE SIAM PENSION ETF 40	721.89	120.92	-	0
VETIVA BANKING ETF	304.18	3.57	1.71	2
VETIVA CONSUMER GOODS ETF	152.80			



# INSIDE POLITICS

## PoliQuote

"What the South-East is saying is that every other zone has taken a shot at the presidency since the beginning of this republic. It is only proper that the Igbo take their turn at the presidency. But like we know, Nigeria operates democratic governance, founded on the rule of law, with party politics" - **Brig. Gen. Joseph Okoloagu (rtd), a member of APC Board of Trustees (BoT)**

**I have no rift with  
Gov Ganguje —  
Abdumumini Jibril**

→ 40

## Akinlade: It's a matter of when, I'll govern Ogun



■ Adekunle Akinlade

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

**T**he gubernatorial candidate of the Allied Peoples Movement (APM) in the March 9, 2019 election in Ogun State, Adekunle Akinlade, says he will still govern the state as governor, insisting that it is a matter of "when" and not "if".

Akinlade said this when he visited his ward in Agosasa in Ipokia Local Government Area, following his return to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

He was received by the Chairman of the APC in Ipokia Local Government Area (LGA), Michael Olalowo, Agosasa Ward Leader, Alh. Falade Soliu and members of Ipokia Pioneer led by Alhaji Ashirudeen Maliki.

Addressing party supporters, Akinlade said despite losing the hotly

contested 2019 polls, he has no doubt that he would be governor of Ogun State in the future.

The former member of the House of Representatives, who did not speak on whether he would re-contest in 2023, explained that he was poised to continue the mission to rebuild Ogun State from where Senator Ibikunle Amosun's government stopped.

He insisted that he and his supporters have no grudges against the APC leadership.

"I have no doubt in my heart that I will be the governor of Ogun State. I believe in the mission to rebuild our dear State. What you have seen is just a sentence for those of us who understand English very well. It does not mean the sentence has finished. It is still in process. What has happened throughout the election, the Tribunal, the Court of Appeal

and the Supreme Court, is always a comma in the history of this great state.

"The sentence that we have started about the mission to rebuild and how your son will be the governor of Ogun State will sustain and maintain the mission to rebuild this state.

"All the infrastructure we have in Ogun State Capital, in Ogun West and Ogun East, I tell you that in the next 10 to 50 years to come, those infrastructure will still be there and that is why I said it is not a matter of 'if', I will become the governor of Ogun State, but it is 'when,'" Akinlade said.

He recalled that Amosun's suspension from the APC during the last election was because the former governor allowed him and others to contest elections on the platform of another political party.

## Senator wants Ekiti PDP fortified ahead 2022 gov'ship poll

From Raphael Ogbonnaiye, Ado-Ekiti

Senator Abiodun Olujimi has advised PDP members in Ekiti State to elect State Working Committee (SWC) members that will unify the party at the coming Congress to be able to wrest power from the APC ahead of the 2022 governorship poll.

Olujimi, who is representing Ekiti South Senatorial District in the National Assembly, said the best way for the PDP to become stronger in Ekiti ahead of the election is by adopting collegiate leadership to fortify the party and bring a sense of belonging to every member.

She added that it will be great disservice to the

party's teeming members yearning for good, focused and committed leadership for anybody to contemplate what she called "imposed leadership" at this time against the wishes of loyal party members.

It will be recalled that Olujimi and former Governor Ayodele Fayose had been battling for the soul of the PDP leadership in Ekiti, a development that created division within the party.

In her statement to PDP members in Ado Ekiti yesterday, Sen. Olujimi said: "as the Congress draws near, we must work together to install a strong, passionate, honest, vibrant, fair, loyal and committed party man, who will unite and not divide us, as Chairman.

"Our sole agenda will be Ekiti first, PDP next, any hidden agenda to perpetuate undemocratic and punitive tendencies in PDP will be resisted.

"I urge that we all work together to restore the glory of our party because it is crystal clear that God will only install whom He pleases."

Speaking about her recent judicial victory which led to the removal of APC candidate, Prince Dayo Adeyeye, through litigation, Olujimi praised the APC National leader, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Senate President, Senator Ahmed Lawan and the Ekiti State governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi for standing on the side of truth and justice in the litigation.

## 2023: PDP will return to power in Gombe – Party chieftains

From Haruna Gimba Yaya, Gombe

Chieftains of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Gombe State say the party will continue to grow stronger and reclaim power in 2023.

Rising from a one-day stakeholders' meeting held at the party's secretariat in Gombe, the PDP bigwigs said despite the persecution and discrimination coming from the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), the party is still on course to return to power in the state.

The meeting convened by a former member of the House of Representatives, Hajiya Fatima Binta Bello, was attended by former political and public office holders in the state and at national level when the PDP held sway in the state.

It was also attended by cabinet members of former Governor Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo's administration and other top members of the party in the North East zone.

Addressing mammoth crowds of party elders, supporters and executives, Fatima Bello said the APC-led administration was afraid of her party's popularity because the PDP laid the foundation for the development of the state for the past 16 years.

She said the idea behind calling the members together was for them to understand

and encourage one another and show the world that the PDP is still stronger in the state.

"Our great party is fully grounded in all nooks and crannies of Gombe State. We don't know any other party than the PDP and we are going to make meaningful opposition because we taught those in government politics," she said.

The state PDP chairman, Mr Joel Adamu Jagafa, thanked the members for sticking with the party despite losing the 2019 elections to the APC.

Jagafa said the PDP remained the backbone of development in the state because it has a lot of things to showcase in the areas of infrastructure and human capital development in the last 16 years the party was in power.

Also, the former Deputy Governor of the state, Mr Charles Iliya, urged members to remain united, expressing optimism that the PDP will bounce back to power in 2023.

He urged members to make meaningful contributions to the party beyond using it as a platform to run for elections only.

Some of the speakers at the event rebuked the state government for allegedly denying them to use Gombe International Hotel for the meeting "after paying for the venue over a month ago."

## Mark tasks FG to provide defined roadmap for development

By Saawua Terzungwe

A former Senate President, David Mark, has asked the President Muhammadu Buhari-led government to provide a defined roadmap for political and socio-economic development of the country.

Senator Mark, in a new year message made available to journalists yesterday in Abuja by his Special Adviser on Media, Paul Mumeh, also tasked government at all levels to make deliberate efforts towards addressing the issues of unemployment and insecurity in the country for Nigeria to work again.

"The security situation in the country has become embarrassing and scandalous. Citizens deserve to be protected and live in peace in any part of the country without fear of molestation or intimidation," he said.

Mark, who acknowledged the resilience and perseverance of Nigerians over the years, urged them not to be deterred by the prevailing situation. He urged Nigerians to have a renewed hope and renew commitment to collective prosperity and development by contributing to nation building.

"We are all one under one God. We should be our brothers' keeper at all times," he added.

## NEWS &gt;&gt;

# I have no rift with Gov Ganguje – Abdumumini Jibril

By Muideen Olaniyi

Abdumumini Jibril, who will be participating in the January 25, 2020 re-run election in Kano State for Kuru/Bebeji federal constituency seat in the House of Representatives says the year 2019 is a good year for President Muhammadu Buhari.

Jibril, who spoke at the State House, Abuja after meeting President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday, said the achievements recorded in the areas of agriculture, economy, infrastructure development, fight against corruption and insecurity must be sustained.

"I had audience with Mr President and a regular audience to discuss with him all the achievements during the year, to commend him on the progress we've made in the economy, fight against corruption

and the issue of security in the country and to look at issues having to do with massive infrastructural development going on across the country. We need to sustain it

"The agricultural revolution going on, we need to sustain it. The fight against insurgency and the successes that have been recorded and of course, the cordial relationship that now exists between the executive and the legislature.

"By and large, it's been a very good year for the President and the government and I think we all have the responsibility to commend him. That's what we discussed, essentially."

When told that some people in Kano were opposed to his return to National Assembly, Jibril said, "That's not true. It's the usual rumour, we are working harmoniously and I'm sure that the rerun

will be very successful, not only in Kano for the APC, but all over the country where rerun will be held on the 25th."

On the notion that he came to seek the intervention of President Buhari because his relationship with Governor Umar Ganduje was no longer cordial, the chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) said, "My relationship with my governor is cordial. He's always been a father and nothing has changed."

Jibril, while speaking on whether he would remain frank and vociferous if he found his way back to the House of Representatives, said, "Nothing has changed about me and nothing will change. I'll continue to be the person that I am; the frank and very blunt and continue to contribute my quota towards the development of the country."

## Member donates drugs to constituents

From Habibu Umar Aminu, Katsina

The member representing Daura Local Government Area (LGA) in Katsina State House of Assembly, Nasir Yahaya, has donated sickle cell drugs and delivery kits worth millions of naira to four Health Centres in his domain.

Daily Trust reports that about 1,500 sickle cell patients and 500 pregnant women are expected to benefit.

Speaking at the presentation of the drugs, Yahaya said they were meant to complement the effort of the state government and assist the less privileged people in the society.

He said adequate measures had been put in place to ensure that the drugs got to the real beneficiaries, calling on people to always find a way to support the less privilege in the society.

In his remarks, the state Commissioner for Health, Engr. Nuhu Danja, commended the foresight of the member for providing the drugs and called on prospective couples to always go for medical tests before marriage.

Engr. Danja said maternal mortality had drastically reduced in the state due to serious government intervention alongside development partners, adding that government will not relent but sustain the tempo.

The Head of Daura Local Government Administration, Alh. Bishir Lawal Shargalle, said the donation was not the first of its kind from the lawmaker and called on others to emulate the gesture.

He promised that the drugs would be judiciously used.

## APC chieftain urges N/Assembly to make 'decisive' laws

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

**A stalwart of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oyo State, Asiwaju Rotimi Ajanaku, has blamed all forms of impunity, injustice and lawlessness in the country on the inability of the National Assembly to make decisive laws.**

He also blamed incessant harassment, torment, humiliation of innocent Nigerians and passion for lawlessness, and disrespect for the rule of law exhibited by the personnel of the Security agencies on the weaknesses of the legislators.

Asiwaju, who spoke with Journalists in Ibadan, said he was also a victim of the unethical behaviour of the security agencies in 2019 prior to the general election in Oyo State.

He said: "My statement here may sound unfriendly to some people, but frankly speaking, Nigeria can't progress until the attitude of the security personnel in the country changed. What is responsible for the lukewarmness and weaknesses of the legislators at the National Assembly could be traced to corruption, incompetency and desperation of the people we elected to speak for and on behalf of us.

"Legislators have abandoned the people who elected them to their various offices, now fight for personal gains and desperate as well to retain their positions

after the constitutional term of 4years per term. This action has sold them to slavery and rendered them incapacitated to fight against injustice in Nigeria."

Ajanaku, however, admonished the legislators to rise against all forms of impunity, injustice and lawlessness in 2020.

He described this as the only way to move Nigeria to the next level of progress economically and attract good and better foreign investors.

"The rights of Nigerians as stated in the chapter 4 of the constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended are not violated. Perhaps we are ignorant of the fact that no serious minded person would invest his hard-earned money in a country where personnel of security agencies keep rebelling against court orders, displaying act of thuggery and exercise mad passion for lawlessness.

"Legislators should wake up and live up to expectation to avoid situation where people will rise to defend themselves and the democracy that our past heroes laid down their lives for. When you stretch the limits of the people beyond bearable, expect them to fight back and also be ready to bear or responsible for whatever consequences that come from their barbaric actions against harmless and innocent citizens of this great country.

"My advice for political parties

is to ensure they allow credible, knowledgeable, self-discipline, professionally qualified candidates with good and clear means of livelihood to flag the tickets of their parties in the coming elections," he warned.



■ Senate President Ahmad Lawan

## Ghost workers: Koguna's family, group tackle commissioner, demand apology

From Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

Family of the governorship candidate of the APC, Alhaji Mukhtar Shehu Idris yesterday asked the Zamfara State Commissioner of Finance to apologise over the list of ghost workers he published.

The finance commissioner, Alhaji Rabi'u Garba Gusau, had last week disclosed that about 5,000 ghost workers had been uncovered in the state. Names of some of the ghost workers were listed.

Reacting, the family of Idris, who is popularly known as Koguna, faulted the claims of the commissioner that one of their family members was among the ghost workers.

The family, in a statement by Imran Ahmad Rufai, demanded an unreserved

apology from the commissioner "for misleading the general public about Nusaiba Shehu Idris (a name that does not exist in the entire family) for being part of the state Salary Scandal.

Similarly, a group known as Concerned Citizens of Zamfara State has challenged Gusau to publish the names of the 4,972 persons allegedly authorised by the former Governor Abdulazeez Yari to be collecting salaries.

A statement issued in Sokoto state and signed by their Secretary, Musa Ibrahim Gusau also challenged the commissioner to publish names of the 1640 staff whose account numbers were not on the server and the 119 staff whose names on the payroll differed from the account numbers if he was serious about his claim.

## Citizens pray for good leadership in Bayelsa

From Bassey Willie, Yenagoa

As the people prepare for the year 2020, some Bayelsans have outlined their expectations, especially from the incoming government in the state, under the leadership of Chief David Lyon, governor-elect for Bayelsa State.

Mrs Nonso Peters, a fruit seller in Yenagoa, told Daily Trust that God had been fair and faithful to the State in 2019 and prepared a purposeful year for the people of the state in 2020 through the victory of Chief Lyon as the next governor come February 14.

"As you look at our state, we don't have adequate infrastructures compare to other states in Nigeria. Security is our big challenge. People

cannot even walk freely on the roads. In our communities, epileptic power supply is prevalent in Bayelsa, that was the reason why while we were preparing for governorship election during the last quarter of 2019, we prayed that God should give us the people's governor. And by God's grace, Chief Lyon won. With him in as the governor, we know Bayelsans will experience accelerated development.

"During his campaigns, he promised security, efficient health care delivery, provision of employments to our teaming youth, infrastructural renaissance, and we are hopeful that we will experience these things in 2020. The year will be a prosperous one for all Nigerians by God's grace," she said.

## ANALYSIS &gt;&gt;

By Muideen Olaniyi (Abuja),  
Peter Moses (Abeokuta), Jude  
Aguguo Owuamanam (Owerri),  
Tony Adibe (Enugu) & Eyo Charles  
(Calabar)

## How reconciliation works in favour of Amosun, Okorocha, others

The news of the lifting of suspension on Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun, Senator Rochas Okorocha, Mr Osita Okechukwu and Pastor Usani Uguru Usani has been greeted with mixed reactions.

Former governor of Imo State and now Senator Okorocha, welcomed the decision by saying that the National Working Committee (NWC) acted well for lifting his suspension.

A statement released by his special media adviser, Sam Onwuemeodo, said, "Okorocha has always been a very good party man and shall continue in that regard. He shall also continue to work committedly for the good of the Party and also join hands with other leaders of the Party to ensure that the party remains strong in Imo, grows rapidly in the South-East and consolidates at the national level."

However, a member of the APC from Eke Ward of Enugu State whose suspension was also pardoned, Mr Okechukwu, said he was never suspended by the party since the NWC has no power to discipline members.

The APC chieftain, in a statement, said the purported suspension was a "big fake news." He said the decision to speak out was necessary because of "the numerous congratulations" received from members of the public who were unaware that the purported lifting of suspension on him was not real.

He said it was only the party's National Chairman, Comrade Adams Oshioh mole, who could suspend party members in clear breach of the constitution of the APC, part of the statement read. *Daily Trust*, however, learnt that the decision to lift the suspension was borne out of the ongoing reconciliation efforts in the party which led to the appointment of a high-level 10-member National Reconciliation Committee chaired by the President of the Senate, Ahmed Lawan.

The APC National Publicity Secretary, Malam Lanre Issa-Onilu, said in a release that the team constituted after due consultation was in line with the November 22, 2019 resolution of the



■ Senator Ibikunle Amosun

Party's National Executive Committee (NEC).

The statement said the committee, whose inauguration would soon be done, was empowered to address grievances of party members and resolve existing conflicts with a view to fostering unity and oneness within the party.

Members of the committee were first Interim APC National Chairman, Chief Bisi Akande (Vice Chairman); Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase; Sen. Umaru Tanko Al-Makura; Sen. Kashim Shettima; Minister of State for Environment, Sharon Ikeazor; Alh. Nasiru Aliko Koki; Sen. Khairat Gwadabe-Abdulrazak; Sen. Binta Garba and Sen. John Enoh (Secretary).

Before the APC constituted the committee, the NWC lifted the suspension of Governor Akeredolu, Senator Amosun, Senator Okorocha, Mr Okechukwu and Pastor Usani.

The APC spokesman, in a release issued in Abuja after NWC meeting, said the decision was in line with the party's deliberate policy of fairness and actions targeted at ensuring harmony within the party across the country.

On March 1, 2019, the APC NWC suspended ex-Governors Amosun, Ogun State and Okorocha, Imo State for anti-party activities.

The NWC also suspended the ex-Minister

of Niger Delta Affairs, Pastor Usani and the Director-General of the Voice of Nigeria (VON), Mr Okechukwu.

The NWC also threatened to issue a query to the Governor of Ondo State, Akeredolu, over what it called glaring anti-party activities which affected the fortunes of the party's candidates in the Presidential and National Assembly elections in the state.

**Ogun APC faces more division with Amosun's pardon**

Senator Amosun's prominent role in the breakaway of some APC leaders led by his anointed successor, Adekunle Akinlade, from the ruling party to joined Allied Peoples Movement (APM), was part of the reasons for his suspension.

Shortly after the disputed gubernatorial primary in October 2018, Akinlade having lost the party ticket to Governor Dapo Abiodun, then as candidate, pulled out allegedly on the instruction of Amosun. Amosun openly mobilised for Akinlade as the APM candidate and equally "bankrolled" the campaign.

In February, the crisis within the APC took dramatic dimension when hoodlums hurled missiles at President Muhammadu Buhari and other top echelons in the party at the presidential rally in Abeokuta.

Few days later, the APC leadership vowed to take punitive measures



■ Senator Rochas Okorocha

against Amosun over the violent rally. Shortly after the presidential election, Amosun was suspended. His suspension lasted for nine months before his recall last week.

Amosun, after his recall, would be returning to the party he had walked against during the 2019 polls.

This, according to observers, may constitute more harm than good to the already polarised APC. While Amosun had a faction of the APC he led under the chairmanship of Derin Adebisi, the other faction is led by former Governor Olusegun Osoba.

The APC Caretaker Committee had given the former gubernatorial candidate of the APM, Akinlade and other returnees to the ruling party some conditions that must be fulfilled for their full acceptance and integration into the party.

A statement signed by the spokesperson of the caretaker committee, Tunde Oladunjoye, asked the returnees to follow due process of returning to the party "in accordance with the party's constitution and established procedures."

The party also asked them to return to their various wards for registration and realignment.

Already, the APC National Chairman, Comrade Oshioh mole, had welcomed Akinlade and others who left the ruling party to the APM in Ogun State at the peak of the 2019 general elections.

**Okorocha's return may**

**lift fortunes of APC in Imo**

The suspension of Okorocha arose from the ex-governor's bid to install his son-in-law, Uche Nwosu, as his successor. But the party refused to support his move. To actualise his ambition, the then governor encouraged Nwosu to defect to Action Alliance (AA), a party, Okorocha formed many years ago before dumping it to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), then to the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and finally to the APC. But his dreams eluded him.

The party suspended the former governor in the heat of the governorship crisis, leaving the APC with no leader in the state.

Political analysts are of the view that the action of the party in lifting the sanctions against Okorocha may revive the fortunes of the party in the state.

They say the future of the party in Imo will depend on the performance of Governor Emeka Ihedioha and the ruling PDP.

Ori Martins, a political analyst, said Okorocha's recall was a good omen to the APC in Imo.

The Imo State APC chairman, Dan Nwafor, was in agreement that the suspension of Okorocha did much harm than good to the party in the state.

**Enugu APC stakeholders welcome recall**

In Enugu State, the state chapter of the APC said the recall of the suspended members by the NWC was a welcome development.

The State APC chairman, Dr Ben Nwoye, in a short statement he made available to our correspondent in Enugu, stated that the move would help to reduce tension between the party leaders in the affected states.

A chieftain of the APC from Enugu State, Chief Matthias Omeh, said it took a party with good heart to take such action.

**Usani's pardon won't be effective if he doesn't change his character - C/ River APC chair**

The APC chairman in Cross River State, Sir John Ochala, has commended the recent pardon of his predecessor and former Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Pastor Usani.

Ochala expressed hope that the pardon would bring about positive development in the party, especially at the local level.

Ochala said he was happy that the former minister had been recalled from suspension and hoped that he will now check his behavior.

He said Usani would be welcomed to contribute his quota to the unity and growth of the party in the state.

A lawyer, Chief Utum Eteng, while reacting, also welcomed the pardon, saying it will help to unify the party, make it formidable, and heal old wounds.

There have been lingering bad blood, factionalisation and intense hatred among party members right from the time when Usani was the state chairman of the party.

The development led to numberless litigations over the authenticity of state chairman of the party.

The matter reached its climax when two separate governorship candidates emerged in the last election which counted against the fortunes of the party.

**Aggrieved APC members won't welcome Akeredolu's pardon**

Daily Trust learnt that some of the APC candidates who lost in the last general elections due to what they considered as anti-party activities of Governor Akeredolu of Ondo State might not welcome his pardon. The governor was alleged to have worked for the opposition candidates since his anointed candidates couldn't secure the party tickets.

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

**ABDULAZEEZ**: I formally known and address as **MUHAMMED SANI NAGARI** and now wish to be call and address as **ABDULAZEEZ NAGARI** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

I Formerly known as **MUDASSIR SULAIMAN** now wish to be known And as **SANI MOHAMMED SANI** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**YAGANA**: I Formerly known as **YAGANA YARIMA**, now and and and addressed as **YAGANA YERIMA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**AJI** : I formerly known as **AJI BAITU MOHAMMED** now wish to be known as **AJI BAITU MUHAMMAD**. With **DOB 02/12/1991 to 31/12/1992**. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

**YAKAKA** : I formerly known as **YAKAKA MOHAMMED** now wish to be known as **YAKAKA ALI MOHAMMED**. With **DOB 03/03/1998**. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

**SALIU**: I, formerly known as **SALIU OLUWAFEMI OLUWAFEMI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SALIU OLUWAFEMI MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**SHAMSU**: I formally known and address as **SHEBATU IBRAHIM and UMAR YAHAYA SOJA** now wish to be call and address as **SHAMSU YAHAYA** date of birth is **01-01-1998** not **01-01-1995** and **01-01-2000** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

I Formerly known as **MUSA USMAN** now wish to be known And address as **BILYAMINU USMAN** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**BAKO**: I, formerly known as **DANLADI BAKO** now wish to be known and addressed as **DANLADI BAKO PINDIGA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

**MUHAMMAD** : I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD ABDULKARIM BULAMA** now wish to be known as **MUHAMMAD ABDULKARIM**. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

**ABATCHA** : I formerly known as **BUKAR MOHAMMED** now wish to be known as **ABATCHA BUKAR**. All former document remain valid. general public should take note

**NWABUONU**: I, formerly known as **CHIGBU HOPE OLUCHUKWU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NWABUONU HOPE CHIGBU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**MARK**: I, formerly known as **MILGO LAKANTE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MARK DANLADI MILGO**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

I Formerly known as **MUSTAPHA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known And address as **MURTALA ABDULLAHI** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**ISA**: I, formerly known and address as **ISA GARBA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ISA ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**MUHAMMAD** : I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD SULEIMAN** now wish to be known as **MUHAMMAD SULAIMAN UMAR** . All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

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

**ABUBAKAR**: I, formerly known as **MUSTAPHA ABDULKADIR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR ABDULSALAM ALABO**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

I Formerly known as **FATIMA SHAABAN** now wish to be known And address as **FATIMA AJANI** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I Formerly known as **ABDULLANARIU ABDULMUMIN** now wish to be known And address as **ABDULNARIU ABDULMUMIN** all former documents remain valid 07/03/1974 And general public should take note

**ALHAJI**: I formally known as **ALHAJI HASSAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **SHEHU D.D** All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

**I ABDULRAHMAN ABUBAKAR SULAIMAN** That my date of birth is wrong write **1 September 1989** and my correct date of birth is **10 January 1993**. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

**ADAMU**: I formerly known and addressed as **ADAMU SABO SARKIN NOMA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ADAMU SABO** and that my DoB is **1/1/1967** not **19/9/1968**. All former document remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note please.

**LAWAN**: I, formerly known as **LAWAN BUBA GADAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **LAWAN BUBA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

I Formerly Known As **AISHATU HARUNA BELLO** Now Wish To Be Known And addressed As **AISHATU HARUNA**. All former Documents Remain Valid General Public Should Take Note.

I Formerly known as **SA'IDU AHMAD** now wish to be known And address as **JIBRI LAWAL** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**DAHIRU**: I formerly known as **INUWA DAHIRU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BABA GANA DAHIRU** All former documents remain valid General public should please take note.

**ABDUSSALAM** : I formerly known as **ALHAJI MAMMAN ABDUSSALAM** now wish to be known as **ABDUSSALAM MUHAMMED**. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

**BATARI**: I, formerly known as **JOSHUA UMAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **BATARI JOSHUA UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

**AHMAD AHMED** I formerly as **ISAH AHMED AHMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **ISAH AHMAD**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

I Formerly known as **AISHA ALIYU** now wish to be known And address as **AISHA ALIYU S. KAYA** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I Formerly known as **ALIYU ALIYU** now wish to be known And address as **ALIYU UMAR GIDAN GOGA** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**AHMAD**: I formerly known and addressed as **SAMIRA ZURKALAINI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMIRA AHMAD**, All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

**ALI**: I Formerly known as **ABBANA ALI ANAKAWA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED ALI**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**KAWAN**: I, formerly known and address as **CHERAM KAWAN**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **LAWAN CHARAM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**MAMMADU** I formerly as **FATIMA LAWAN** now wish to be known And addressed as **AISHA MAMMADU** . All former documents Remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

**GARBA**: I Formerly known and address as **SULEIMAN ABUBAKAR**, With old date of birth 15th January, 1966. Now Wish to be known and address as **SULEIMAN GARBA**, With new date of birth 1st January, 1966. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I Formerly Known As **KABIRU ALIYU AHMAD** Now Wish To Be Known And addressed As **KABIRU ALIYU** All former Documents Remain Valid General Public Should Take Note.

**JANZAKI**: I formerly known and addressed as **MUHAMMADU HARUNA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HARUNA MUHAMMADU JANZAKI**, All former Documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public note.

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

**MALA**: I, formerly known and address as **MALA MALAM GANA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MALA ALHAJI GANA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**MUSBAHU**: I, formerly known as **JIBRI MUSBAHU MUHAMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSBAHU JIBRI**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS **ABUBAKAR DAHIRU** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **UMAR DAHIRU**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE

**GONI**: I formerly known as **ALI GONI** now wish to be known as **ABBA-ALI GONI ABATCHA**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**SABO**: I formerly known and addressed as **ISA SABO MAMMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ISAH SABO**, All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

**SALIHU**: I, formerly known as **ABDULLAHI GARBA SALIHU** now wish to be known and addressed as **SALIHU ABDULLAHI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

**AMADU**: I, formerly known and address as **HAUWA AMADU**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **HAUWA AHMADU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**VERIFICATION OF NAME: MUHAMMAD**: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **WAKILI ADAMU** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **MUHAMMAD M. GONI**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINED VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I Formerly Known As **BASHIRU BOLAJI MUHAMMAD** now wish to be known And address as **BASHIRU MOHAMMED** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**ZAYYANU**: I was formerly known as **ZAYYANU UMAR ABDULLAHI** and now wish to be known as **ZAYYANU ABDULLAHI**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

**ADAMU**: I formerly known and addressed as **HASHIMU YUNUSA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ISAH ADAMU**, All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

**LAWAN**: I formerly known as **MUSTAPHA ABBAS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD LAWAN**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**MALAM**: I, formerly known and address as **MALAM YAHAYA MALAMI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED YAHAYA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**VERIFICATION OF NAME: ABUBAKAR**: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **ABBA IDRIS** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **ABUBAKAR ABBA IDRIS**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINED VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I Formerly known as **MARYAM SANI** now wish to be known And address as **MARYAM SANI DAN FULANI** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**CATHERINE**: I formerly known as **HARMONY INTL SCHOOL CATHERINE ANYEBE** now wish to be called as **CATHERINE ANYEBE** all former documents remain valid Fidelity Bank PLC first registrar general public all authority concern should please take note.

**ABUBAKAR**: I formerly known as **UMAR ALIYU** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD YUNUSA** . All former documents remains valid. Authorities concerned and general public to take note.

**MAI**: I Formerly known as **MAI ALHAJI KAYAMLA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MAI ALHAJI MAI GANA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**MOHAMMED**: I formerly known and addressed as **HABU KYARI BUBA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED HABU MOHAMMED**, All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS **UMAH ALHAJI MANYAHAYA** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **MANYAHAYA LIMAN** ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

I Formerly known as **HAPPINESS IKEH** now wish to be known And address as **HAPPINESS IKEH CHIAMAKA** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**DAHIRU**: I formerly known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR ALIYU** now wish to be known and addressed as **DAHIRU ABUBAKAR**. All documents bearing former name remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public to take note.

**ABDULLAHI**: I, **ABDULLAHI MALLAM USMAN**, do solemnly and sincerely declare that the names **ABDULLAHI MALLAM** and **ABDULLAHI MALLAM USMAN** are all referred to me and that I now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULLAHI MALLAM USMAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public to take note.

**BUKAR**: I Formerly known as **BAKAR SHETTIMA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SHETTIMA BUKAR SHETTIMA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**TRAFFORD**: I formerly known and addressed as **DANIEL SALVATION**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KUMBE GRACE TRAFFORD**. All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

**SAMIRA**: I formally known and address as **HANWATU DANANTU LAWAL** and now wish to be call and address as **SAMIRA IBRAHIM** date of birth is **20-08-1985** not **12-09-1984** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

**ALIYU**: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **BUHARI USMAN** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **BUHARI ALIYU**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE NOTE.

**BAMISAYE**: I, formerly known and addressed as **BAMISHALE HELEN** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **BAMISAYE BUKOLA HELEN** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

**HASSANA** : I formerly known as **YAGANA ABATCHA** now wish to be known as **HASSANA MOHAMMED**. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

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

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

**ABDULLAHI**: I formally known and address as **ABDULLAHI HADI** and now wish to be call and address as **ABDULLAHI HADI BUNGUDU** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

I Formerly known as **SALIHU M. IBRAHIM** and **SALIHU MALAM IBRAHIM** now wish to be known And address as **SALISU MALAM IBRAHIM** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**TUMBA**: I formerly known as **HAJARA AHMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **TUMBA AHMED**. All former documents remain valid concerned authority and general public should take note.

**YUSHA'U**: I, formerly known as **ADAMU YUSHAU** now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSHA'U ADAMU MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

**PATRICK** : I formerly known and addressed as **YOSI BITRUS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YOSI PATRICK**, All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

**MOHAMMED**: I Formerly known as **MOHAMMED SULAIMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**

This is to inform the general public that the original **CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY CON/RES/RC/82/417** situated at **FAGGE B. KANO STATE** now belongs to **ALHAJI ALI KOTE** got missed. All efforts to traced the said Documents remain abortive, **AUTHORITIES CONCERN** The General public and should take note. If found please return to the nearest Police Station.

**LEAGUE INITIATIVE FOR YOUTH AWARENESS**

The General public is hereby notified that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEE:**  
Old trustees  
1. JEJA ATTAHIRU MUHAMMADU  
2. SULEIMAN DIJE MUHAMMAD  
3. RUFAI RUQAYYAHMED  
4. SAGAGI MURTALA SABO  
5. IBRAHIM SAA  
6. YADUDU ALUWLU HAMISU  
Additional trustees  
1. SADIQ SABO KURAWA  
2. ABUBAKAR HUSSEINI  
3. NAJIB SABO KURAWA  
4. NAFISA SABO KURAWA

**AIMS AND OBJECTS**  
To breed young agricultural entrepreneurs  
To promote digital and technological literacy amongst Nigerian Youth

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Street, Maitama P.M.B. 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INVITED TO THE BURIAL CEREMONY OF THEIR DEARLY BELOVED FATHER, HUSBAND, BROTHER, AND UNCLE,

**LATE BENJAMIN NWOKE LLB**

**SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:**  
**THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY 2020** -WAKE KEEP  
**FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY 2020** -INTERMENT  
**TIME** -11:00AM  
**VENUE:** -BENJAMIN NWOKE'S COMPOUND, GBARAGU VILLAGE, AHANI ACHI, ORJI RIVER LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ENUGU STATE.

SIGNED:  
**PRINCE DAVID CHUKWUEMEKA NKWOKE-BEN**

**FOR THE FAMILY**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENTS :-**  
On 11/12/2019 at about 1100hrs, one Alhaji Mohammed Hala 'M' of Jiddari polo area Maiduguri came to GRA police station and reported that, on the 10/04/2014 fire gutted in to their house as a result of that, the following land Documents mentioned below got burnt. Original Grant right of Occupancy plot NO. 259 File NO. BO/21174, plot NO. 260 File NO. BO/21176 Bring the Name of M. Mustapha Mai Shinkafa, 'M' plot NO. 261 File NO. BO/21178 Bring the Name of Hajja Falmata Gajiram, 'F' plot NO. 327 File NO. BO/22589 Bring the name of Ibrahim Isa Ali 'M' and plot NO. 1281 File NO. BO/22416 Bring the name of Mala Ibrahim 'M'. All effort made to save it prove abortive, hence the report.  
**ACTION :-** The complainant was advised to go to court of law and swear to an affidavit. To enable him get replacement from the authority concerned. Entry made by PC Ali Emmanuel.

# 120 babies born in Abuja at New Year

The FCT Minister of State, Dr Ramatu Aliyu, on Wednesday donated baby items and cash to 120 babies delivered at selected primary healthcare centres across the six area councils of the territory.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the donation was part of activities celebrating the New Year in FCT.

Presenting the items in Chikuku Primary Health Care Centre in Kuje Area Council, Aliyu described the successful delivery by expectant mothers as "bundle of joy."

She prayed that joy would continue to radiate in FCT in 2020 and beyond.

The minister who was represented by Dr Iwot Ndaeyo, Acting Executive Secretary of FCT Primary Health Care Centre, advised mothers on early training of their children, adding that children were gift from God.

Aliyu also used the occasion to remind mothers of the need to ensure that their babies complete the routine immunisation before the age of two.

Similarly, the minister also

called on them to keep the immunisation card safe and accept all vaccines given during government approved immunisation campaigns.

"Note that vaccines are free in all Government Health facilities and you do not pay for cards, syringes or cotton wool.

" Report to the Primary Health Care Department in the Area Council should you be charged a fee for Immunisation services.

" Remember to take care of yourselves and be well and fit always so that your babies grow well and be useful to you

and the society.

" Attend Post Natal clinics and continue to take your routine medicines," she said.

Aliyu, therefore, reiterated the FCT administration's determination to support those in need and emphasised the desire to promote the culture of being brother's keepers at all times.

Speaking on behalf of beneficiaries, Mrs Rachael Senth, mother of the star baby in Chikuku Primary Health Care Centre, who was delivered at 3:05a.m. thanked the minister for the kind

gesture.

Senth said that the items and cash donation would assist mothers greatly.

The ministers team also visited old Kutunku Primary Health Care Centre in Gwagwalada Area Council, Kunchigoro Primary Health Care Centre in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and Ushafa Primary Health Care in Bwari Area Council.

Other centres visited were Bako Primary Health Care in Kwali Area Council and New Township Clinic in Abaji Area Council. (NAN)



■ Travellers return from the Christmas and the New Year holidays at Berger in Lagos yesterday

Photo: Benedict Uwalaka

## NNPC records 81% drop in pipeline vandalism

By Daniel Adugbo

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has announced an 81 percent drop in the pipeline vandalism incidences in the course of its operations in October last year.

The corporation, in its latest financial and operations report, stated that in October 2019, 35 vandalized-pipeline points, representing a decrease of 81 percent from

the 186 vandalized-points in September 2019, were recorded.

According to it, out of the vandalized points, eight failed to be welded, only one pipeline was ruptured, with Ibadan-Ilorin axis accounting for 34 percent of the breaks; while ATC-Mosimi and other routes accounted for 23 percent and 43 percent, respectively.

The corporation also announced a trading surplus of 13.23 billion in October

2019, representing an increase of 54 percent vis-à-vis the 8.59 billion surplus posted in September last year.

The NNPC explained that the figures reflected the sustained streak of positive results in the operations of the national oil company.

It stated: "To underline the increasing fortunes of the corporation in recent times, the September, 2019 trading surplus of 8.59 billion in turn indicated a significant increase

of 65 per cent compared to the 5.20 billion surplus posted in August 2019, even as that beat the 4.26 billion surplus posted in July 2019, reflecting an increase of 22 per cent."

The NNPC said the increase of 54 percent trading surplus in October 2019 accounts of the corporation was majorly attributable to improved trading surplus posted by its flagship Upstream subsidiary, the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company.

## Gbajabiamila, Wase mourn rep member, Gawo

By Balarabe Alkassim

The speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila and his deputy, Ahmed Idris Wase, yesterday expressed shock over the demise of a member of the house, Muhammad Adamu Fagen Gawo.

Before his death at a Dubai Hospital, Fagen Gawo, the two-term member represented Babura/Garki Federal Constituency of Jigawa State on the platform of APC.

He was the chairman of the House Committee on Constituency Outreach.

The speaker, in a statement by his spokesman, Lanre Lasisi, said he was deeply touched by the news of the lawmaker's death, describing it as painful.

"Rep Fagen Gawo was a truly committed lawmaker who meant well for his constituents and the country as a whole.

"I still have fond memories of Rep Fagen Gawo, who happened to be a gentleman that was always willing to offer himself for the service to the nation as a member of the house.

"Here was a lawmaker who exhibited high sense of maturity and statesmanship,

deep in his thoughts and wise in his counsel.

"He meant so many things to us. We all in the House would miss Rep Fagen Gawo. I pray the Almighty God will grant him a peaceful resting place in Jannah," the speaker said.

In the same vein, Wase in a statement by the his Chief Press Secretary, Umar Muhammad Puma, expressed shock and sadness over the sudden death of the lawmaker.

The deputy speaker described the death as a huge loss, saying the National

Assembly would miss the deceased's contributions on critical national issues.

"We have lost a friend and a brother the deceased has been known to be a hardworking and committed lawmaker whose views on key national issues were respected by his colleagues in the House.

"The late Fagen Gawo has worked very hard in the time he represented his constituency. We mourn him, but we are consoled by the undisputed fact that he left his giant footprints in the sands of time which should be emulated." Wase said.

## We're working to restore power to Kakuri---TCN

The Transmission Company of Nigeria says its engineers are working assiduously to restore supply to the three feeders affected by fire incident at Kakuri substation in Kaduna.

TCN General Manager, Public Affairs, Mrs Ndudi Mbah, made this known in a statement issued in Abuja on Wednesday.

Mbah said that a fault involving an underground cable connecting 60MVA 132/33 Kilo Volt (KV) T3 and its grounding transformer in the Kakuri transmission substation caused slight fire incident that affected the grounding transformer.

This, she said, had resulted in the temporary disconnection of power supply to three feeders: namely Arewa, UNTL and Ungwan Boro feeders.

According to her, the engineers were working hard to restore supply to the affected feeders by reconnecting supply through another 60MVA, 132/33kV transformer T1A in the same substation.

"Meanwhile, there is enough redundancy at Kakuri substation to ensure that all affected customers of Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company are reconnected to normal supply.

"Customers will, therefore, experience only a few hours of power outage for today, while TCN diverts the load to another transformer.

"TCN is equally mobilising to replace the affected grounding transformer to maintain N-1 redundancy at the substation, even as it arranges to repair the faulty grounding transformer," she said.

According to Mbah, all inconveniences caused by the few hours outage is regretted. (NAN)

## Omisore offsets N2.3m bills of 17 patients at OAUTH

A former Deputy Governor of Osun State, Senator Iyiola Omisore, has offset the bills of 17 patients who could not pay their medical bills after receiving treatment at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife.

Omisore disclosed this on Wednesday while celebrating the New Year with those who were on admission at the hospital.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the total amount paid by the former deputy governor on behalf of the patients was N2.3m.

Omisore said he had made it a point of duty to always celebrate the first day of the year with those who were not opportune to be in their respective homes to celebrate the yuletide and share the little he had with them.

"The health of the citizens is very important for the socio-economic development of the country.

"We are able to move up and down simply because we are healthy. If any part of our body is not functioning well, we will not be able to do that," he said.

Omisore appealed to good-spirited people in the society to assist other patients who were still in the hospital because of lack of money to offset their medical bills.

He commiserated with the hospital on the recent killing of its Chairman, Medical Advisory Council, Prof. Jerome Elusiyan.

In his remarks, the Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Prof. Victor Adetiloye, expressed appreciation to the former senator for making it a point of duty to visit the facility every first day of the year.

He noted that most of the buildings erected in phases three and four of the hospital were constructed by the politician. (NAN)

## NASFAT empowers Kano women with skills

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

The Nasru-lahi-I-Fatih Society (NASFAT) has empowered 40 women and girls of Chiromawa community in Kano with various skills such as yoghurt production, bead, pomade and soap making.

This is part of efforts to spread the concept of

community well-being which aligns perfectly with the Health, Education, livelihood and Da'wah (HELD) initiatives of NASFAT.

Speaking at the presentation of certificates to the beneficiaries of the skills acquisition, the Chief Missioner of NASFAT, Imam Abdul-Azeez Morufu Onike, advised them to consider the

opportunity as the spring board that will make them have good livelihood and realise their life aspirations.

In a statement made available to our correspondent in Lagos, Imam Onike buttressed the import of knowledge and skill acquisition with relevant Quranic verses, saying every individual has a right to enjoy

good life away from abject poverty saying "if we truly understand the spirit of being our brother's keepers and if we imbibe the correct teachings of our religion."

Hadjia Sadiat Onike-Azeez, the focal person for NASFAT-Carter Centre Collaboration enjoined the participants to spread the opportunity to fellow community members.



■ From left: Mother of the 'First Baby of the Year 2020' in Oyo State, Mrs Oluwadara Awoyemi; Coordinator of National Population Commission in the state, Mrs Omolara Adeyinka; Wife of the Oyo State deputy governor who represented the governor's wife, Prof. Bola Olaniyan; and Matron of Oyo State Government House Clinic, Ibadan, Mrs Lola Ajao with the 'Baby of the Year' Adeyemi, at Adeoyo State Hospital in Yemetu, Ibadan yesterday

Photo: NAN

## Minimum wage: Oyetola inaugurates implementation c'ttee

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

Osun State Governor Gboyega Oyetola has inaugurated a committee to work out the modalities for new minimum wage implementation.

His Chief Press Secretary, Ismail Omipidan, in a statement yesterday, said the governor inaugurated the committee in his office on Tuesday.

According to the statement, the governor urged members of the committee to arrive at a reasonable amount of increment that would ensure government to continue to pay

salaries as and when due.

Oyetola, who said his administration would work through the committee to arrive at a soft landing that would be pleasing to both workers and government, commended the labour leaders and the entire workforce for their cooperation and sense of understanding in the last one year.

"I thank the leadership of labour for their level of cooperation in the last one year. You made my transition from Chief of Staff to governor very simple.

"The welfare of workers is very important to me. That's why we pay their salaries promptly and in full.

"We're committed to paying the new minimum wage. But we need to now double up our IGR. It is very important to collectively drive the IGR because it is the only source for payment of the minimum wage.

"Thank God we've spent one year without rancour, no strike. We'll work together to have a safe landing that will be acceptable to the two parties.

"I'm delighted to see this

committee being inaugurated," the governor said.

Oyetola also gave an assurance that nothing would stop him from payment of full salaries as and when due.

The Head of Service, Dr Olowogboyega Oyebade, had earlier commended Oyetola for putting an end to the suffering of civil servants in the state.

The chairman of the Joint Negotiation Council, Bayo Adejumo, assured that labour leaders would cooperate with the government in the negotiation.

## Ondo rep member appoints 220 aides

From Bola Ojuola, Akure

A member of the House of Representatives representing Akoko North East/North West Federal Constituency of Ondo State, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo,

has appointed 220 special advisers, special assistants and personal assistants.

The lawmaker, in a statement yesterday by his Special Adviser on New Media, Alao Babatunde, said

the appointees were from all the 300 units and 23 wards of the Constituency.

According to the statement, the legislator, who chairs the House Committee on Niger Delta Development

Commission, also appointed persons from the mandate area.

He said the appointments, which took immediate effect, were aside the earlier ones announced.

## WIFCOH organizes 2nd charity concert in Kano

From Tijjani Ibrahim, Kano

Worldwide Initiative for Community Development and Global Healthcare (WIFCOH) has organized a fundraising charity concert in Kano for community development in the state.

The concert was planned to coincide with the arrival

of year 2020 during which numerous artists performed and spectacular fireworks carried out.

In her address during the concert, the convener Hajiya Baraka Sani, who was a former commissioner of Agriculture in the state and a former Senior Special Assistant to President Goodluck Jonathan

on Agriculture, said the fund raised would be used in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 16 initiative which deal with poverty, zero hunger, quality education, clean water and sanitation, good health and wellbeing.

We intend to use the funds in supporting/sponsorship of

1000 out-of-school girl-child and orphans including cost of books, uniform, mentoring and healthcare," she said.

Other community outreach programmes to be carried out include training and raising awareness of women in clean water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in order to ensure that every child

in five local government communities has access to safe wash services, she said.

She affirmed that entrepreneurship training for women in five local governments of Dala, Gwale, Fagge, Makoda and Kumbotso to empower inhabitants on new skills to alleviate poverty would be carried out.



## SPORT

Venus  
pulls out of  
Brisbane  
International

→ Pg - 47



## 2020 Olympics: Dare eyes podium finish for Team Nigeria

By Olusola 'Jide @jide\_olusola

The Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare has reiterated his desire in ensuring Team Nigeria gets podium finish at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

In a series of tweets on his twitter handle, Dare said his ministry will continue with the initiatives and restructuring that began upon his assumption of office in 2019.

"Earnest Work is Ongoing to rejuvenate Sports development in all ramifications in Nigeria. It's not a dash but a long distance race and we have started.

"We do not crave early applauds,

rather we want to use this given opportunity to change the fundamentals of sports development.

"We will do all within our powers to ensure that we make the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in Japan count for Nigeria and Nigerians.

"Our athletes will be exposed to the best training, competitions and camping possible. The process is already ongoing- and will be sustained," he stated.

He further said that his plans for the next two years will be centered on Infrastructure, athletes welfare, Grassroot Sports and Sports as a viable business.

"Our short term Sports Development Plan for the next 2 years gradually unfolds. It is focused on Infrastructure, Athletes Welfare, Grassroot Sports and Sports as a viable business," he concluded.

## Nasarawa Utd hold MFM in New Year Day clash

By Olusola 'Jide @jide\_olusola

The first Nigeria Professional Football League game in 2020 between MFM FC and Nasarawa United yesterday ended goalless at the Agege Stadium, Lagos.

The Match Day 11 clash which is also the first game of the new decade saw a struggling Nasarawa United looking to secure its second league win against an average MFM.

The Olukoya Boys at the early stages of the game were in controlling possessions while pegging their visitors in their own half in search for an early goal.

In the 10th minute, the away side should have opened the scoring through Tayo Fabiyi but for the heroics of MFM goal tender, Abayomi Folarin.

As the game wore, the Olukoya Boys began to fashion out goal scoring chances but were wasteful in front of goal.

In the 16th minute, MFM's Akanni Elijah picked out Oriyomi Lawal with a defence-splitting pass, who beats his marker to the ball but couldn't get a shot on target to the agony of the coaching crew.

Interestingly, towards the end of the first half, the visitors had a good spell as they played some tiki-taka



■ Akanni Elijah of Mfm and Idoko Friday of Adamawa during the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) Match between MFM and Adamawa Fc at Agege Stadium last year

football which the Lagos fans acknowledged and applauded them for.

At the restart of the second half with both sides remaining unchanged in terms of playing personnel, MFM once again had one of the best chances in the game

but just as they did in the first half, they failed to take them.

In the 60th minute, Elijah found Adeniji in space in the box who slid the ball with his right foot but it narrowly went off target.

Desperate to score, the home side were being kicked

and got freekicks in the process which they failed again to utilize well.

In the 83rd minute, it was a major scare for home side as Nasarawa substitute Dauda rounded off Folarin but his effort was cleared off the line by defender Joshua Akpudje

who injured himself in the process to help his team share the spoils.

Following this result, MFM dropped down to 10th position with 16 points while Nasarawa Utd overtook Enugu Rangers to take up the 19th position with 7 points.

## Nigeria women's volleyball team eyes 2020 Olympic slot

By Olusola 'Jide @jide\_olusola

The head coach of Nigeria senior volleyball women's team, Samuel Ajayi has vowed to secure the sole ticket to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The Nigerian side will be departing the nation today for Cameroon with twelve players, two coaches, the Secretary General and one referee as they prepare to

battle Egypt, Kenya, Botswana and host Cameroon from today to 10th January, 2020 for the sole ticket.

According to Ajayi, they are prepared to make history by qualifying for Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

The NSCDC coach expressed confidence that the players assembled will live up to expectation.

He said, "Nigeria is going to the qualifiers not for vacation

but serious business. This current team wants to make history by qualifying for the first ever Olympics.

"If you look at the final list, you will see that the team is filled up with players who performed well at the 2019 Nigeria Volleyball Premier League and I am confident that they will live up to expectation by pick the sole ticket".

He further said, "The players

resumed camping in the first week of December and since then have undergone rigorous and technical trainings. The team also reflected on the performance at the 2019 African Games and worked on some little flaws noticed.

"The team has the combination of top players from top clubs in the country including the Most Valuable Player, Ijeoma Ukpabi; the best spiker, Albertina Francis;

best setter, Sharon Achi; best defender, Jummai Bitrus and others".

The NSCDC gaffer said, "The NVBF President, Engineer Musa Nimrod has not stopped supporting us. If not for his tremendous support, it would have been almost impossible to participate. Since he came on board few years ago, Volleyball has been on the rise and at a different level completely.



# Governor Buni Response to Emergency..

## Yobe State end of year review



# Arteta registers first Arsenal win in victory over Man Utd



■ Clash of legs between Manchester United's Fred and Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang yesterday

Mikel Arteta has secured his first win as Arsenal manager following a 2-0 victory over Manchester United at Emirates Stadium yesterday. Ivory Coast international Pepe capitalised on a nervous start to the game

by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side, who lost for only the second time in 10 league games after failing to expose Arsenal's flaws in the way Chelsea had done in a 2-1 win on the same ground three days earlier.

Sokratis Papastathopoulos doubled Arsenal's lead just before half-time and the hosts' improvement was testament to Arteta's impact on a squad that has appeared disjointed for much of this season.

The revived performances of Mesut Ozil and Granit Xhaka in the Gunners' midfield will have particularly pleased the coach, who delivered Arsenal's second victory in 13 gruelling Premier League games that had seen them drop into the bottom half of the table, this result lifting them back up to 10th and offering cause for optimism at the start of 2020.

Arsenal move into the top half of the Premier League table,

four points behind fifth-placed Manchester United - and seven points above the relegation zone.

United are five points behind Chelsea and the Champions League places.

Arsenal are at home again on Monday when Leeds United visit in the FA Cup, following the Red Devils' trip to Wolves in the same competition on Saturday.

## Premier League results

Brighton 1-1 Chelsea  
Burnley 1-2 Aston Villa  
Newcastle 0-3 Leicester  
Southampton 1-0 Tottenham  
Watford 2-1 Wolves  
Man City 2-1 Everton  
Norwich 1-1 Palace  
West Ham 4-0 B'mouth  
Arsenal 2-0 Man Utd

## In tomorrow's AMINIYA

BABBAN LABARI

### Ba mu yarda a janye sojoji ba daga yankunanmu-Mutanen Maiduguri

A farkon makon nan ne Arundunar tsaro na Najeriya ta sanar da cewa za ta janye sojoji daga yankunan da aka samu zaman lafiya, domin maye gurbinsu da 'yan sanda.

Aminiya ta yi rahoto na musamman kan lamarin, sannan ta ji ta bakin mutanen yankin inda suka bayyana ra'ayoyinsu.

### Yadda da da mahaifiyarsa suka hada baki da fasto suka kashe budurwa domin tsafi

A jihar Ogun wani saurayi ya hada baki da mahaifiyarsa da faston cocin da suke zuwa wajen kashe budurwarsa, suka yi amfani da wani sashen jikinta domin yin tsafi.

### Yadda asalin Hausawa Kiristoci suka gudanar da bikin Kirsimeti

A makon jiya ne aka yi bikin Kirsimeti a faɗin duniya, inda Najeriya ma ba a su a baya ba.

Aminiya ta yi rahoto na musamman kan yadda Kiristoci Hausawa suka gudanar da bikin Kirsimeti na bana.

### Abin da muke bukata idan an fara aikin hako man fetur -Mutanen Bauchi

A ci gaba da shirye-shiryen da ake yi na fara hako mai a Karamar Hukumar Alkali na Jihar Bauchi, Aminiya ta ziyarci yankin, inda ta zanta da muatanen yankin kan ko suna murna, ko akasin haka.

A nemi Aminiya gobe!

## Jahanbakhsh stunner helps Brighton hold Chelsea

Alireza Jahanbakhsh said he has started 2020 "in the best way possible" after his spectacular overhead kick earned Brighton an unlikely point against Chelsea at the Amex Stadium.

The Iranian substitute, who scored his first goal for the club on Saturday, brought the home

support to their feet in the 84th minute with an early contender for goal of the month.

"When I was about to go on, I had a feeling I could have an impact on the game," he told Match of the Day.

"When I saw the ball, I just tried to hit it as hard as I could

and the bicycle kick was the only option. I'm going to watch it a couple more times.

"It has been a really tough time for me. I have been training well and working hard to get my chance. Luckily, it has gone the way I wanted.

"2019 didn't go as well as I

wanted. I tried to end the year as well as I could and I've started 2020 in the best way possible."

Cesar Azpilicueta gave the Blues the lead with his third goal of the season when he fired in from close range after Tammy Abraham's shot was blocked by Aaron Mooy.

## New tennis era kicks off with ATP Cup

Tennis' innovative new team championship kicks off the men's 2020 season on Friday, with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic among those looking for a winning start ahead of the first Grand Slam of the year.

The ATP Cup will see 24 nations split into six groups across three Australian cities, with eight teams emerging from the round-robin to compete in a knockout phase until one country is left standing.

It is the sport's newest tournament and the third men's team event competing for the hearts and minds - and dollars - of fans, along with a revamped Davis Cup and the

annual Laver Cup, which pits Europe against the rest of the world.

But it has already suffered setbacks, with major drawcard Roger Federer opting to give it a miss and Andy Murray and Kei Nishikori pulling out injured.

Despite this, world No 2 Djokovic said the move towards more team tennis was good for a sport best known for the individuality of its global superstars.

"More than 90 per cent of the time, we're playing as individuals and we don't have too many team events," said the Serbian great, who also heads the ATP player council.

"This is going to bring



■ From left: Tennis legends, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal

together a lot of nations and, for me personally, it will be a very nice and proud moment

to represent my country. An event like this is truly going to make an impact."

## Mourinho calls Southampton coach 'an idiot'

Tottenham Hotspur manager, Jose Mourinho, has admitted he deserved his yellow card against Southampton.

He however labelled a member of the hosts' bench "an idiot" over the incident that saw him booked.

Referee Mike Dean showed Mourinho a yellow card, after he approached the Southampton bench during the second half of the game at St Marys.

The Spurs boss appeared to try and look at their tactics on a piece of paper, which led to an exchange of words.

Speaking after the match, Mourinho said: "I think the yellow card is fair because I was rude, but I was rude to an idiot."

It's unclear who the Portuguese boss was referring to as "an idiot".

Southampton beat Tottenham 1-0 through Danny Ings' brilliant early strike and were good value for their win.

Spurs missed the chance to close within three points of fourth-placed Chelsea and ended the day six adrift of the Blues in the race for Champions League football.

## World Taekwondo sets deadline for Olympic Qualifiers

World Taekwondo has set 10th January 2020 as the normal registration deadline for the African Qualification Tournament for Tokyo 2020, which is scheduled to hold 22 - 23 February 2019.

For the critical qualification tournament, each country is eligible to register athletes in only four categories out of the eight Olympic weight categories, and the registration is to be done through the World Taekwondo Global Membership System.

Vice President of World Taekwondo and President of World Taekwondo African, Gen Ahmed Fouly, promised a good event.

"I expect that the African Qualifications will serve as an opportunity for the top elite African

athletes to display their skills. Rest assured that the World Taekwondo Africa and the Organizing Committee will do its utmost effort to ensure the success of the championships."

Dr Driss Halili, who is the President of the Morocco Taekwondo Federation and hosts, encouraged participants to display the highest spirit of Olympism.

"I hope that you and your honored athletes will come to this event to display the highest spirit of the Taekwondo as an Olympic Sport to be one of the African ambassadors to Tokyo 2020 games."

The tournament will be the only opportunity for athletes on the African continent to make it to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

## THE THURSDAY COLUMN

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### As we welcome a 'new decade'

In this reflection I am using the phrase welcoming a 'new decade' very cautiously as I am mindful of the controversy over whether January 1 2020 should be regarded as the beginning of a new decade or the end of the last decade. For those who argue that 2020 is the last year of the current decade, not the beginning of a new one, their argument is that because there was no Year Zero when the current era began more than 2,000 years ago, all decades, centuries and millennia begin with Year 1 such as 1-10, 11 to 20, 1991 to 2000, 2011 to 2020, meaning that 2020 is only the end of the last decade. However in a recent YouGov survey, 64 per cent of Americans said January 2020 is the beginning of a new decade, not the end of the last one. Many of the respondents argued that because people use the term 'decade' to discuss culture and chunks of history, it should run from 0 to 9, not 0-10. They also argue that the definition of a decade is just any 10-year span, and that where the first count begins is fairly arbitrary. I align myself with this 'non-professional' view.

My aim in this piece is to reflect on a few issues that impacted heavily on national discourse in the last ten years.

One of the remarkable debates during this period is on the nature and trajectory of the current wave of the country's democracy, which formally started on May 29 1999. Though democracy is a journey, not a destination, it has rather been a bumpy ride for the country. Luckily the democratic train has kept moving and has not fallen off its tracks. In what may perhaps be regarded as a consolation, some have made a distinction between mature democracies and societies in transition. The argument is that for societies in transition such as ours, democracy will actually aggravate the structures of conflicts in the short to medium terms because the free speech guarantees of liberal democracy will unleash many bottled up feelings from the era of authoritarianism. Following from this, it could be argued that some of the hiccups from our current democracy journey such as the rise of separatist groups and the widening of social distance among Nigerians, are 'normal' in this period of transition.

In transition societies, the chances of democratic reversals are quite high. This largely explains why each of the governments we have had since 1999 made efforts to constrict the democratic space. For instance, under Obasanjo politics was literally defined as a do-or-die affair, with a sitting governor kidnapped and some high-profile politicians like Bola Ige murdered. Obasanjo also used state agencies like the EFCC as attack dogs on his political opponents including instigating a Kangaroo impeachment of Governors he fell out with. Under Yaradua, the killing of hundreds of members of the Boko Haram in Bauchi and Yobe in

2009, including the extra judicial killing of its leader Mohamed Yusuf, helped to radicalize the group. Though the Buhari government claims it has degraded the terrorist group, the government seems unwilling to acknowledge the capacity of the group for re-inventing itself. For instance from initially attacking soft targets through suicide bombing, it now takes the fight to hard targets such as military bases.

Under the 'amiable' Jonathan government, the police orderlies of Aminu Tambuwaal, then Speaker of House of Representatives, were suddenly withdrawn after he decamped from the ruling PDP to the then opposition APC. Under Buhari not only are court orders being flagrantly disobeyed and regime critics detained, the government is mulling policing the internet and regulating the social media.

The good thing however is that Nigerians are not easily cowed. Nigerians and the Nigerian media remain boisterous and critical of government policies they are unhappy with. In essence, while our democratic journey may be moving in a zigzag fashion, the journey seems to be progressing all the same - despite the bumps and the snail pace of the ride.

On the economic front, quite a number of bold steps were taken over the years. While some successes were recorded such as in the telecoms sector (most Nigerians in urban centres now own mobile phones compared to the situation ten years ago) and in the internet sector (the country has one of the highest internet penetration rates in Africa), there seem to have been reversals in other areas. For instance following the rebasing of the country's GDP in 2013, the country not only became the largest economy in Africa but the 26th largest in the world. It was also at that time said to be one of the fastest growing economies in the world. In fact in 2014, Nigeria was included in the MINT emerging economies. MINT is a neologism referring to the economies of Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey. The term was originally coined by the Boston-based asset management firm Fidelity and popularized by the British economist Jim O'Neil, a former Goldman Sachs analyst, who had in 2011, coined the acronym BRIC to refer to the economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC was later turned to BRICS when South Africa was bracketed into the group).

The inclusion of Nigeria among the MINT economies raised hopes that it could spur the country to struggle to become a member of the G20 - as other MINT economies were. In the same 2014, Filipino billionaire, Enrique Razon, was quoted as declaring during the closing activities of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in 2014, that Nigeria was the best place to invest that year.

Remarkably just like our democracy journey, the trajectory of our economic progress has been up and down - to put it mildly. For instance a report by the World Poverty Clock in 2018 showed that Nigeria has overtaken India (which has seven times its population) as the poverty capital of the world, with 86.9 million Nigerians said to be living in extreme poverty. Also though the Obasanjo government paid off Nigeria's external debts to the London and Paris clubs in 2005 (when it paid off about \$30 billion in accumulated debt to the London and Paris clubs for about \$12 billion - an overall discount of about 60 per cent), Nigeria has once again turned into a heavily indebted country. For instance while Nigeria's total public debt stock in 2015 was \$63.80bn, (comprising \$10.31bn of external debt and \$53.49bn domestic debt), by June 2019, the total debt stock was \$83.883bn, (made up of \$27.163bn of external debt and \$56.720bn domestic debt). Despite this debt profile and the increasing depletion of our foreign reserves, the Buhari government still wants to borrow another \$30bn (equivalent to our total debt to the Paris and London clubs by 2005 when phrases like 'Debt burden' and 'Debt Overhang' spurred various global movements for debt forgiveness or cancellation of the indebtedness of African countries). While the Buhari government says it is borrowing to invest in infrastructure, many have wondered whether it was not precisely similar excuses that previous governments used to accumulate the debts that Obasanjo's government paid off on a discounted rate in 2005. People also wonder what happens to the billions of dollars the various anti-corruption agencies such as the EFCC and the ICPC often claim they have recovered.

Another major issue in the last decade is the farmers-herders conflicts across country. Though the issue predated the Buhari government, it became more generalized across the Southern parts of the country (rather Benue and Plateau states that used to be the epicentres of the conflict). While the primary cause of the conflict is struggle over environmental resources such as water and grazing land, the issue also conflates with the religious and ethnic divides in the country. For instance because Buhari, a Muslim Fulani, has not been able to show 'tough love' to the Fulani herders (as Obasanjo did with the OPC for example), there have been suggestions that he treats them with kids' gloves only because he shares the same ethnic and religious identities with them. In essence, while the primary cause of the conflict is economic and environmental, the mismanagement of the optics of the conflict means it now has conflated with ethnicity and religion.

In general, in the last ten years, there has been sharp contestations over the bases of the country's statehood - with words like 'restructuring', 'power shift', 'true federalism' and 'resource control' used as arrows in the contests. Remarkably, under Obasanjo and Jonathan, the contestations came mostly from the North while under the Buhari government the challenge comes mostly from the South.

## SPORT REPORT >>

2020 Olympics: Dare eyes podium finish for Team Nigeria → P. 45

### Venus pulls out of Brisbane International



■ Venus Williams

Venus Williams has pulled out of the upcoming Brisbane International after suffering a 'setback' in training, the former world No 1 said on Wednesday.

Williams, 39, was set to join world No 1 Ash Barty, Karolina Pliskova and Naomi Osaka in a strong field at the Queensland Tennis Centre from January 6-12 and the organisers said they would announce a wildcard to take her place in the draw.

"Unfortunately, I won't be starting my season in Brisbane due to an unexpected setback during my training," Venus, a seven-times Grand Slam winner who was handed a wildcard for the event, said in a statement.

"I look forward to being in Australia in the New Year and will see everyone at Adelaide."

The Adelaide International begins on January 13.

### Kenyans at the double in Sao Paulo's Sao Silvestre race



■ Kibiwott Kandie

Kenya's Kibiwott Kandie came from behind in a dramatic sprint finish to win the 95th edition of the popular annual Sao Silvestre race in Sao Paulo on Tuesday.

Kandie pipped Ugandan teenager Jacob Kiplimo on the line with a time of 42:59, becoming the first man to break 43 minutes for the 15-kilometre race through the streets of Brazil's biggest city.

Fellow Kenyan Titus Ekiru took third.

On a triumphant day for Kenyans, Brigid Kosgei easily won the women's race, breaking away early from the pack to finish in 48:54 - only one of three women to finish the event in under 50 minutes.

Kosgei's compatriot Jemina Sumgong set the record of 48:35 in 2016.