

STILL IN CAPTIVITY

11 SCHOOLGIRLS OF FGC, BIRNIN YAURI

566
DAYS

1 STUDENT OF BETHEL BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL, KUJAMA

538
DAYS

Fuel subsidy favours the rich more than the poor – Tinubu

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Social media users unsure CBN cash withdrawal limit will curb vote buying

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New Year: Govs promise better deliveries, preach peace

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Atiku, Tinubu kick as Obasanjo backs Obi

- It's a worthless endorsement – APC campaign
- Only the endorsement of Nigerians matter to us – PDP
- Why I backed Obi against Atiku, Tinubu – Ex-president
- Says Nigeria 'hell on earth' under Buhari

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Children and other residents celebrating New Year day in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, yesterday



Photo: Onyekachukwu Obi

Uncertainty dogs PDP as presidential poll gathers steam

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8 die, 22 injured in Ogun
New Year road crashes

P 6

NNPC, operatives destroy barge with
stolen crude, filling station in Delta

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Felling of trees, refuse dumping
putting lives at risk in Kano – Govt

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If we begin with certainties, we shall end in doubts; but if we begin with doubts, and we are patient in them, we shall end in certainties

– Francis Bacon



AFRICAN SAYINGS

“A little rain each day will fill the rivers to overflowing”

(African Proverbs)

Source: BBC collection of listeners' proverbs

WEATHER

Compiled by JAMIL H. SALIM

ABUJA	KADUNA	KANO	MAIDUGURI	Jos	SOKOTO	IBADAN	ENUGU	P/HARCOURT	LAGOS
MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	PARTIALLY CLOUD	MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	PARTIALLY CLOUD	PARTIALLY CLOUD	RAIN	RAIN SHOWER
35 22	33 18	34 19	36 19	29 17	36 21	33 23	34 23	25 18	31 24
MAX MIN	MAX MIN	MAX MIN	MAX MIN	MAX MIN	MAX MIN	MAX MIN	MAX MIN	MAX MIN	MAX MIN

(Temperature in centigrade)

PRAYERS TIMES

JUMADA AL AKHIR 9, 1444 AH

PRAYERS	ABUJA	ENUGU	KADUNA	KANO	KATSINA	LAGOS	MAIDUGURI	P/HARCOURT	SOKOTO
FAJR	5:29	5:29	5:32	5:31	5:36	5:46	5:14	5:29	5:45
DHUHR	12:37	12:38	12:38	12:33	12:37	12:55	12:16	12:41	12:45
ASR	3:50	3:51	3:51	3:41	3:50	4:08	3:29	3:54	3:58
MAGHRIB	6:20	6:21	6:18	6:11	6:14	6:39	5:54	6:25	6:25
ISHA	7:25	7:26	7:23	7:16	7:19	7:44	7:01	7:30	7:30

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna



PHOTO OF THE DAY

■ A boy hawking balloons to fun seekers in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja yesterday

Photo: Onyekachukwu Obi

STOCK INDEX

GAINERS	CAVERTON	PRESCO	AIRTELAFRI	CWG	MORISON	LOSERS	ROYALEX	FIDSON	UACN	MBENEFIT	ETI
OPEN	N0.99	N137.50	N1635.00	N1.01	N2.17	OPEN	N1.06	N9.00	N10.25	N0.27	N10.60
CLOSE	0.09	12.50	147.00	0.09	0.19	CLOSE	-0.11	-0.80	-0.85	-0.02	-0.70
CHANGE	10.00%	10.00%	9.88%	9.78%	9.60%	CHANGE	-9.40%	-8.16%	-7.66%	-6.90%	-6.19%

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ADVERTORIAL

2023: Governor Inuwa's Campaign and Mass Movement of Support, Solidarity in Gombe State

By Yakubu Bayambe

When Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya recently flagged off his gubernatorial campaign at the Pantami township stadium, it was as if to say no one was left out from reaching the mainbowl of the stadium. On that day, the crowd was incredibly massive, with security men and other volunteer forces having their hands full controlling the mammoth crowd nay APC supporters who defied the scorching sun to catch a glimpse of the man of the moment and equally pay their respect and solidarity to a political colossus they fondly view as a bulldozer of purposeful development.

Speaker after Speaker at the event, including the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Senator Abdullahi Adamu took turns to eulogies the sterling performance of Governor Inuwa Yahaya who they likened to a quintessential crusader of democratic values embedded with transparency, accountability and good governance.

However, on the 12th of December when the Gombe Governor began his ward to ward campaign, the least was yet to be seen of the crowd, ecstasy and the abiding faith that usually greets the Governor's campaign rallies.

So far the Governor has successfully traversed about 70 political wards scattered across the 7 Local Government Areas of Balanga, Kaltungo, Kwami, Shongom, Billiri, Akko and Yamaltu Deba. The astonishing sights and sounds of the campaign rallies of the Governor leave one in total bewilderment as to the magic wand Inuwa deployed to command such an avalanche of love and affection.

From the political wards of Balanga, to those in the mountainous areas of Kaltungo, Shongom and Billiri as well the ones in the savannah plains of Kwami, Akko and Yamaltu Deba, the sheer display of support and solidarity to the re-election bid of Inuwa Yahaya in particular and the APC in general was way beyond elementary knowledge.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya who is campaigning on the heels of incredible performance as attested to by some reputable national and international organisations, told the people that providing democracy dividends remains the major pre-occupation of his administration, hence his penchant for work and more work.

Apart from the completed and ongoing projects across the State, the Governor seems to be showing no sign of slowing down the pace of governance despite the ongoing electioneering campaigns. A case in point was the recent approval of over 3 billion naira for the rehabilitation of some roads within the state by the Executive Council. And even while on the campaign train, Governor Inuwa Yahaya did not stop short of making mouth watering promises such as the reconstruction of the Nyuwar road and extension of that of Jessu in Balanga as well as the construction of Gada Uku-Sansani Road in Billiri local government area among so many others.

This workaholic spirit of the Gombe State Governor was amplified by speakers at the various campaign grounds, who equally appealed to voters to remain true to the All Progressive Congress from top to bottom.

The second phase of the Governor's campaign

has now commenced after the Christmas break with the usual conventional ward to ward tour, beginning with Akko in Gombe Central. Like Gombe South, political analysts within the realm of the APC are projecting an avalanche of political enthusiasm from the two other Senatorial Districts.

The goodwill so far enjoyed by Governor Inuwa Yahaya points to his ecclesiastical approach to governance and purposeful leadership. His

response to developmental issues affecting the people through the strategy of inclusive governance is not only heartwarming but reassuring.

The plethora of achievements in health, education, Agriculture, infrastructure, industry, civil service reforms, human capital development among others make the APC stands firm and ready for a resounding victory from top to bottom.



IN-DEPTH

Social media users unsure CBN cash withdrawal limit will curb vote buying

By Joshua Odeyemi

Some Nigerians on social media have expressed their views on how the new Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s policy on cash withdrawal will affect the outcome of the 2023 general elections in the country.

The CBN governor, Godwin Emefiele, had on October 26, 2022 announced that the apex bank would redesign three naira notes.

He said the bank had obtained approval from President Muhammadu Buhari to redesign N200, N500 and N1000 notes, adding that the new notes will come into effect by December 15.

He further disclosed that over 80 per cent of the total cash in circulation was outside the banking system, adding that "N2.73 trillion out of N3.23 trillion exists outside the commercial bank."

And on December 6, 2022, the CBN rolled out another policy. This time, it announced the pegging of maximum over-the-counter (OTC) cash withdrawal per week for individuals at N100,000 and N500,000 for corporate organisations.

However, 15 days later, the apex bank announced an upward review of its cash withdrawal limit policy as individuals can now withdraw N500,000 cash weekly and up to N5 million for corporate entities from January 9, 2023.

CBN said the review was based on feedback it got from stakeholders after issuing the December 6 circular.

That notwithstanding, many Nigerians are of the view that these policies are targeted at vote buyers who would have stocked huge money ahead of the general elections in 2023. The general belief is that these individuals would be forced to return the money to the bank as the old notes would be phased out in January while it would also be difficult to withdraw huge sums afterwards for the purpose of vote buying.

Vote selling and buying have increased since after the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) made some technological innovations in the electoral process which made rigging difficult.

The off-season elections in Ekiti and Osun states experienced massive vote selling and buying.

Speaking on the Ekiti election, the Centre for Democracy and Development, CDD, revealed that its field observers documented 41 instances of vote buying and selling at polling units across six local government areas (LGAs) during the governorship election.

The Chairman of CDD's

Election Analysis Centre (EAC), Prof. Adele Jinadu, said vote buying took the patterns of cash collection in brown envelopes to disguise the content in order to avoid arrest by the anti-corruption agencies.

During a two-hour Twitter Spaces session on Friday organised by *Daily Trust* in partnership with CDD, some social media users expressed their views on the new CBN cash withdrawal limit and how it will impact the 2023 general elections.

One of the speakers with the handle @Waziri75 argued that the CBN's policy will still allow those intending to buy votes to withdraw huge amounts individually and through their companies as most of them are company owners.

"I don't think this policy will curb vote buying during the 2023 election because clearly, corporate organisations can withdraw more money. Of those who are in the business of vote buying, the majority of them own corporate organisations. So, what's the point?"

"Those who want to buy votes will not wait till the day of the election before they start withdrawing money for vote buying. I believe that they already have the money in stock."

"You can't expect those people who are in the business of vote buying to start waiting for banks before they get money. This is Nigeria," he said.

Similarly, Munelo said vote buying has been happening since the beginning of democracy in Nigeria. "My mind went to what happened in the Ekiti and Osun elections where some people were arrested for sharing money among voters. Vote buying has been here with us for a while but it's just now that everything has been reduced to money."

"In the 1983 elections, I know that in the villages, whenever they came for the town halls or campaigns, they came with a lot of goodies to distribute to would-be voters."

"If we should go by what happened in Ekiti and Osun elections, I want to tell you that it would be foolhardy for these parties to do the vote buying the way they have been doing it."

"Even without the CBN's policy on the limit of cash withdrawal, these people would have been looking for a way to do the same thing in different ways. If you look at the Osun election, we discovered that there was a way they know that this person has voted for their person before the payment is made. So, since the money is not paid before the election, they can devise another



■ Voters waiting to cast their votes in Abuja

Photo: Onyekachukwu Obi

means.

"So, I don't really see the possibility of the policy having effects. Maybe in the remote areas where people don't have these banking facilities or don't understand how it works but in other areas, especially in the South West, it would be easy for them to transit from physical cash to digital cash. In fact, I don't think that is the target of the CBN policy," he said.

Yyi Harry, who hailed the policy, however, said Nigerians might be underestimating the powers of the politicians.

"When it comes to vote buying, I think we are underestimating the powers of these so-called looters and politicians. First of all, these monies are not looted into personal accounts, but mostly through companies. You are giving a company N5 million weekly limits. It's going to be difficult for an individual to move money from the bank in a bullion van but if a company comes this week or four or five weeks before the election and starts withdrawing N5 million every week, I don't think it will raise any red flags."

"So, what I believe in the cash withdrawal policy is that vote buying might still happen but this policy will reduce it to an extent."

Maryjane Nwalupue thinks the politicians always have their ways, and that they could resort to giving out valuable gifts to voters. "I don't believe that the cash limit is going to stop vote buying," he said.

Also, Abubakar Haruna Abubakar argued that the CBN policy would not in anyway curb vote buying.

"They have so many ways to buy the votes, not only through money sharing. They also buy valuable items and distribute them to the voters," he said.

Seyi Shenba also shared the

opinion that the cash withdrawal limit will not have any impact on the election.

"During the last election, we heard of people moving money with bullion vans. These people have access to MDs of banks that they can easily call and move money around for them, they don't go to the bank and line up," he argued.

On his part, Abdullahi Abubakar lamented that the old naira notes were still being dispensed by the ATM, expressing pessimism that the policy will work. He said most Nigerians only see the new naira note on the television.

He predicted that the CBN might extend the deadline to withdraw the old naira notes from circulation, saying: "They are supposed to circulate the new naira notes but they are nowhere in circulation. Go to the rural area, you can't find the new naira notes anywhere."

Dr N. Aminu, Abdullahi Lala and Ifanyi Samuel all believe the politicians would find their way around the policy, stressing that the solution to vote buying lies with the Nigerians who can either decide to take bribes or not.

Dr N. Aminu said: "Anybody that is willing to sell their vote for cash can also do so with digital payment or other forms of incentives. Withdrawal limit has never been a tool for stopping voter fraud. So, why are we using it in Nigeria? Where have we seen it successful? This is a dead-on-arrival policy."

Samuel said a politician who has about 100,000 special assistants can withdraw any amount through them to buy votes during the election.

However, there are a few others who believe the policy will go a long way in curbing vote buying during the election. "We all know that vote buying is illegal and

the first thing you want to do is to avoid any trail when you are carrying out illegal activity. The way vote buying happens, you will know it is what is going on. A night before the election, you notice a lot of transfers from someone. It is not a wise thing to do by transferring money into people's accounts. The prosecution would be so easy."

He said the policy will affect political parties differently. "This is Nigeria where some animals are more equal than others. Honestly, I am not sure this CBN policy will apply across the board. I am not going to be surprised if some people are still able to get the bullion vans during the elections the way they normally get them. There might be some powerful persons who may be able to circumvent these CBN rules and still get the cash the way they normally get it."

Similarly, Idowu Israel is of the view that the policy would reduce vote buying in 2023. "We all know that vote buying has been a part and parcel of the electoral process. The politicians have weaponised poverty where people now see N2000 as what is going to sustain them for the rest of their lives. It is easier for the moneybag politicians to use that as a strategy to lure voters."

He said the redesigned naira notes and the withdrawal limit will work well together as people would have to take back to the bank their old money.

Olaekan Gabriel said it would be difficult to buy votes by transferring cash while Samuel Oseh believes the policy could go a long way in curbing vote buying.

This report and the Twitter Spaces discussion on the impact of the CBN cash withdrawal limit on vote buying was done in collaboration with the Centre for Democracy and Development. The views expressed are not the position of CDD or Media Trust.

Monday, January 2, 2023

Atiku, Tinubu kick as Obasanjo backs Obi

By Saawua Terzungwe & Baba Martins (Abuja), Peter Moses (Abeokuta)

Presidential candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the major opposition party, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday lampooned former president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, for declaring support for one of the presidential hopefuls, Labour Party's Peter Obi.

In a special New Year message released to newsmen Sunday afternoon, Obasanjo said though none of the contestants is a saint but when compared in terms of knowledge, discipline and what they can offer, Obi has an edge over others. He therefore called on youths to rally round the LP candidate.

Obasanjo also took a swipe at Tinubu and Atiku, saying 'Emi Lokan' (My turn) and 'I have paid my dues' are one and the same thing and are wrong attitude and mentality for the leadership of Nigeria now.

In a swift reaction, the APC candidate described the endorsement as "worthless" that would not pose threat to his ambition, while the PDP, on its part, said it was not looking for the endorsement of any individual.

Daily Trust reports that both Tinubu and PDP's Atiku Abubakar, had at different times met with Obasanjo and sought for his blessings.

I'll not lose sleep over Obasanjo's choice - Tinubu

Tinubu in a statement by the Director of Media and Publicity of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, Bayo Onanuga, described the endorsement as worthless, which will not make him lose sleep.

He said Obasanjo does not possess any political goodwill or leverage anywhere in Nigeria to make anyone win an election.

Part of the statement reads, "We pity Peter Gregory Obi as we are confident that Chief Obasanjo cannot win his polling unit and ward in Abeokuta for Obi in the coming Presidential election on 25 February, 2023.

"Chief Obasanjo's endorsement is not a political currency Mr. Peter Obi can spend anywhere in Nigeria because he is not a political force, even in his part of the country.

"Chief Obasanjo similarly endorsed Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Peoples Democratic Party candidate in 2019 against President Muhammadu Buhari. Atiku was walloped by Buhari with a wide margin in the election.

"History will repeat itself in February as our candidate, Asiwájú Bola Ahmed Tinubu will equally beat Obi by a large margin," he said.

The APC candidate accused the former president of "Always opposing progressive political forces, as he did against MKO Abiola in 1993."

Only the endorsement of



■ Obasanjo

Nigerians matter to us - PDP

In its reaction, the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said it is only concerned about the endorsement of the Nigerian people and not that of an individual no matter how important the person is.

The National Publicity Secretary of the party, Debo Ologunagba told Daily Trust on phone that Nigerians have endorsed PDP and Atiku Abubakar, saying that the endorsement of a single individual does not bother them.

"Nigerians have endorsed PDP, they have endorsed Atiku Abubakar and that is happening on a daily basis. You can see that from the reception from our campaigns. Our recent victories in Osun, FCT and others are indicators. We are confident that the PDP will win irrespective of whatever endorsement that is given because experience on the ballot matters," Ologunagba said.

The party spokesman further said the "Endorsement of Obasanjo is that of an individual and it is within his rights to endorse whoever he wants. But as a party, our focus is to get the endorsement of the Nigerian people, no one person endorsement will translate to vote one way or another.

"As important as Obasanjo might be, what is important is that it is within his rights to endorse who he wants, but we are focused on the Nigerian people for their endorsement. What is important is that Nigerians have seen what is happening and they cannot be carried away by an endorsement from an individual. That is why as a party, we are focused on the issues of the election.

"What are the issues? Insecurity, nepotism, inexperience in government, the lack of preparedness of the APC government, which is apparent, those are the issues. The PDP has provided Nigerians with candidate Atiku Abubakar, who has adequate experience for the task ahead. That is why many people even from the APC are coming in to join Atiku. They are leaving the party because they know the true situation of things," he said.

Why I backed Obi against Atiku, Tinubu - Obasanjo

Obasanjo's position was contained in an open letter titled: "My Appeal To All Nigerians, Particularly Young Nigerians", which was made available to our correspondent in Abeokuta, Ogun



■ Atiku

State, by his Special Assistant on Media, Kehinde Akinyemi.

In the six-page letter, the former president said his decision was informed by his interactions with the major contestants, who he referred to as his "mentees".

He said Nigeria needs "Selfless, courageous, honest, patriotic, in short, outstanding leadership with character and fear of God beyond what we have had in the recent past".

Obasanjo said the attitude of entitlement "cannot form the new pedestal to reinvent and to invest in a new Nigeria based on an All-Nigeria Government for the liberation and restoration of Nigeria.

"Such a government must have representation from all sectors of our national life - public, private, civil society, professional, labour, employers, and the diaspora. The solution should be in 'we' and 'us' and not in 'me' and 'I'.

The former president identified "Track record of ability and performance; Vision that is authentic, honest and realistic; Character and attributes of a lady and a gentleman who are children of God and obedient to God; and Physical and mental capability with soundness of mind" as factors that should form the decision of youths while voting for their choice in the 2023 election.

Obasanjo said, "None of the contestants is a saint, but when one compares their character, antecedent, their understanding, knowledge, discipline and vitality that they can bring to bear and the great efforts required to stay focused on the job particularly looking at where the country is today and with the experience on the job that I personally had, Peter Obi as a mentee has an edge.

"Others like all of us have what they can contribute to the new dispensation to liberation, restoration and salvaging of Nigeria collectively. One other important point to make about Peter is that he is a needle with thread attached to it from North and South and he may not get lost.

"In other words, he has people who can pull his ears, if and when necessary. Needless to say that he has a young and able running mate with a clean track record of achievement both in public and private life."

Says Nigeria 'hell on earth' under Buhari

Obasanjo lamented that the



■ Tinubu

last seven and a half years of President Muhammadu Buhari administration "have no doubt been eventful and stressful years for many Nigerians.

"We have moved from frying pan to fire and from the mountain top to the valley. Our leaders have done their best, but their best had turned out to be not the best for Nigeria and Nigerians at home and abroad. For most Nigerians, it was hell on earth," Obasanjo said.

He urged Nigerians, especially the youths to "Brace ourselves for the remaining few months of this administration and pray and work very hard for an immediate better future - future of liberation, restoration and great hope and expectation."

Obasanjo said the 2023 elections would be a unique opportunity for Nigerians to "correct ourselves by ourselves for the good of ourselves."

The former president said those preaching division, segregation, separation as "Enemies of the nation, no matter what else they may disguisedly profess or proclaim."

How candidates lobbied ex-president for support

Our correspondent reports that all the major presidential candidates had visited Obasanjo at different times to seek his blessing.

On February 26, 2021 PDP's Atiku Abubakar, who was then aspiring for the party's ticket visited Obasanjo in Abeokuta.

Obasanjo and Atiku had turned political foes during the second term of the administration between 1999 and 2007.

Daily Trust reports that in 2018, Obasanjo said he had forgiven Atiku for some grievances he had against him while in office and endorsed him as his candidate for the 2019 presidential election. But Atiku lost the contest to President Buhari.

On August 17, 2022, the APC presidential candidate, Tinubu, met with Obasanjo in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

Tinubu met Obasanjo as part of his consultation and fence-mending process to actualise his presidential bid.

His chopper landed at 1pm within the premises of Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library (OOP), Oke Mosan, Abeokuta.

Tinubu was received by Governor Dapo Abiodun, his Deputy, Noimot Salako-Oyedele and former governors Olusegun Osoba, Gbenga Daniel and other



■ Obi

APC bigwigs, who were already on the ground, who accompanied him to the meeting.

Daily Trust reports both Tinubu and Obasanjo were silent on the outcome of the closed-door meeting.

But Gbajabiamila while speaking the following day at the Surulere Local Government Area (LGA) APC meeting in Surulere, Lagos, reportedly said Obasanjo backed Tinubu's candidacy during the meeting.

"Obasanjo spoke at length and we were all happy. He embraced our candidate like a brother, gave him a pat on the back and prayed for him copiously," he reportedly said. In what appeared to be a twist, Obasanjo denied endorsing Tinubu, saying the statement credited to him was fake and that the people behind the report are not helpful to the candidate.

Obasanjo said, "Those claiming to be insiders at the meeting issuing statements on the discussion and those crediting to me statements I had not made are enemies of the visitor and are not doing the visit any good."

Obi had also met with Obasanjo at least twice over his ambition in Abeokuta.

In July, Obi alongside his running mate, Dr Yusuf Baba-Ahmed, the LP National Chairman, Julius Abure, and the Senior Pastor, Trinity House Church, Ituah Ighodalo met Obasanjo at his penthouse residence.

The LP candidate via his Twitter handle disclosed his visit to Obasanjo, which he hinged on the matter of national interest.

He also met Obasanjo in September.

Former Kano State governor, Sen Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, also visited Obasanjo on May 20, shortly before he emerged as the presidential candidate of the New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP).

His visit alongside the leaders of the NNPP including the Ogun State Chairman, Oginni Olaposi, was to seek Obasanjo's backing on his presidential bid.

Kwankwaso, who was governor of Kano State during Obasanjo's first term, was also appointed as minister of defence by Obasanjo when he failed his re-election bid.

Daily Trust could not get Kwankwaso's reaction to Obasanjo's endorsement of Obi yesterday as his campaign and party spokespersons did not respond to our reporter's request for comment.

8 die, 22 injured in Ogun New Year road crashes

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

At least eight persons have died, while 22 others sustained varying degrees of injury in two separate accidents in Ogun State on Sunday.

Our correspondent gathered that the first accident occurred along the Lagos-Ibadan expressway, which claimed seven lives.

The spokesman for the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Ogun Command, Florence Okpe, said the accident occurred a few metres before GOFAMINT on the highway.

According to her, a total of 25 persons, comprising 17 male adults and eight female adults were involved in the accident.

Okpe said the accident involved a Toyota Hiace bus, marked AKD 693 XW and a Mack tanker, with registration number, GZA 215 XA.

"A total of 16 persons sustained various degrees of injury (10 male



■ Dauda Biu, Corps Marshal, FRSC (NIA), Ambassador Ahmed Rufa'i Abubakar, in a ceremony well attended by members of the diplomatic community as well as other eminent personalities from all over the country.

"The suspected cause of the crash was excessive speed on the part of the Toyota bus driver who lost control and rammed into the moving truck from behind as a result of speed.

"The injured victims were taken to Victory Hospital, Ogere for medical attention while the corpses were deposited at FOS morgue, Ipara", Okpe said.

The second accident occurred along the Sagamu-Benin expressway and claimed one life while six others were injured.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE), Babatunde Akinbiyi who confirmed the accident said, the accident involved a Toyota Sienna with registration number, EL 839 FST and a Toyota RAV 4 marked, 6172 DLA.

Akinbiyi said the vehicles had head on collision.

Hoodlums kill wife of Ebubeagu Commander in Ebonyi

From Nabob Ogbonna, Abakiliki

The police in Ebonyi said hoodlums have shot and killed the wife of the Commander of Ebubeagu Security Outfit in Afikpo-South local government area of the state. The command spokesperson, SP Chris Anyanwu told reporters in Abakiliki that the hoodlums also set the commander's house ablaze.

"A report filed in by CSP Ayodele Umujose, the Divisional Police Officer, Afikpo-South Division in the state, has it that the Ama-Etiti Amaoso Edda Youth Leader, Nnachi Mba, reported that at about 0230hrs on Jan. 1, 2023, the house of the Afikpo-South Ebubeagu Commander, Oyeku Kalu Chima located at Owutu Edda, was attacked. "His house was set ablaze while his wife, Chima was killed by the attackers.

"It has not been

established who perpetrated the dastardly act. The said Ebubeagu Commander alleged that it was one Okporie Ashango and his cohorts that did it.

"The Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Aliyu Garba, has directed that immediate investigation be activated by the Deputy Commissioner of Police in-charge of the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (SCIID) to unravel those behind the crimes.

"Further to that, detectives of the SCIID and operatives of the Command's Tactical Teams have taken over proceedings in the area as the CP orders that the perpetrators must be fished out and brought to book pronto.

"It is rather unfortunate that mischief-makers are still fomenting fracas in the state in spite of the grace of witnessing a new year!," the police spokesman added.

2023: Emirs of Katsina, Daura sue for peace, national unity

From Tijjani Ibrahim, Katsina

The Emir of Katsina, Dr Abdulmumini Kabir Usman and that of Daura, Dr Umar Farouq Umar, have called for peace and national unity ahead of the 2023 elections.

The two monarchs made the calls separately in their palaces in Katsina and Daura respectively while addressing a crowd that attended turbaning ceremonies held at the two palaces on Saturday.

In Katsina, the emir turbaned the Director General of the Nigerian Intelligence Agency

(NIA), Ambassador Ahmed Rufa'i Abubakar, in a ceremony well attended by members of the diplomatic community as well as other eminent personalities from all over the country.

In his address shortly after the turbaning, the emir called on the citizens of the country to embrace one another irrespective of tribal, sectional or religious inclination in order to move the country forward.

"Nigeria is gathered here today, you the ones in charge of policy formulation and implementation, do

everything within your ability to better the lives of our citizenry. If you do that, Almighty God will be with you, empower you and strengthen you, but if your intention is to protect your personal interests, then you should know that you are not with God," he said.

He added that as the election period was fast approaching, people must exercise restraint and know that God has already decided who will be elected.

In Daura, the emir turbaned Assistant Comptroller of Immigration, Abdulkarim

Abdullahi, as the Jakadan Daura Babba.

The turbaning ceremony was performed at the emir's palace in Daura by 12 pm and was well attended by prominent personalities from far and near.

The new Jakadan Daura Babba is currently the Passport Control officer (PCO) in the Edo State Command of the Nigerian Immigration Service.

In his address, the emir called on Nigerians to embrace peace and togetherness before, during and after the general elections for the betterment of the country.

Arsonist nabs in Benue for vandalising classrooms

From Hope A. Emmanuel, Makurdi

The police in Benue State have arrested a suspected arsonist for allegedly setting ablaze a block of classrooms at RCM Primary School in Moi-Igbo, Mbalom in Gwer East Local Government Area of the state.

Bemdoo Atoba, the suspect was said to have set fire to the classroom's block to cover up his tracks after he allegedly stole a computer from the school building.

The spokesperson for the Benue Police Command, SP Catherine Anene, who confirmed the incident at the weekend, assured that the matter would be thoroughly investigated.

"The suspect is in custody and the

investigation is ongoing" Anene said.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Benue State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Comrade Joseph Utse, has condemned the burning down of the classroom block at RCM Primary School, Moi-Igbo, Mbalom by Atoba who is a member of the community.

Utse expressed his displeasure when he visited the scene of the incident with SUBEB management shortly after the Head Teacher of the school, Timothy Ukurodu, explained to him that the suspect is known for criminal activities in the community and that he (suspect) allegedly burgled the school, went away with a computer system and burnt down the block to

make it seem the computer got burnt alongside other equipment.

The head teacher further disclosed that the suspect, Atoba, was traced by the youths and caught with the stolen computer system.

But, the SUBEB chairman said burning the school was a demonstration that the community was not ready for education as he promised to give feedback of the meeting to the governor.

Earlier in his welcome address, Education Secretary, Gwer East Local Government Education Authority, Kadev Joseph appreciated the SUBEB chairman for taking time to come and see things for himself. He expressed dissatisfaction with the behavior of the criminal,

promising that he must face the wrath of the law.

On his part, Tyoor Mbalom, HRH Saa-kuma Tov, who spoke through a community opinion leader, Henry Watsav, noted that elders of the community were considering banishment of the hoodlum and requested that the criminal attitude exhibited by the young man should not deter the state government from allocating projects to the community even as he described the criminal as a bad egg.

The Mbalom Youth leader, Natu Christian, who spoke for youths of the affected community, narrated how the youths played a critical role towards rescuing most of the chairs and tables that were in the affected block despite the fire.

THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF YOBE STATE UNIVERSITY, DAMATURU HAVE A CAUSE TO SMILE

The Governing Council of Yobe State University had concluded its 34th regular meeting on December 30, 2022. The Chairman of the Council, Alhaji Ahmed Mustapha Goniiri Esq said that a total of 215 Academic and Non-Academic Senior and Junior Staff of the institution were promoted to various ranks.

The Chairman also stated that the Council had considered the progress made towards the completion of projects in the university. The projects include hostel at the Clinical Section of the College of Medical Sciences at Yobe State University Teaching Hospital and the Faculty of Agriculture.

The Governing Council appreciated the support of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Yobe State Hon. Mai Mala Buni CON in developing the university.

The Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Professor Mala M. Daura stated that the promotion of the staff is part of the Council's responsibility, and it is a way of taking staff welfare seriously in order to encourage the staff to do more in future. The staff, particularly those promoted were advised to justify the gesture made by the Council.

Uwani Zainab Mamuda
Deputy Registrar, Information and Protocol Unit
For: Vice-Chancellor

Daily Trust

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2023: FG tasks workers on policies implementation

By Abbas Jimoh

The federal government has tasked federal workers to uphold the civil service rules in discharging their responsibilities ahead of the 2023 general elections transitions.

This is contained in the 2023 New Year message from the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HoCSF), Dr Folasade Yemi-Esan, on Sunday in Abuja.

"I wish to state that the civil service must not lose sight of its agelong function of guiding the Government of the day in the formulation of policies and driving their implementation in the interest of national development and the continuum of governance.

"The importance of these roles cannot be overemphasized particularly in view of the fast-approaching transition of the governance of the country. It is our responsibility as custodians of extant rules and policies to continue to provide professional and ethical counsel to our political leaderships in a manner that would ensure the stability of the service and sustain the confidence the executive and other arms of government have reposed in the service," Yemi-Esan said.

The HoCSF said the beginning of the New Year provided an opportunity for workers and all Nigerians to reflect on the preceding year because it was a crucial aspect of the learning process.

She said, "Our recent journey towards the transformation of our identity and mission has indeed been quite eventful. Consequent upon the devastating effects of COVID-19, we resolved to look inwards and take proactive steps to ensure that the Civil Service is able to play its critical role in the disrupted space.

"Thus, our reform programme driven within the framework of the Federal Civil Service Strategy and Implementation Plan 2021-2025 (FCSSIP 25) which was fine-tuned by all stakeholders at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic has garnered remarkable momentum as key deliverables of the plan have begun to materialize.

Aisha Buhari welcomes First Baby of the Year

By Dana Daniel Zagi

The wife of the president, Mrs Aisha Buhari, welcomed Abuja's first baby of the year at the Kubwa General Hospital on Sunday 1st, January 2023.

Baby Chimemeka Testimony Uchenna – the third child of the family of Mr and Mrs Victor Uchenna – was delivered at exactly 12:03am and weighed 3.2 kg.

Welcoming the baby among other children born on New Year's day, Mrs Buhari who was represented by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Administration and Women Affairs, Dr Rukaiya Gurin, presented gift items including postnatal care products, nutritional supplies and cash to babies.

Speaking on the importance of pre and postnatal care, the

president's wife urged mothers to practice exclusive breastfeeding and ensure they immunize their babies among other basic health practices.

"Mothers and pregnant women are advised to attend antenatal and make sure their babies are delivered in a hospital," she said.

She also presented gift items to the first babies of the year from 2012 to date, alongside other children celebrating their

birthdays.

The Director, Child Development in the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Mr Ali Andrew Madugu, appreciated Mrs Buhari for her motherly role and generosity in championing the cause of women and children in the country.

In his welcome address, the Managing Director of the Kubwa General Hospital, Dr Lasisi Muhideen, thanked the

government for giving the hospital all the necessary support it needs for optimal operations.

Mr Victor Uchenna, the father of the baby, thanked the president's wife for the kind gesture while expressing joy for the privilege to see the New Year.

The first lady's entourage also went round the ward sharing gifts and goodwill to other parents and their babies as well as a gift to the hospital.

8:00-10:30 pm
Tuesday 3rd January, 2023

Zoom meeting details
Link: <https://bit.ly/3G40PBZ>
Meeting id: 849 3291 3609
Passcode: 838491

Organisers
Kano Concerned Citizens Initiative (KCCI)
Kano Against COVID-19 Initiative

SPECIAL GUEST
MAI MARTABA MUHAMMAD SANUSI II
*Sarkin Kano na 14
Khalifa of Tijjaniyya*

CHAIRMAN
ALHAJI SHEHU MOHAMMED
*Sarkin Shanun Kano,
Chairman KCCI*

HOST
HON. AB MAHMOUD, SAN
*Convener Kano Against
COVID-19 Initiative*

SPEAKER
PROF. TIJJANI NANIYA
*Department of History,
Bayero University, Kano*

DISCUSSANT
MAL. IBRAHIM ADO-KURAWA
*Independent Researcher
and Scholar*

REP OF CSOs
PROF. JIBRIN IBRAHIM

REP OF FAMILY
MUSADDIQ BASHIR TOFA

An Honour well deserved!

On behalf of my family, I wish to heartily rejoice and congratulate a worthy Nigerian, Amb. Ahmed Rufai Abubakar, the Director General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) on his official turbaning as the Sardaunan Katsina by His Royal Highness, Dr. Abdulmumin Kabir, CFR, the Emir of Katsina.

Your conferment and coronation with the prestigious title of Sardaunan Katsina is a testimony to your selfless service to mankind, your trustworthiness, detribalised nature and patriotism to the nation.

I share in your joy and pray to Allah to bless you with good health and longer life to continue serving humanity.

Congratulations!



H. E. Amb. Ahmed Rufai
Abubakar, CFR
Sardaunan Katsina

SIGNED:

Rt. Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji
National Coordinator Baba For All



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INSIDE POLITICS



It's pay back time for Tinubu. It is time to give him that support. Northerners don't have any reason not to support him — Kano State governor, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje

PDP crisis: G-5 govts to storm Bauchi for Bala campaign flag-off

● We're not aware – State party spokesman

By **Baba Martins (Abuja) & Hassan Ibrahim (Bauchi)**

Amidst efforts by some stakeholders to resolve the lingering crisis in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) ahead of the February 25 presidential poll, the G-5 governors are set to storm Bauchi State to flag off Governor Bala Mohammed's campaign for a second term.

Daily Trust reliably gathered that following unresolved issues between Governor Bala and some politicians loyal to the PDP presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar, the governor has decided to turn to the G-5 for succour.

The source, who is close to members of the Integrity Group, disclosed that barring

any last-minute changes, the five aggrieved governors would fly to Bauchi to flag-off Bala's campaign billed for Wednesday.

The source also said, "As I speak with you, the G-5 governors are ready to attend Bala Mohammed's campaign flag-off in Bauchi. All arrangements have been concluded, and I can confirm that to you. Except any new development comes up which I do not envisage, the governors will be in Bauchi."

The source also stated that the governors would move from Bauchi to Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, to also attend the campaign of one of their members, Governor Seyi Makinde, billed for Thursday, January 5.

Even though he has not openly declared his

membership of the G-5 governors, Bala Mohammed has been having a running battle with Atiku Abubakar, accusing the PDP presidential candidate and his supporters of working against his re-election bid.

In a letter written to the national chairman of the party, Dr Iyorcha Ayu, dated November 3, 2022, Mohammed alleged that Atiku had threatened to "punish" him for contesting against him during the party's presidential primary in May.

Bala had also threatened that if the issues were not resolved, "I may withdraw from the PCC and feel free to create new measures and strategies that would guarantee the election and re-election of all PDP candidates in Bauchi and myself."

However, when contacted, the Chief Press Secretary to the Oyo State Governor, Taiwo Adisa, confirmed to Daily: "Yes, I can confirm to you that all is set for the flag-off of his excellency's campaign on Thursday."

We're not aware - Bauchi PDP

But the Bauchi State chapter of the PDP said it is not aware of the G-5 governors will attend the campaign flag-off of Governor Bala Mohammed.

In a phone chat with our correspondent yesterday, the state publicity secretary of the party, who is also the spokesman of the campaign committee, Yayanu Zainabari said, "I cannot give you any assurance about their coming because I don't have any information of whether they are coming or not."



■ Gov. Bala

INEC should deliver credible polls – Bayelsa dep gov

From **Bassey Willie, Yenagoa**

Bayelsa State deputy governor, Senator Lawrence Ewruhjakpo, has urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and President Muhammadu Buhari to do everything for the country to have free, fair and credible polls this year.

Speaking with newsmen shortly after attending the New Year's Day mass at the Saint Paul's Catholic Parish, Ofoni in Sagbama LGA of the state yesterday, Ewruhjakpo

described 2023 as a year that offers great possibilities for Bayelsa State in particular and Nigeria in general.

In a statement by his Senior Special Assistant on Media, Mr Doubara Atasi, the deputy governor who thanked Bayelsans for their support and resilience, emphasised that 2023 has a positive outlook with great opportunities for the state despite the challenges facing the country.

He however pointed out that for such opportunities to become reality, Nigerians, especially

those in authority, must strive to abide by the rules governing the conduct of public affairs.

He said, "First of all, we want to thank God for guiding us through 2022; a very turbulent year, but God saw us through. And now we are in 2023 by His grace and mercy.

"2023 is a year with a lot of possibilities. It is an election year, and we believe that the federal government and the electoral umpire will do all that is necessary for us to have a free, fair, credible and equitable election."

Why Nigerians must elect credible leaders – Obaseki

From **Usman A. Bello, Benin**

Edo State governor, Godwin Obaseki, has asked Nigerians to vote for credible candidates who have the capacity to end the avalanche of challenges bedevilling the nation.

The governor made the call yesterday in Benin at St. Matthew's Cathedral Church while speaking with newsmen

shortly after the New Year's thanksgiving service.

He said Nigeria would be great again if the various challenges facing it were nipped in the bud by the right leadership.

The governor said the forthcoming general elections would present an opportunity for the electorate to make the right choices, adding that it is a

year of hope.

He asked all registered voters to collect their PVCs ahead of the polls, saying, "2023 is a year to be optimistic about. A year we hope and pray that we can begin to do the right thing for ourselves and our country.

"Things are difficult, but we see opportunities, and things must turn around in the state and the country is blessed."

Jos residents ask INEC to bring PVCs to polling units

From **Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos**

The Jasawa Community Development Association (JCDA), yesterday, called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to bring the Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) to polling units, saying that would enable eligible Nigerians to easily collect them.

The group made the plea through its president, Shehu Ibrahim Masallah, at the general congress of the association held in Jos, where they adopted their constitution.

He said, "INEC has registered Nigerians, including members of our community. Even at registration times, it wasn't as easy as it should be for the people to get registered

because they had to travel some distance in our case before being registered.

"Now that the cards are ready, it is also difficult for the people to get to the Jos North INEC Area Office for collection. We are told by INEC that the cards would be brought to registration areas in each electoral ward, but that is not an easy way for all to get there to collect their cards."

My health challenge stale news, rubbish – Tinubu

From **Salim Umar Ibrahim, Kano**

The All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate, Bola Ahmad Tinubu, has described the much-taunted health challenge associated with him as stale news.

Tinubu, who spoke in an exclusive interview with Kano's premier independent radio, Freedom Radio, while on lesser Hajj in Saudi Arabia, said he had 'just' finished observing seven rounds between Safa and Marwa, which an ill person could not.

Tinubu's critics have consistently argued that he is not fit to govern Nigeria on account of alleged ill-health.

But he said, "Ah! I told you where I am now. I just finished performing the Umrah. I did the seven rounds of tawaf, I did the seven trips between Safa and Marwa by myself. Can a sick person do that? That is stale news, my brother. People who are making those insinuations have nothing else to say but lies and rubbish.

"Yes, I am here in Saudi Arabia. It is a personal trip. It is a trip for spiritual rebirth. I like coming to perform the Umrah every now and then. It is an opportunity to connect with Almighty Allah, Lam ya lid wa lam yulad. We need his guidance. Nigeria is in need of prayers, and that is why we are here praying for our country, self and society," Tinubu said.

Speaking about his media

presence and boycotting interviews, he said he had instead been engaging people directly and indirectly.

"What do you mean? Are we not having interviews now? I just finished talking to people through town-hall meetings and speaking directly to people. Those saying that are losers, and they will lose.

"I have moved around, spoken on different platforms, and stood for hours to address different audiences. Before, they said I could not walk; they said I could not stand. They were shamed. Since the campaign started, I have marshalled more original ideas than anyone else.

"I have demonstrated knowledge, experience and a great capacity to be on top of issues in the country. And this job is about ideas and issues regarding the leadership of our country.

"I have all it takes to be the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and I am asking the people of the country to have confidence and respect for that. Look at my background and my previous assignments. I want to serve the country and serve the country very well.

"By the engagements we are having, it is clear that we are going to win this election. As the elections draw closer, the signs are clear, and that is why our opponents are jittery. They have now resorted to peddling fake news and quoting some of my statements out of context just to score cheap points."

Monday, January 2, 2023

By Baba Martins

Uncertainty dogs PDP as presidential poll gathers steam

Dark clouds are hovering over the chances of the leading opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) reclaiming power at the February 25, 2023, presidential poll.

While other political parties and their candidates have intensified their campaigns aimed at 'grabbing' power, PDP is campaigning in the midst of an intense crisis threatening to tear it into shreds.

Pundits say the most worrisome is that those at the centre of the crisis are power brokers in the party.

Political analysts have predicted that if the opposition party does not resolve the crisis, there is the possibility that it's outing in this year's election would be futile.

The crisis rocking the party is due to an avalanche of interests by various bigwigs in the party ahead of this year's general polls.

Daily Trust reports that five aggrieved governors with the name G-5, who are members of the party led by Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike, are insisting that the party's national chairman, Dr Iyorchia Ayu, must resign while another party stalwart from the South takes over his role.

It all started when Wike failed to clinch the party's presidential ticket and was also not considered for the vice presidential slot as the presidential candidate of the party, Atiku Abubakar, picked Delta State governor, Ifeanyi Okowa, as his running mate.

Credible sources in the PDP have hinted to our correspondent that with the development, some National Working Committee (NWC) members, Board of Trustees (BoT) and some state executives are also divided along the Atiku/Ayu versus Wike/G-5 governors lines and ready to join forces with their principals.

The G-5 governors are Nyesom Wike (Rivers), Samuel Ortom (Benue), Seyi Makinde (Oyo), Okezie Ikpeazu (Abia) and Ifeanyi Ugwauny (Enugu).

The G-5 governors have been holding meetings both within and outside the country, strategising on their next political direction. They have also consistently said they would not work for Atiku, but remain in the party.

Analysts have predicted that they would either pick the presidential candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu or Peter Obi of Labour Party (LP).

Controversy over zoning

The PDP right from inception cherished the principle of zoning its offices between the North and the South as enshrined in its constitution.

However, consensus and intrigues played by those who were eyeing the 2023 presidential ticket of the



■ Ayu



■ Atiku



■ Wike

party brought former Senate President Iyorchia Ayu as the national chairman of the party.

Before the emergence of Ayu, a committee set up by the party and headed by the Bauchi State governor, Bala Muhammed, to evaluate the party's performance in the 2019 elections and find a way forward towards winning the 2023 elections had advised the party not to zone the presidential ticket but look for a qualified and acceptable Nigerian that can wrest power from the ruling APC.

Daily Trust gathered that while those from the South saw the emergence of Ayu as an opportunity for the South to produce the presidential candidate, the northern stakeholders saw Ayu as the one that would pave the way for someone from the North to emerge as the party's presidential candidate.

A sign that all was not well started when the Benue State governor, Samuel Ortom-led committee on the zoning of the presidency threw open the race for aspirants from across the country.

Even though Ortom told newsmen at the Benue Lodge in Abuja, the venue of the final meeting of the committee, that their recommendation would be subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party and failed to state their position, it became clear that the committee had jettisoned zoning.

In a communiqué after the NEC meeting that preceded the submission of the committee's report, the National Publicity Secretary of the party, Debo Ologunagba, told newsmen that the decision followed the outcome of the

recommendation of the zoning committee put together by the party.

Forms sale/convention

The party also compounded the situation when on the day it set up the Ortom committee to decide on zoning, equally announced the commencement of the sale of forms and said it was open to all aspirants.

First to buy the form was former Vice President Atiku Abubakar from the North and the eventual winner of the primaries.

In all, 15 aspirants bought the party's expression of interest and nomination forms to contest the party's presidential ticket, but at the end of the day, only 13 contested the primaries.

Among the top contenders were Atiku Abubakar, Nyesom Wike, former Senate presidents, Bukola Saraki and Anyim Pius Anyim, governors Bala Muhammed, Aminu Tambuwal and Udom Emmanuel among others.

As the convention drew nearer, it became clear that the battle was between Wike and Atiku.

At the convention venue, stakeholders believed the results could have gone either way before the intervention of Sokoto State governor, Tambuwal, who stepped down and asked his supporters to vote for Atiku.

After the collation of results, Atiku polled 371 votes, followed by Wike who got 237 votes and Saraki who scored 70 votes.

Battle for VP slot and agitations

Immediately after the primaries, the winner of the poll, Atiku, visited some of the aspirants including Wike.

A committee was also

constituted by Atiku and the party to find a common ground on who becomes the vice presidential candidate of the party.

After extensive meetings and deliberations by the committee, three names - Udom Emmanuel, Nyesom Wike and Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta who became the eventual VP candidate - were nominated to Atiku to select one.

Trouble started after the announcement of Okowa by Atiku, with Wike and his supporters who had hitherto thought he would be the chosen one having come second to Atiku at the primaries, feeling aggrieved.

Governor Wike and his camp had insisted that the presidential candidate of the party and its national chairman, Ayu, cannot come from the same zone and demanded the resignation of Ayu to allow for what they called equity, justice and fairness to prevail.

They vowed that until Ayu vacates his seat, members of the group - governors, some members of the NWC and former party leaders - would not work for the emergence of Atiku as president.

Atiku himself recently said he has met with Wike on several occasions within and outside the country, but the issues remained unresolved.

Already, the Rivers governor, while commissioning a project in his state recently, disclosed that he would soon announce his preferred presidential candidate.

Even though the PDP and the Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) have said the decision by the governors would not affect the party, many are skeptical

that it would go a long way in determining the fate of the party in the forthcoming elections.

The spokesman of the Atiku/Okowa Campaign, Senator Dino Melaye, had warned the governors that any move by them (G-5) to support the APC candidate would signal the end of their political career.

Melaye said, "No blackmail, hate, or envy will stop Atiku. Attacking Atiku will cost them their political future. You don't fight a man who has done nothing to provoke you. Atiku's only offense is that he won a presidential primary transparently and openly conducted."

"No man should play God. It is too late to stop Atiku. They should have a re-think. Atiku will be president because the people have decided. My advice to the G-5, is don't end your political career because of an inordinate ambition that will yield no result. If they take that step, it will be the last kick of a dying horse."

On his part, the national publicity secretary of the party, Debo Ologunagba, said the party has not ruled out the chances of settlement with the aggrieved members.

According to him, the governors still remain members of the PDP, "they have not said they are no longer members of the party and as such, there is always the possibility of settling the issues that are in contention."

He also disclosed that the issue of reconciliation is not a hundred-meter dash, but a marathon one and that the party was still very hopeful of settling its issues and going into the election as a united political party.

OPINION

Email: letters@dailytrust.com
Text: 08131800030

Nigerian airline status 2022: What is next in 2023

By Tilmann Gabriel

For the last 70 years, Nigeria has been aiming to develop a healthy airline industry, originally as a one national airline construct, as so many other nations, then leaning towards a minority share with reputable airlines, now focusing on a primarily private airline industry, as customary in most economies around the world.

The only successful airlines in Africa are currently all owned by their respective governments: Ethiopian Airlines, Royal Air Maroc, Egypt Air. Most other national carriers owned by their governments (i.e. Kenya Airlines, South African Airways, Air Mauritius) are struggling to survive. What is the truth then, looking at this airline business, specifically in Africa.

Business is an infinite game, never ending, with new rules and new players all the time, frustrating for executives and employees to remain the number one, never sure if this is sustainable for the years to come. 'Too big to fail' is a book that describes the dilemma of executives who have to innovate a huge company to stay abreast with changing rules and aggressive new players.

In Nigeria, the largest African nation by people, all initiatives to launch a sustainable National Carrier were doomed to fail. Nigeria Airways, founded in 1958, was the longest symbol of Nigerian national pride. This author counted some 130 AOC (Air Operator's Certificate) holders in Nigeria, which went under in those 70 years of Nigerian airline industry, assuming this is a world record. Many of these 130 airlines were only flying for a few years, after spending lots of money (an airline launch costs at least 150M USD today), energy and disappointed hopes. Nigeria Airways was the longest existing airline so far, shut down in 2003, after 45 years in the domestic, regional and international skies.

Key reason for the demise of Nigerian Airways was the involvement of the Nigerian government, dictating fares, rules and free tickets for many. No airline can survive such intervention in the revenue creation. Sucking the lifeblood out of an airline, which has critical costs in the US dollar (aircraft leases, fuel, foreign fees), is a sure recipe for failure. Eventually, the then government was no longer able to substitute such failure. What happened with the next hope of a successful Nigerian airline project, Virgin Nigeria? An agreement for Virgin Nigeria, to use the same terminal for domestic and international operation in Lagos, was no longer honoured by the new government elected in 2007. Eventually, the 51 per cent government majority share in Virgin Nigeria was left with the pull-out of Virgin's 49 per cent, and with it the loss of the international relations and the Virgin supplied aircraft. Successor Air Nigeria was not able to survive without the Virgin assets and expertise.

Why is Ethiopian Airlines successful then as a 100 per cent government owned airline? Not a short story. Over 70 years, it grew mainly organically, slowly and with realistic budgets and expectations. The main difference was that the management, still led today by the highly regarded Girma Wake as chairman, was never directed by the government and by the inevitable changes of governments in a democracy. Today, Ethiopian Airlines is the leading African Airline, with a 20 per cent profit margin and a strategic plan to double its fleet of 130 aircraft by 2035. Vision, strategy, and a highly competent management governed by a Board of experts is the key for success. Disruptive innovations, adjusting to the fast changes in aviation (for

example, ET's new cargo focus during the years of COVID), lean cost structures and as a reliable contractual partner with its lenders and aircraft lease companies, have made Ethiopian Airlines a valuable African airline.

Is this possible in Nigeria as well? The Buhari administration, early on in its life, agreed on an aviation roadmap with a national airline, a leasing company, a maintenance company, and an aviation university as its key components. Under the Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, all these roadmap projects are well under way, proof of a successful strategic political direction of the government. It is important that the next elected government continues this direction and present a stable aviation industry in Nigeria to the world, based on international aviation laws and supportive political governance.

The Private Public Partnership (PPP) concept, which governs all these aviation projects, ensures that it is not the government's and taxpayers' money, which the success of these aviation companies is based on, but a consortium of industrial investors, carefully selected by the independent Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission's (ICRC) governed privatisation process. This way the Government has initiated its political strategy to create a profitable aviation industry in Nigeria but sustain from political influence and the reliance on taxpayers' money.

The African continent is looking into a brighter future, the aviation industry is going to grow rapidly. Airlines will be a key infrastructure development for the continent, driven by the African Union's Agenda 2063. African free trade, combined with an open sky for African based airlines is the prerequisite for this development, which shall improve the infrastructure of the continent and contribute well above five per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product, but also create tens of thousands of jobs. The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) will be the frame for the success of those African airlines, which get it right. Serving not only their own country but many of the 54 African nations, as flying between those nations will be enabled by SAATM. It is high time that Nigeria therefore has a strong domestic airline to cope with the SAATM challenges of an Africa wide competition.

The existing airlines in Nigeria are organised in the Airlines of Nigeria (AON) and Nigeria Air, the new National Carrier, has meanwhile applied for its membership as well, becoming a respected party of the common interests of the Nigerian airline industry. Some member airlines objected recently against the Ethiopian shareholding (49%) in Nigeria Air, starting a court case. The Aviation Union called this recently an unpatriotic attack on the interests of Nigerian aviation. At the end, Nigeria Air will be launched, the AOC application is in 'phase three' at Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), the launch is very near. The PPP process governed by ICRC is also about to close, with the Federal Executive Council's approval of the contracts with the investor consortium to be signed shortly. The decision process of selecting the preferred bidder consortium of respectable Nigerian owners and Ethiopian Airlines was completely transparent and managed by the ICRC governed PPP procedures.

Nigeria Air will be a new competitor in the Nigerian market, adding to the existing airlines. In short, the new year 2023 will have added choices for domestic flights for all customers, soon also on the regional and international markets.

Tilmann Gabriel lives in Abuja tilmann.gabriel@airline-management.com

[MY PERSPECTIVE]
GAMBO DORIgambodori@dailytrust.com
07083532912 (Text only)

The year-end: A time to reflect

I write today on the last day of the year, which as it is in the continuum, would also herald the arrival of the new year. Abuja, where I live, is unusually silent for a Saturday as I drove out early this morning for a walk in the Millennium Park. But what do you expect when a substantial proportion of the city has left for other destinations to celebrate Christmas and the New Year? I reside on a hilltop with some view of the Adetokunbo Ademola crescent, that part of Abuja that is said to, never sleep. But today, when I drove out to the park everywhere was silent with hardly a vehicle or two on the road.

The park was serene with only a handful of fellow walkers and a lone jogger. Though the sun was climbing and bright, its heat was tempered by the light harmattan chill and haze that was all about. The air was crisp, nevertheless and only the swishing sound of sprinklers was audible, raising water high up and spreading on the impeccably kept lawns. A brisk and quiet walk on a milestone such as this day was conducive to deep introspection and reflection. Thus, as I walked, I fell into a deep reverie, recalling events long past, juxtaposing them with today and gazing ahead into the future.

I recall the days of growing up in Maiduguri in the late 1950s and early 60s – a town legendary for its peaceful atmosphere that brought together all the diverse groups in Nigeria mixed with the citizens of the surrounding countries to grow a regional metropolis and a great trading centre. It was the independence era, but Nigeria was, unfortunately, getting set to go through those tumultuous mid to late 60s when the country was on tenterhooks with political strife leading to military coups and fighting a civil war to remain in one piece. In that later period, I was a school student at Government College Keffi, nearly a thousand kilometres away from the comfort of my Maiduguri home. But it was also home, as it was one of the few colleges owned and run by the Northern Nigerian Government, which spared nothing to make the environment conducive to the learning experience for growing-up boys.

When the war ended in early 1970, we were warming up for university. Most of us aspired to go to ABU Zaria, then the biggest university south of the Sahara. The university was then the only one we had in the North. Getting into ABU for most of us was like checking into a 5-star hotel with everything provided. At graduation, everybody would have a job in either the public service or the buoyant private sector. But we watched with the utmost incredulity as everything began to unravel in the mid-80s with principally the naira dipping for the first time below the dollar to the incredible rate we have now.

2015 was supposed to be a watershed but we have watched

how all our hopes crumbled with increasing insecurity. It is the year starting tomorrow that we set our hopes again with the same political parties asking for a mandate from us again. As I drove back home after the walk, I mused over the year 2022 – a year set in our political calendar to produce candidates for national and state elections next year.

From my perspective, the two leading parties, APC and the PDP both have great presidential and vice-presidential candidates for us to choose from. I have no personal knowledge of Ahmed Bola Tinubu, the APC presidential candidate but his reputation as Lagos State governor has never left the front pages. Those of us who have known Lagos, before Bola Tinubu's time and what it is today should expect what is

2015 was supposed to be a watershed but we have watched how all our hopes crumbled with increasing insecurity. It is the year starting tomorrow that we set our hopes again with the same political parties asking for a mandate from us again.

possible when he becomes president.

Kashim Shettima, the APC vice-presidential candidate would be more well-known to me, having been governor of Borno State where I come from and lately the Senator representing my Borno Central District. He established a reputation as a can-do person as governor when in his eight-year rule he grappled with the Boko Haram terrorist who had occupied most of the state. By the time he was in the second term as governor, the terrorist had been severely degraded. He then had the opportunity to go after other development pursuits in education, health and rebuilding infrastructure.

I was posted as a director in Atiku Abubakar's office when he was vice president and bear witness that he is a consummate politician with a burning desire to rule this country. In the early years of the Obasanjo administration, he was the fulcrum of the government delivering on those sweeping public service reforms that were a credit to their regime. It's a pity that in the second term, he ran into stormy waters with President Obasanjo and ended up a lame duck in the administration. The vice-presidential candidate, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa is reputed to have run the ship of state in Delta as governor with an even keel. He has been particularly credited with burying the perennial antipathy between the major ethnic groups, the Urhobo, Itsekiri and Ijaw.

It is a tough choice, but we have to go through it, for the sake of growing our budding democracy and rebuilding hope for the country.

EDITORIAL

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

Revisit Contributory Pension Scheme 2004

Two bills before the House of Representatives for the amendment of the Contributory Pension Scheme, sponsored by the Nigeria Police Force, are a loud outcry over the silent pains pensioners in Nigeria endure under the current Pension Reform Act 2004. In the bills, the police are seeking several reviews to the act to exempt the Nigeria Police Force from the CPS and other related matters, including the payment of 75 per cent of their retirement benefits immediately officers exit the force, and the criminalisation of any delay in the payment of such retirement benefits. The Inspector-General of Police, Usman Baba Alkali, is solidly behind the new moves, as he was represented by a top official at the hearing on the bills last week.

Lamenting how the CPS has negatively affected retired police officers, a Deputy Inspector General of Police, Sanusi Lemu, told the hearing, chaired by the Speaker of the House, Femi Gbajabamila, why the police should exit the scheme. Using comparative analysis to press home his argument, the DIG said, "The highest retirement benefit of a Deputy Superintendent of Police under this obnoxious pension scheme is N2.5m and that of an Assistant Superintendent of Police is N1.5m, while their equivalent in Army (captain) and DSS are paid N12.8m and N10.3m respectively. Upon retirement, the monthly take-home of a retired police DSP is just N31,600, while that of a captain, an equivalent in the army, is N180,000. While for a Police Inspector it is N15,000, a Warrant Officer, the Army equivalent of a Police Inspector, takes home N120,000."

Pension is designed to provide workers with a means of securing, on retirement, a standard of living, reasonably consistent with that which they enjoyed while in service. However, what many retirees earn cannot achieve this objective. Though the Pension Reform Act (2004) is an improvement on the old, fraud-ridden pension scheme, on implementation, the Contributory Pension Scheme thrust retirees into such penury that was not envisaged. It is unrealistic for a retired police inspector and his family to survive on N15,000 under the current economic condition.

The old pension scheme for civil and public servants, inherited from the colonial era, depended on 100 per cent funding by the government through annual budgetary allocations. Apart from inadequate funding, the system was wrought with poor documentation and filing processes, cumbersome clearance procedures, the incompetence and inexperience of pension staff, poor human relations, corruption and embezzlement that necessitated the intervention of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and other sundry problems. The Contributory Pension Scheme under the PRA (2004), in which employers and employees contributed about 15 per cent to the fund, was seen as a relief to the government and a more realistic funding strategy.

However, pension regulatory agencies have played the ostrich in dealing with the besetting problems under the scheme. First, there is disparity in the administration of the scheme, as employees of some government institutions and Government Owned Enterprises (GoEs) receive multimillion naira gratuities, and robust monthly pensions, while many others, including retirees in many public sectors, take home a very tiny amount of money or nothing as gratuities, and receive laughable sums of money as monthly pensions. This problem can be traced to the poor salaries earned by many public and civil servants, which make it impossible for them to contribute meaningful sums of money to their pension fund.

Furthermore, apart from the fact that Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) create bottlenecks that delay the payment of the initial lump sum to retirees, they invoke diverse technicalities that prevent retirees from accessing their funds immediately after retirement. At the end, life in retirement under the PRA 2004 is not too different from what it was under the old scheme.

We insist that all the institutions involved in the administration of the new pension scheme must come up with transparent and realistic measures that will tackle these problems. PenCom, the regulatory body, must step in without delay. PenCom opposed the bill for the removal of the police from the CPS, but that is not the answer to the question raised by the police. A deliberate attempt should be made to ensure that retirees receive living pensions. The first step may be a drastic review of wages and salaries paid to workers in the country, as the weaker the monthly emoluments, the weaker the monthly pension upon retirement. In addition, we must evolve a realistic social welfare scheme; the minimum should include free medical care, education, housing, water, electricity, and the like, for retirees and their family members. When such burdens are taken off them, retirees could use their pension to feed and live longer.

Instead of passing an amendment bill to the PRA 2004 to address issues raised only by the police, the National Assembly must take a holistic look at pension administration in Nigeria and make necessary adjustments to their principles and practice. If this is not done, other institutions of government, and even the private sector, would also approach the lawmakers for amendments to the PRA 2004 in areas that negatively affect them.

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STELLA IYAJI: Managing Editor
ABDULAZIZ ABDULAZIZ: Deputy General Editor

FILTER LANE
NASIR YAMMAMA

nasir@yammama.com
08050369338 (Text only)

The essential Nigerian electorate's New Year resolutions

It's the first week of 2023, and as usual there is a flurry of new year resolutions. However, since the election season is upon us in Nigeria, I decided to write a different type of resolution. In today's political climate, it is important to be vigilant and protect yourself from being taken advantage of by the politicians who may be more interested in their own agendas than in serving the needs of their constituents. Here is the essential Nigerian electorate's new year resolutions to help you avoid being scammed by politicians:

1. Research the candidate and their track record: This is overstated, and you may argue that your candidates

candidate or political party. You must look beyond your information bubble to get a nuanced view and an objective picture.

4. Be cautious of outrageous claims: If a candidate is making promises that seem too good to be true, they probably are. Be skeptical of claims that seem unrealistic or highly unlikely to be fulfilled. I personally evaluate candidates at both the federal and state levels based on who is telling me with clarity, the things that they will avoid as much as the ones they will do. Scrutinise claims and don't fall for pipe-borne milk and honey promises.

5. Be wary of politicians who make personal attacks: Politicians who resort to personal attacks or smear campaigns may be trying to distract from their own shortcomings or avoid answering difficult questions. Be on the lookout for this type of behaviour, as it may be a sign that the candidate is not acting in good faith.

6. Check the facts: Politicians sometimes make statements that are not accurate or that take things out of context. It is important to fact-check their claims to ensure that you have an accurate understanding of their positions and policies.

7. Watch for red flags: There are certain behaviours that may be indicative of a politician who is not acting in good faith. These can include making false or misleading statements, avoiding answering difficult questions, or engaging in unethical or illegal activities. If you notice any of these red flags, it's important to take them seriously and consider whether or not the candidate is someone you can trust.

8. Don't be afraid to ask questions: If you have doubts about a candidate or their promises, don't be afraid to ask them questions. A candidate who is willing to be open and transparent is more likely to be trustworthy. Accountability can only be attained when there is room for questions and conducive grounds for a conversation and confrontation.

With these resolutions, you can help protect yourself from being scammed by politicians and make informed decisions at the ballot box in 2023 and beyond. It is important to remember that as a voter, you have a lot of power. By being an active and engaged citizen, you can hold politicians accountable and ensure that they are working in the best interests of the people they serve. This means doing your research, staying informed, and not being afraid to ask questions. It also means being willing to hold politicians accountable when they fail to follow through on their promises or act in a manner that is not in the best interests of their constituents. By staying vigilant and taking an active role in the political process, you can help protect yourself from being scammed by politicians and ensure that your voice is heard.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2023.

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are popular and you probably know them throughout their political career. However, it's always a good idea to do your personal due diligence before supporting a candidate. Look into their past actions and statements to get a sense of their values and priorities. Beyond that, look at what they have done in prior positions they have held and ask about their relationship with people too. This will help you determine whether or not they align with your own values and whether or not you can trust them.

2. Don't be swayed by emotional appeals: Politicians are skilled at using emotional appeals to try and win support. It is important to stay level-headed and consider the facts rather than letting your emotions dictate your vote. Nigerian politicians are masters of this game. Therefore, prepare yourself this year and beyond.

3. Look for unbiased sources of information: In order to get a well-rounded view of the candidates and their positions, it is important to seek out information from a variety of sources, including those that are not affiliated with any particular

LETTERS to the Editor

CARTOON by Ali A. Geidam



What does 2023 hold for Nigerians?

The year - 2022 was not different from the preceding years. 2020 could be described as COVID-19 year in which the newly discovered pandemic hit the world and wrecked social and economic havoc to many countries including Nigeria. In 2022, after the pandemic seemed over, Nigerians witnessed the post COVID-19 era where the country struggled to recover economically. In 2022, Nigerians witnessed the good and the bad side of the year. It started with the torrential downpours which led to flood disaster that submerged many states across the country. The flood which caused serious damage to lives and properties has raised questions about the proper utilisation of ecological funds by state governors and lack of effective policies to stem the menace of flooding in the country.

In 2022, there were incessant attacks on INEC offices and its facilities across the country. The

rampant and continuing attacks in the few days to elections have sent fears into Nigerians.

In his new year message, President Muhammadu Buhari has warned saboteurs bent on scuttling the forthcoming poll to stay away. However, government should match its words with actions. These sponsored thugs or political urchins may return to their nefarious activities in order to undermine free and fair elections and government's commitment to peaceful transition. To checkmate the ungodly activities of rapacious arsonists, government should deploy adequate security operatives to protect INEC offices and facilities across the country. The Department of State Security (DSS) should launch an investigation to unravel those who are sponsoring terrorism in the country. The arrest and prosecution of these sponsors would serve as a lesson to other would-be sponsors and restore peace and security in the country.

The year - 2023 will inherit the catalogues of insecurity bedeviling the country. While insecurity did not start last year, banditry and other sundry crimes had spiked to a frightening level. For the people of Katsina, Zamfara, Niger and other communities in Kaduna State, 2022 was a bad year. Bandits had a field day, abducting and killing many helpless people. Similarly, in the South East, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), through its armed-wing, Eastern Security Network, had waged unrelenting war against the people of the region. Their sit-at-home imposed rules had caused a setback to the economic development of the entire region. Will this insecurity stop this year?

On the economy, 2023 will carry over some monetary policies initiated by the apex bank (CBN), aimed at taming the high rate of inflation in the country. CBN, through its monetary policies, redesigned

our currencies and pegged cash withdrawal limits. The policy is geared towards implementing a cashless economy. Will this policy reverse the high rate of inflation this year? It is also worrisome that 2023 will inherit a mountain of public debts. The crude oil theft which cost the country trillions of naira revenue loss is another nightmare. The multi-dimensional poverty index which places 133 millions of Nigerians below the poverty line is another concern for the new year.

Furthermore, with the elections around the corner, Nigerians have great opportunities to assess the candidates and their party manifestos. These multi-facet problems affecting the country are surmountable if Nigerians elect good leaders in the next general elections. We need strong leadership fully prepared to take the country to an Eldorado.

Ibrahim Mustapha wrote from Pambegua, Kaduna.

On the rising incidents of ritual killings

I feel compelled to register my concern on the rising spate of killings across the country supposedly by ritualists as the 2023 elections draw closer. Some politicians who are desperate to win the election have always resorted to these uncanny acts in a bid to attain power at all costs.

Unfortunately, the perpetrators of these devilish acts have always gone free. It's only on rare occasions that some arrests are made and after the suspects are ceremoniously paraded by the police one will

never hear about the case again.

In January last year, Aminu Baba, a prominent businessman selling vehicles at Aminchi Motors, Gusau Zamfara State, after his arrest by the police, confessed to have eaten and sold human parts to some unknown persons.

In a video footage, the visibly unapologetic Aminu's accomplice who was arrested alongside him had admitted the gruesome killing of a 9-year-old boy whose body parts were removed and sold to Aminu for N500,000.

It has been one year since such an unfortunate incident occurred, and the suspects and the police have promised to take them to court at the end of their investigation. The outcome of the court's judgment on this heinous act is not yet available in the public domain.

Incidents such as this are being reported by the media and after initial reactions, the matter will just die off.

The unrelenting act of ritualists inflicting harm on unsuspecting

members of society is of great concern, hence the need for security agencies to double their efforts in order to restore people's confidence.

It is pertinent to note that the life of a human being is sacred, and as such, nobody should feel threatened that their life might be taken away in whatever form except according to laid down processes.

Safiyanu Ladan wrote from Zaria via uncldoctor24@gmail.com

How African countries can fast-track ratifying the Maputo protocol

Despite several campaigns against gender inequality, women in Africa still battle discrimination. According to the McKinsey Global Institute, more than half of Africa's population is female. Yet, they only generate 33 per cent of Africa's collective GDP. There is no difference in politics, where African women make few contributions to policy-making. These statistics verified the 2019 Global Gender Summit report that proposes gender inequality as one of Africa's greatest threats in the future.

To promote gender inclusion, the African Union adopted the 'Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa' (Maputo Protocol) in 2003. The protocol validates women's rights to social and political equality with men. Also, it empowers women's autonomy of choice in reproductive health. Since its adoption, only 42 African countries have ratified the protocol out of 55 members of the African Union. Africa should emphasise women's active participation in political activities and protect their right to make reproductive health decisions before the protocol can fully effect.

Women contribute better to political decision-making when actively involved. The introduction of gender quotas in some countries, like South Africa and Kenya, has given women a better opportunity to access policy-making bodies, according to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). Through the gender quota system, women have positions allocated for them by selection or election. This policy protects women's rights to attain offices with minimal competition and contributes actively to policies that can affect them. In Africa, about 16 countries have constitutional quotas for parliamentary representation. Rwanda, among others, provides constitutional backing for women to occupy at least 30 per cent of positions in decision-making organs. As one of the top five leading countries in gender equality, Rwanda has witnessed a decline rate of 11 per cent in poverty levels as of 2021. Women's ability to drive social accountability through active political inclusion is one reason attributed to this economic improvement. Promoting proportional representation for women in politics will fulfill Article 9 of the Maputo Protocol. Such representations can be legislated reserved seats, practised in Tanzania and Uganda, or a voluntary party quota system, as observed in South Africa.

Intentional efforts to promote gender inclusion will make them give better recommendations beneficial to women's causes. Empowering women through political participation and full access to reproductive health rights will increase societal development and provide more creative minds for overall progress across African countries following the Maputo Protocol.

Phillip Anjorin is a Writing Fellow for African Liberty

Quality Sleep And Healthy Living With Vitafoam Nigeria Plc.



Kick-off the New Year with Good Sleeping Habits! – Part II- By Dr. Charles Uzodimma

Some of us love to step outside, refreshed from a night of restful, uninterrupted sleep, to catch the first rays of the early morning sun and watch them dance on surfaces around us. Others, even when not well-rested due to a one-off event or bad sleep routines, still get out almost automatically for the day's run in spite of the sluggishness dragging them down. Well-rested or not, it appears that there is something about the newness or beginning of the day that serves to all as a wake-up call.

Some people get excited at new beginnings – I am certainly one of them!
The start of a new year can elicit a variety of emotions, from intense excitement to absolute disinterest, as well as everything in between.

New years are typically a time full of opportunities and hopes. It's understandable why so many people are making New Year's resolutions as the New Year draws near. People are dreaming, making plans, reviewing and revising Dreamers, planners, reviewers, and revisers are all active. Our health and wellbeing are a subject worth thinking about that would be terrible to ignore.

Studies have shown that the key pillars of health include sleep, exercise and healthy

eating. These are all modifiable lifestyle behaviours, and when continuously practiced, they develop into satisfying habits.

What is it that directs our behaviours and actions? It is our thought processes, in which these things take root. Meanwhile, our thoughts derive their contents from our memories, experiences, assimilated information and imaginations. Habits can be intentionally created by actively affecting our cognitive processes through the acquisition of knowledge, having experiences, creating memories, and envisioning

People have frequently asked how best to form good habits and which of the pillars to prioritize, as we easily lack the time and ability to apply all of them adequately. The answer is simple: "Prioritize sleep and ensure others are not neglected." By making sleep a priority and combining it with a balanced diet and regular exercise, you will improve your physical and mental well-being, and set yourself up for a long and happy life. Has it ever been suggested that you work out more, eat better, cut down on stress or sleep more? Well, now I re-echo this call to action. This New Year, resolve to prioritize sleep by adopting good sleep habits.

Intentionally forming good sleep habits is

also doable! We just need to cultivate a sleep-focused mindset by embracing sleep education such as the type we share in our weekly publications on 'Quality Sleep and Healthy Living' by Vitafoam®. We should also put the information into practice, in order to gain experiences we can build upon. The practice could be any of the options to make your sleeping environment comforting and sleep-inducing: quality mattresses and pillows, darkness, pleasing scent, calming sounds, cool temperature, etc. It can also include practices which ensure a healthy brain like consistently drinking excess water, regularly eating a healthy diet in just-enough quantities, regularly performing SAFE exercises, and avoiding smoking, excess alcohol and stimulants like caffeine. With these, one would then have rich memories to draw from and supportive imaginations to generate, which would meet with the acquired information and experiences to shape our thoughts towards the adoption of good sleep habits.

Here is a stark reality: poor sleep habits, which are just the lack of good ones, can negatively affect your motivation and impulse control. So, if you're struggling to accomplish a goal like cultivating good sleep habits and can't figure out why, try repairing your sleep habits and then giving it another go.

Let us remember that when you sleep, where you sleep and how you sleep affect your mental health, physical well-being and living a healthy life. We all need quality sleep to be set for productivity in our endeavours.

Do you need further information on the above subject? Are you looking for ways to maintain quality sleep for general well-being and healthy living? Remember, a doctor is an appropriate person to offer relevant advice for the maintenance of quality sleep and solution to sleep difficulties. Do you want to contact the Orthopaedic Sleep Consultant, Dr Charles Uzodimma, kindly send your request to sleepinfo@vitafoam.com.ng OR Whatsapp: 08129982143.

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CITY & CRIME

Top reported crime stories in 2022

As the year 2023 sets in yesterday, *City & Crime* chronicles some top crime stories reported in the year 2022 as compiled by Hussein Yahaya & Dahaltu Liman

How man tricked Jigawa villagers to steal roofs, doors of 14 mosques

By Dalhatu Liman

JIGAWA, July 1st: A man has removed the roofs and doors of many mosques in three LGAs of Jigawa State under the pretext of building new ones.

The man, identified by the police as Abba Haruna, 21, was later discovered to be a swindler, who after removing the roofing sheets and doors of the mosques sold them to scrap merchants.

Police spokesman in the state, DSP Lawal Shi'isu Adam, said the fraudster was arrested and charged to court.

In one of the instances, spokesperson of magistrates' court in Kiyawa town, Abbas Rufai Wangara, said Haruna was accused of vandalising and stealing roofing sheets, doors and windows from a mosque.



One of the mosques where the suspect stole roofs, doors and windows

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) had reported that the suspect carted away materials belonging to 14 mosques in Taura, Kiyawa and Jahun LGAs of the state.

The Village Head of Kanoke, Ussaini Wanzam Ilyasu, said Haruna came to the village a couple of weeks ago claiming that he was working with an Arab NGO that would build a bigger mosque hence that they should demolish the old building.

He said, "So, after demolishing a section of the mosque, saying he would use it for filling; he collected the roofing sheets, windows, doors and hand-pump borehole and went away with the materials. "He even paid the labourers who demolished the mosque. He paid those who removed the rooftop N5,000, electricians N2,000, while those who demolished the courtyard were

also paid N5,000."

The village head said Haruna was arrested while attempting to trick another community which officials raised alarm after being suspicious of his visit to the community.

He further said, "When he entered Katika community for the same act, since they had knowledge about our own experience, they became wary of him. They came to us, intimating us that they caught a man who came to remove their mosque's roofing.

"Immediately I set my eyes on him I recognised him. When he was asked of the whereabouts of our mosque's materials, he said he'd sold them."

The village head added that now whenever it rained, Muslims in the community observed prayers indoors.



Gabon

Man drags actress Hadiza Gabon to court for refusing to marry him

Kwara, October 4: A man, Abubakar Abubakar, has reportedly shot his younger brother, Yusuf Abubakar, 12, to death while testing the efficacy of a newly procured charm against gunshots.

The siblings are both sons of a local hunter in Kaiama Local Government of Kwara State.

The incident, it was gathered, happened on Sunday and the elder Abubakar (suspect) is presently at large after he escaped into the bush immediately after he committed the act.

Speaking on the incident on Monday, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Kwara State Command, Okasanmi Ajayi, said the commissioner of police, Paul Odama, has directed investigation into the matter.

"After fortifying themselves with the protective charm, the elder son brought his father's dane gun and shot his younger sibling, the charm failed and the Yusuf died on the spot", Okasanmi added.

He advised parents and guidance to monitor the activities of their children and avoid engaging in certain unsavory activities while their children and wards watch to prevent incidents of this nature in the future.

Man shot brother dead while testing potency of gun charm

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Kwara, October 4: A man, Abubakar Abubakar, has reportedly shot his younger brother, Yusuf Abubakar, 12, to death while testing the efficacy of a newly procured charm against gunshots.

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He advised parents and guidance to monitor the activities of their children and avoid engaging in certain unsavory activities while their children and wards watch to prevent incidents of this nature in the future.

He told the court that, "My client's position as a celebrity attracts different kinds of people with different intentions. She is very vigilant regarding her safety and security."

Kabir, therefore, prayed the court to give him more time to produce his client in court.

The Khadi, Malam Rilwanu Kyaudai, adjourned to June 13.

Ritualist dies while waiting for woman's head, wrists

By Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

KWARA, May 4th: A native doctor who was set to receive the head and wrists of a female human for ritual has died before the items were delivered to him.

Those arrested in connection with the incident, Wasiu Omonose (35) and Akanbi Ibrahim (32), were nabbed with the body parts by the police on Oke Oyi-Jebba road on a motorcycle last week.

A credible police source who was part of the investigating team confided in *Daily Trust* that the operatives investigating the matter discovered the development when they got to the herbalist's residence in Ilorin.

He said, "The herbalist was dead by the time operatives got to his house with the suspects for further investigation."

Hubby strangles wife after searching her phone, commits suicide

By Adam Umar

NIGER, August 12th: A man, Adeniyi Jose, has committed suicide after strangling his wife, Chidinma Gloria Ibeh, to death at the SDP area of Kwamba in Suleja LGA of Niger State.

The late Jose was said to have taken a substance suspected to be Sniper and was rushed to the Suleja General Hospital where he was confirmed dead

on Wednesday.

Neighbours said the late Jose had over the years been doubting his wife's faithfulness to their marriage.

A neighbour said, "Jose had always been a jealous husband and picked fights with his wife whenever he saw her talking to any man."

On the day he killed his wife, Jose was said to have searched through her mobile phone.

City & Crime further gathered that the

late wife, a registrar at the Suleja General Hospital, was the breadwinner of the family as the husband was jobless since his herbal medicine business crumbled.

The late Jose was from Ondo State while the late Chidinma hailed from Imo State. The late couple married in 2014 and had a son.

The DPO of Suleja "A", CSP Michael Katumba, confirmed the incident, adding that the matter had been reported at the state police command in Minna.

How peacemaker ended with amputated arm in Kano

By Zaharadden Yakubu Shuaibu, Kano

KANO, April 7th: Salisu Hussaini had no idea that being a peacemaker and separating a fight between two of his neighbours in Kano would alter the course of his life in a way he never imagined.

The incident which happened in Fagge area of Kano metropolis led Hussaini, a 21-year-old tailor, to lose his arm after he was stabbed by a notorious criminal, Abubakar Ayuba, also known as Namama in the area.

City & Crime gathered that Namama and one Abdullahi Muhammad, known as Alhaji Ozil, were engaged in a fight on March 30, which



The victim before the incident



The victim after his hand was amputated

was degenerating into a brutal one when Hussaini decided to intervene and broker peace but ended up being stabbed with a knife which led to an infection.

Narrating the incident on his sickbed where his right arm was amputated, Hussaini called on authorities to fight for his right as he could not

imagine life without an arm.

He said, "When I saw them fighting and threatening to kill themselves, I decided to intervene so that peace could reign. I approached Namama who I know is troublesome and advised him to stop threatening to kill people. He brought

out a knife and attempted to stab me in my stomach, but when I dodged, he stabbed me on my arm.

"I was then taken to a hospital where they required a police officer to come along. After the treatment, my hand was not getting any better. I then moved to the Murtala Muhammed Specialist Hospital where they referred me to the Aminu Kano University Teaching Hospital (AKUTH) and later to this place (Dala Orthopaedic Hospital) where they confirmed that the hand had decayed and must be amputated."

The police in Kano confirmed the incident and said the suspect was in their custody.

According to the Police First Information Report (FIR), the father received a call from an unknown caller threatening to kill him if he failed to pay N300,000.

"It was later discovered during investigation that the phone number belonged to his son Shehu Usman, now at large, which led to the arrest of the suspects," the FIR stated.

In his ruling, Magistrate Dasuki, granted the request of the prosecutor and adjourned the case to January 17, 2023.

Abandoned scooter causes scare in Kwara community

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Kwara, Monday March 7: An old scooter abandoned along Pakata Road, Ilorin, threw residents of the community into panic, our correspondent learnt on Sunday.

It was gathered that the white Vespa, which was parked in front of Agbobamu's compound, had no registration number and had been there over a week with nobody coming to claim ownership or making inquiry about it.

Speaking on the development, a resident, Alhaji Ibrahim Agbobamu, said they woke up and saw the "strange" machine.

According to him, "We woke up to discover the scooter right in front of our compound last

Monday morning. Initially, we assumed the owner might have run out of fuel and had gone in search of it.

"But after we didn't hear anything of such for a whole day, our concern became suspicion and then grew into fear. This was since a week ago now.

"What could be the motive behind such action, especially in this era of insecurity where anything and everything of such is a potential danger and dangerously implicative," he said.

He said they had reported the matter to the Adewole police division but no action has been taken.

Also, another resident, Muhammad Isa, said they now sleep in fear because of the development.

"We slept late on the previous



The mysterious scooter

Saturday only to wake up to discover it on Sunday morning. Our environment security wise is too fragile not to be concerned with such development now.

"Imagine the police at Adewole telling us that they don't have fuel to come and do

the needful, leaving the residents they are supposed to protect in fear," he added.

When contacted on Sunday, the spokesman of the Kwara State Police Command, Ajayi Okasanmi, said the matter had not been brought to his attention.

... Another hires friend for N10,000 to kill pregnant wife in Ogun

By Peter Moses, Abeokuta

OGUN, January 4th: Operatives of the Ogun State Police Command have arrested a 35-year-old man, Eluyera Wasiu, for allegedly contracting one Adeniyi Samuel to kill his 29-year-old pregnant wife.

The suspect and his accomplice were arrested following a distress call received by the DPO Ojigbo Police Division in Sagamu Local Government Area of the state.

The police got information from concerned members of

the public on January 2, that the two men were engaged in a very serious fight at Oponuwa Area of Ojigbo which could lead to grievous injury or death if they were not separated.

The police spokesman, Abimbola Oyeyemi, on Monday, told newsmen in Abeokuta that following the distress call, the DPO, CSP Muhammed Baba, detailed his men to the scene where the two suspects were arrested.

Oyeyemi said during interrogation, Adeniyi Samuel told the police that

Eluyera Wasiu had contracted him to kill his pregnant wife, one Bola Taiwo.

According to him, the suspect said Wasiu promised to give him N10,000 for the job, out of which he had already given him N5,000, with a balance to be paid "on completion of the job."

Oyeyemi said "Preliminary investigation revealed that Wasiu Eluyera was married to Bola Taiwo but they got separated due to irreconcilable differences.

Wasiu later got married to another woman who is presently living with him.

QUICK READ

How son contracted assassin to kill father over inheritance

By Abubakar Akote, Minna

NIGER, January 10th: The Niger State Police Command has arrested a 25-year-old man, Abubakar Mohammed Buba, for allegedly contracting his friend, Aliyu Mohammed for N110,000 to kill his father, Alhaji Mohammed Buba, in order to inherit the father's estate.

The command's spokesman, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, said in a statement that the suspect was arrested in Chanchaga area of Minna on December 29, 2021 by the Chanchaga division.

...Other sets up father's kidnap for N.3m

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Kwara, December 26: Three suspects have been remanded by a magistrates' court sitting in Ilorin, the Kwara State capital, for allegedly conspiring with one Shehu Usman to kidnap his father for N300,000.

The suspects, Sanni Nahamzat, Abdullahi Sayi and Mohamodu Kabiru, are facing charges of criminal conspiracy and attempted kidnapping in contravention of sections 97 and 95 of the Penal Code.

According to the Police First Information Report (FIR), the father received a call from an unknown caller threatening to kill him if he failed to pay N300,000.

"It was later discovered during investigation that the phone number belonged to his son Shehu Usman, now at large, which led to the arrest of the suspects," the FIR stated.

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Man remanded for killing bread seller over N100

By Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

KWARA, May 31st: A magistrates' court sitting in Ilorin, Kwara State, has ordered the remand of one Alhaji Haruna Adu for hacking a man to death over a N100 loaf of bread.

The prosecutor, Inspector Innocent Owoola, told the court that the suspect bought bread worth N100 from the victim which led to a misunderstanding over the issue of payment.

Magistrate, Abdulganiyu Ajia, ordered the remand of the suspect and adjourned the case to June 26, 2022.



Yetunde with her kids



Sympathiser at the bereaved family's house

operates the chemist where she allegedly bought the sniper, Adio Tajudeen, confirmed the purchase of the substance from his wife by the late Yetunde.

"It was when the news of her death broke that we knew she was living in the neighbourhood. People buy the power for many reasons and we can't suspect it will be used for evil purpose."

The Police Public

Relations Officer of the Kwara State command, Ajayi Okasanmi, said the matter is being investigated.

"A case of murder was reported by a brother to the husband. But we are still investigating because there are insinuations of homicide. We have invited all the parties and deposited her corpse for autopsy to unravel the circumstances of her death," Okasanmi added.

The Police Public



LEGAL PRACTITIONERS' PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

THREE ARMS ZONE, SUPREME COURT COMPLEX, P.M.B, 308, ABUJA – NIGERIA

2023 AWARD OF THE RANK OF SENIOR ADVOCATE OF NIGERIA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

1. By the combined provisions of Section 5 (2) of the Legal Practitioners Act, Cap L11 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and Regulation 10 (1)-(4) of the Guidelines for the Conferment of the Rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria 2022 ("the Guidelines"), the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee ("the LPPC" or "the Committee") hereby makes a formal call for applications preparatory to the award of the rank for the year 2023. Commencing with this year's exercise, applications shall only be made online and prospective applicants are directed to visit www.lppconline.com to make their applications.
 2. **DIRECTIVES TO PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS ON SUBMISSION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE APPLICATIONS**
 - 2.1 The application portal, www.lppconline.com will be open to the general public at **12:00 am on January 1st 2023.**
 - 2.2 An applicant must pay a non-refundable processing fee of One Million Naira (N1,000,000.00) only to any of the following accounts held in the name of the "Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee (SAN)":
Account Number: 1014103141,
at **Zenith Bank PLC,**
Account No. 0213662834
at **GT Bank PLC**
 - 2.3 Upon conclusion of payment, an applicant should upload a copy of the evidence of payment on the application portal. The applicant will receive an email notification from the LPPC Secretariat confirming the applicant's payment and clearing the applicant to proceed with the application process online.
 - 2.4 All applicants (whether Advocates or Academics) must upload **clear** and **legible** copies of all mandatory or supporting documents that are required by the Guidelines for the purpose of their application on the application portal. Only clear copies of materials presented shall be considered/acceptable by the Secretariat in compliance with Regulation 9(2) of the Guidelines. In the case of Academic applicants who may wish to submit publications that are too voluminous to be conveniently scanned and uploaded, it shall be sufficient to scan and upload the title page of such publications, whilst submitting the hard copies along with the flash drives referred to in clause 2.5 below.
 - 2.5 After uploading copies of all mandatory or supporting documents online, applicants shall also submit five flash drives containing a copy of their completed application form (*to be downloaded from the online portal*) as well as copies of all the mandatory and supporting documents uploaded on the online platform to the LPPC Secretariat.
 - 2.6 Any application together with supporting documents submitted in a manner contrary to the directives of the LPPC as enumerated above will be rejected by the Secretariat.
 - 2.7 All applications together with their mandatory or supporting documents must be submitted online at www.lppconline.com before **12:00 noon** on the **31st March, 2023** whilst the flash drives referred to in clause 2.5 above must be delivered to the LPPC Secretariat before 4:00pm on the **3rd April, 2023.**
 - 2.8 Any submission made after the deadlines stipulated in clause 2.7 above shall be treated as a **non-submission.**
- For any enquires /information, applicants should send an electronic mail to The Secretary, Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee via: enquirieslppcsecretariat.ng@gmail.com

Hajo SARKI BELLO, ESQ.

CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT /
SECRETARY LEGAL PRACTITIONERS' PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

MONDAY BUSINESS

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	US DOLLAR	Pound STERLING	EURO	YUAN/ RENMINBI	RIYAL	CFA
Buying	446.13	540.04	473.34	63.94	118.5	0.70
Central NGN	446.63	540.64	473.87	64.01	118.7	0.71
Selling NGN	447.13	541.25	473.40	65.08	118.8	0.72

COMMODITIES PRICE (December 28, 2022)

CRUDE OIL BRENT	\$82.15/bbl
GOLD	\$1,799.07/ounce
SILVER	\$19.39/ounce
NATURAL GAS	\$4.63/MMBtu

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

	Dollar	Euro	Pound S.
BUYING	N733	N745	N915
SELLING	N743	N760	N930

NNPC, operatives destroy barge with stolen crude, filling station in Delta

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd, a private security contractor, and government security agencies have destroyed a barge loaded with crude oil in Delta State.

The team also demolished a filling station in Warri for storing stolen crude oil on Saturday.

According to a statement from NNPC, it said the barge was destroyed on Saturday but was arrested on 22nd December 2022 along with some suspects.

"The barge, named MT Brighton 1, which was loaded with stolen crude, was apprehended in one of the creeks running into the Ramos River in the Agge Community, a border village between Delta and Bayelsa states," it noted.

Also, the security intervention team on Saturday demolished a filling station named Blessed Corporate Oil & Gas Services Ltd in Opete, Warri, Delta State.

NNPC said the station was demolished "for being in the custody of a truck laden with stolen crude and discharging the illegal contents into its underground storage tanks."

The onslaught against oil thieves intensified in the last quarter of 2022 with the destruction of various vessels and the discovery of illegal crude oil pipeline connection points.

Prior to the exercise, crude oil production dropped to about 1.1 million barrels per day due to oil thieves and the shutting of some vulnerable pipelines. However, it began to improve in December and reached 1.5m bpd, according to NNPC Ltd.



Scarcity: NMDPRA shuts 7 depots selling petrol above official rate
● NNPC maintains 30 day petrol supply

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) has shut down seven petroleum products depots in Lagos and four other locations as they sold petrol above the N148.17 per litre ex-depot price.

At a press briefing over the weekend in Abuja, the Authority Chief Executive, Farouk Ahmed, said: "So we shut down about seven depots. We shut down where they had their products and they were selling beyond control. You know, they are getting their products directly from NNPC Ltd. And they're also getting it with some level of comfort because it's not like cash-and-carry so they had no reason to increase their price beyond reason."

Some of the affected depots are Bluefin, Rainoil, Ardova, Nepal in Lagos, Calabar, Warri, Port Harcourt and Oghara in Delta State.

"But that's not to say that's the end of it. As a regulator, we are responsible. It is our responsibility to address this situation. The next step is a continuation of this until we have gotten to a level where the marketers understand their responsibility to the consumers," added Ahmed.

He also assured that the fuel scarcity will end soon after the actions taken, especially as the regulator is clamping down on retail outlets hoarding petrol and those selling above the official price band.

The NMDPRA head commended NNPC Ltd for sustaining the import of petrol with at least 30 days sufficiency despite the global energy crisis caused by the Ukraine/Russia war and Nigeria's foreign exchange issues.

He said, "As of last night, we had about 30 days of sufficiency. And I will tell you this: about 10 days of that sufficiency is on land and there has been even distribution by trucking. However, during the holiday period, some facilities were working half day and some were closed, especially on Christmas Day."

"Our next line of action also is to monitor those trucks actually delivered at the various destinations as assigned from the loading depots. NNPC against all odds has continued to supply and that's why we have maintained between 30-day sufficiencies at least in the last couple of months," Ahmed explained.

CPPE fault hasty passage of 2022 finance bill

By Sunday Michael Ogwu

The Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise [CPPE] is disturbed by the rushed passage of the 2022 Finance Bill by the National Assembly, calling to question the representation role of the Assembly.

The centre in a release by its Director, Dr Muda Yusuf noted that there was practically no room for public hearing and engagement with stakeholders in the consideration of the bill.

Yusuf said: "This is a piece of legislation, which has profound implications for investment, citizens' welfare and the Nigeria economy. It is curious and puzzling that the senate gave just 24 hours' notice for stakeholders to attend a public hearing on the bill. The public notice was published on 21st December 2022 for a public hearing scheduled for 22nd December 2022. There is no better expression of the deliberate exclusion of stakeholders from this important legislative process."

"The House of Representatives gave a more generous notice of about three weeks. But in a sudden and baffling twist of events, the House passed the bill before the date of the advertised public hearing, which was 13th January 2023."

The bill has since been forwarded to the president for assent.

The bill affected wide-ranging amendments on the following legislations: Companies Income Tax Act, Customs, Excise Tariff Act, Personal Income Tax Act, Petroleum Profits Tax Act, Stamp Duties Act, Value Added Tax Act, Capital Gains Tax Act, Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act and Public Procurement Act

He said: "It is regrettable that the National Assembly hurriedly passed the bill without the benefit of input from citizens whom they were elected to represent. This is a major letdown by the National Assembly in its representation role in our democracy. The action is not consistent with the ideals and principles of our

democracy because sovereignty belongs ultimately to the people. What the National Assembly has done is tantamount to disrespect, disregard and contempt of the Nigerian people and the business community."

The bill that has been passed contained the following provisions, among others: Imposition of excise duties on all services with rates to be determined by presidential order.

Imposition of 0.5% tax on all eligible imports from non-African countries to fund Nigeria's obligations to international organisations.

An increase in tertiary education tax from 2.5% to 3% of company profit.

Yusuf said: "All of these have far-reaching implications for investors and citizens. It will affect the cost of production; it will affect the operating costs and would undermine investors' confidence. It has profound inflationary implications. It will effectively move corporate tax to almost 35%, which is one of the

highest globally.

"Currently, corporate tax is 30%; there is tertiary education tax of 2.5%; NITDA tax of 1%; NASENI Levy of 0.25%; Police Trust Fund tax 0.005%. Meanwhile, the National Assembly has already passed a bill imposing 1% tax for NYSC fund [awaiting the assent of the president] and another 1% tertiary health levy is being planned."

He argued that in the meantime, investors are grappling with macroeconomic headwinds including depreciating exchange rate, illiquidity in the official forex window, spiking energy cost, weak purchasing power, rising interest rate and surging inflation.

He said this is not the way to promote economic recovery, job creation and poverty alleviation.

The centre urged the president to withhold assent on the 2022 Finance Bill until the National Assembly properly engages stakeholders as required by legislative protocols.

By Philip Shimnom Clement

What is your take on mutual funds/ Eurobonds investments in Nigeria?

Investors' interest in the mutual fund space is fast-growing in Nigeria with interests in the dollar mutual fund and Eurobonds even more visible as investors diversify away from naira assets to hedge against the risk of continuous devaluation of the naira.

The mutual fund industry has also seen some growth this year with the global mutual fund net asset value increasing by circa 5% YTD while the dollar fund subgroup grew by circa 24%, growing faster than the global mutual fund net asset value.

However, there is huge potential waiting to be tapped in this space, such as the money market, fixed income and dollar funds.

What informed the dollar fund recently launched by Norrenberger?

The Norrenberger Dollar Fund, which main objective is to hedge against currency risk, generate income in USD and preserve investors' capital in the short to medium term, is an open-ended collective investment scheme registered by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is targeted toward both retail and institutional investors seeking dollar-denominated investments.

The minimum investment requirement is \$500 (5 units) and multiples of \$100 (1 unit) for additional investments. The fund seeks to address the need of the investing public seeking diversification from the traditional naira investments with flexibility and regular income assured.

Who are the parties to the fund?

Alongside Norrenberger Investment and Capital Management Limited (fund manager), there are four other parties to the fund. Securities and Exchange Commission acts as the regulator, Stanbic IBTC is the custodian, DLM Trust Company is the trustee to the fund, and finally, the Metropolitan Law Firm is the solicitor to the fund.

What is the competitiveness, especially with return on

Nigeria yet to tap huge mutual funds potential – Utomi

Abigail Utomi is the business head of Norrenberger Assets Management. In this interview, she speaks about mutual funds' investments, forex exchange policies in Nigeria, and the recent dollar fund launched by the financial group. Excerpts...

investment and its difference from a normal domiciliary account?

A typical domiciliary account offers ease in carrying out local and international transactions as well as access to loan facilities where applicable. Unfortunately, most domiciliary accounts offer low-interest rates on investments.

We have identified this gap and have introduced the Norrenberger Dollar Fund as a solution to enable investors to access all the benefits of the fund with very little entry amount.

The benchmark for the Norrenberger Dollar Fund is the yield on a 5-year Nigeria Eurobond and the fund manager will continue to strive to outperform this benchmark.

What is the safety of investor capital and guarantee for dividend payments?

Norrenberger Investment and Capital Management Limited is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). We also have a solid capital base and a robust risk management framework that ensures your investment is safe. Funds and instruments are held in custody by the fund custodian (Stanbic IBTC), while the trustees (DLM Trust Management Company) continue to monitor the fund administration to ensure they align with the trust deed.

These professional parties to the fund ensure necessary checks and balances that in turn assure investors of the protection of their capital. The funds' asset allocation structure in FGN Sovereign Eurobonds, Corporate Eurobonds and Money Market USD instruments provides protection to investors' capital as well as the liquidity of the portfolio.

The Fund pays dividends on a quarterly basis and investors can choose to reinvest by

subscribing to additional units of the fund or receive payment to their domiciliary account.

Similarly, additional units for investment can be made in multiples of 1 unit at the offer price for that day without limit, investors can make an additional investment at any time as a result of the open-ended nature of the fund.

Investors can also easily liquidate their investment in part or full and liquidation will be processed within five working days. However, withdrawals before the 90 days lock-in period will attract a 20% charge on accrued income.

What do you think about forex exchange stability and how it affects such investments in Nigeria?

The dollar is one of the most demanded currencies in the world, thus, magnifying its value compared to other competing currencies due to its stability. The foreign exchange policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has been quite unstable thus heightening investors' wariness of holding naira compared to other foreign currencies.

The multiple exchange rate regime has also provided an arbitrage opportunity within the system, thus, increasing the activities of speculators and profit seekers.

Restrictions around cash transfers and the need for investors to source foreign currency through the parallel market for investment purposes is a limitation that also affects the dollar mutual funds, however, market players continue to seek solutions to these identified limitations.

Where do you see Mutual Funds/ Eurobonds investment in Nigeria this year being an election year?

The election year will see investors seeking the

safety of funds and flexibility to make quick decisions around their capital, while some mutual funds can provide this and attract these funds, some investors would prefer to hold cash altogether rather than lock in funds for investments due to the uncertainty of the election outcome.

This may negatively impact the mutual funds industry in Q1 and Q2, however, after the election; investments will improve to desirable levels.

What can the government do to improve such investments?

The government agency regulating the mutual fund's investment sphere in Nigeria is the Securities and Exchange Commission. Efforts to provide financial education to investors towards safeguarding them against poor decisions leading to their investing in unrealistic investment schemes that erode their capital and further deepen investors' apathy to legitimate investment options such as mutual funds would have

positive effects on the mutual funds' Industry.

The regulator's financial inclusion strategies should also be driven from an implementation perspective to increase the size of the banked and thus increase the size of the investing public.

What are the plans of Norrenberger to boost investors' confidence in 2023?

We will continue to provide platforms where investors can have access to financial literacy materials and organise forums to deepen financial inclusion whilst ensuring transparency, accountability and continuous performance of all our funds in their respective categories thus providing superior returns to investors and assuring the quality of the fund's assets.



■ Abigail

Nigeria needs friendly business policies to stimulate economy – ACCI

By Faruk Shuaibu

The President of Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Dr Al-Mujtaba Abubakar, has called on governments at all levels to adopt friendly business policies this year.

In a statement yesterday, Dr Abubakar stated that the existence of such policies in the country would engender growth, leading to the economy developing substantially.

He urged Nigerians to regard the challenges of 2022 as a motivation for

concerted efforts to persist in building their businesses despite the harsh fiscal environment.

According to him, businessmen and women in Nigeria should remain undaunted and consistent in applying innovative methods and strategies to sustain their businesses in 2023, adding that operators of small and medium-scale businesses should not relent but continue to advocate for an improved business climate in the country.

"In 2022, millions of people around the world were on the move, fleeing wars,

insecurity, wildfires, droughts, poverty and hunger.

"From Ukraine to Afghanistan to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and beyond, people left the ruins of their homes and lives in search of something better. These chaotic situations affected businesses as the inflationary rate keeps rising higher."

He stated that in 2023, there is a need for peace more than ever; peace with one another, through dialogue to end conflicts and build a more sustainable world.

He called on the government to intensify

its efforts in providing the technology and digital infrastructure needed for new business techniques in line with current realities while still commending the government's efforts and achievements despite the challenges of 2022 caused by the Russia-Ukrainian war and insecurity in this part of the world.

On the upcoming 2023 elections activities, he said, the business community is praying for a peaceful and progressive process that will protect the country's economic and business activities.

ECONOMIC INSIGHT

NACCIMA president elected into ICC World Chambers

By Faruk Shuaibu

The Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) has described the appointment of the President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Chief John Udeagbala, to serve as an Ex-Officio member

of the council of the ICC Chambers Federation as the country's right moment to leverage on global investment opportunities.

Managing Director of NEPZA, Prof. Adesoji Adesugba, in a congratulatory message, explained that Udeagbala's appointment further confirmed his global networks, knowledge

and capacity to help the body promote good corporate governance; business funding; foreign direct investments; and the growth of chambers across the world.

Daily Trust reports that the ICC is a global forum connecting a global network of chambers and their businesses with 100 country members of the International Chambers of Commerce.

Revised master plan will reposition capital market – SEC

From Abiodun Alade, Lagos

The Revised Capital Market Master Plan 2015-2025 (RCMMP), developed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Nigeria in collaboration with stakeholders, has been described as capable of providing a blueprint to harness opportunities to better position the capital market as the engine of economic growth and development.

Director General of SEC, Mr. Lamido Yuguda, who stated this recently, disclosed that the master plan captures the challenges of the capital market in actualising its role to

drive national economic growth and also proffers solutions to enable it to attain its full potential.

Yuguda stated that Nigeria in the last decade has firmly emerged as one of the leading frontier markets in Africa with immense potential for significant growth as the aspiration of the government to create opportunities for the private sector to be a major engine of growth that guarantees improvement in the welfare and standard of living of the citizens has been diligently articulated in the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2021-2025.

According to him, "The MTNDP emphasises the

development of a deep, broadened and competitive financial system that is better positioned to support private sector growth and economic diversification. Capital Markets provide a useful means to mobilise capital and harness economic interests in an efficient manner to drive innovation and growth," he said.

The SEC boss said the first five years of the original Capital Market Master Plan 2015-2025 (CMMP) implementation focused on market and governance reforms in the aftermath of the global financial crises of 2008 and the Nigerian market correction that continued into 2009, with significant success.

WEMA Bank announces Moruf Oseni managing director

By Sunday Michael Ogwu

Wema Bank Plc has announced the appointment of Moruf Oseni as its Managing Director designate, subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The appointment follows the retirement of its Managing Director/CEO, Ademola Adebisi. He will be proceeding on terminal leave from January 2nd, 2023, after over 13 years of meritorious service on the board of the bank.

Moruf Oseni joined Wema Bank in June 2012 as an Executive Director. He has over 25 years of experience with more than 16 years at Senior and Executive Management levels. Moruf Oseni was an Executive Director for 6 years and Deputy Managing Director for the last 4 years and has demonstrated the capacity to lead the bank.

He presently has responsibility for the Digital Optimisation Directorate, which includes – digital,



retail, treasury, operations and the technology divisions.

Moruf holds an MBA degree from the Institut Europeen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD) in France, a Master's in Finance (MiF) from the London Business School and a B.Sc. in Computer Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He is also an alumnus of both the Advanced Management Program (AMP) of the

Harvard Business School and King's College, Lagos.

The Chairman of the board, Mr. Babatunde Kasali on behalf of the board and management expressed its profound gratitude to Ademola for his service and wished him the best in his future endeavors.

Ademola Adebisi was appointed as the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Wema Bank Plc in June 2018. He joined the bank in June 2009 as an Executive Director and rose to become the Deputy Managing Director in 2015.

Under his leadership, he expanded the bank's footprints to other locations in Nigeria, improved its performance and spearheaded the first dividend payment in 13 years, since then, he has ensured consistent dividend payments over the last 4 years.

The bank has grown its total assets by 155%, from N470 billion to over N1.2 trillion. Deposits also grew by 214% from N350 billion to N1.1 trillion.

THE ENTREPRENEUR

MUSBAHU EL YAKUB

maelyakub@gmail.com



Entrepreneurship development: Coaching your staff

The most valuable resource for most organisations is the people therein and those that support the organisation from outside in various ways. Yet, in our environment, there is no gainsaying that, sadly, avoidable staff issues are some of the biggest challenges that entrepreneurs and other employers of labour face. Whilst there are many great individuals within organisations in our country, perhaps more individuals have some key skills, knowledge and/or right attitudes lacking. This makes otherwise easy things more difficult and complicated in successfully running our organisations.

In a three-part series in September 2021, we took up staffing and covered a few important matters to do with getting the best people, and keeping and developing them in your organisation. In addition to the measures suggested then, I think taking the time and committing other resources to coach our people to achieve performance objectives can help improve the situation gradually. Today, therefore, we will take up coaching as a specific activity that can be undertaken by employers for the development, productivity enhancement and loyalty of the people.

What is Coaching? Obviously, even prior to the industrial revolution from the eighteenth to the nineteenth centuries, individuals underwent training in trades, crafts, and professions. However, it was the industrial revolution that led to the formal shaping of the concept of coaching as a way of increasing employee productivity. This was around the same time various management and organisational concepts were being 'scientifically' developed as well.

Coaching gained fast, popular, and deep acceptance in the world of sports and athletics, so much so that to date the word 'coaching' is generally connected to the individual that instructs individual and team members in various sports. When coaching was re-accepted in the business world in the 1970s, it was generally by way of bringing in external coaches to help fix toxic behaviour at the top that was trickling down. Some stigma was therefore attached to coaching. Today, however, coaching is a badge of honour for organisations, the coaches, and trainees, with the organisations developing their own coaching systems and programs across different levels.

Coaching refers to the activities involved in training an individual or group of individuals towards building their knowledge, sharpening their skills and shaping their attitudes for the purposes of enhancing their productivity and/or overcoming performance problems. It is a developmental process of learning wherein the trainee or trainees is/are guided by a coach through asking questions, offering advice, making suggestions, conducting exercises, etc. Coaching situations and environments differ and, therefore, the coaching methods and processes differ from one situation and environment to another. Regardless of the details though, coaching entails close observation, engagement, and providing feedback.

In a corporate setting, which is our interest here, coaching is about providing guidance, advisory and supportive roles to another individual with a view to achieving corporate goals through the attainment of the trainee's full potential.

We should note the following about coaching:

- It is an ongoing staff development process that is designed and executed internally within

an organisation to help employees of all levels continuously improve their competencies and get things done towards achieving the organisation's objectives.

- Various techniques are employed to stimulate employees towards improving their existing skills, gaining new skills and reaching their full potential.

- It is about getting people to become the best versions of themselves at work.

Coaching is different but often confused with mentoring and counselling. To appreciate the difference, it is important to realise that a coach is not about treating mental health problems, mood disorders, substance abuse, anxiety, and such. In these situations, refer the case to the right health professionals. To this extent, also, it should be understood that a coach should not try to play the role of a counsellor in their relationship with a trainee beyond what may reasonably be within the scope of the objectives and job at hand.

The extent of direction, structure, regularity/frequency of contact, fluidity of objective, etc. determines whether a relationship is that of a coach and trainee or of a mentor and mentee. Generally, coaching is more specific on objectives while mentoring is more general. Coaching provides general guidance on narrow, identified and focussed short- and medium-term objectives in sight while mentoring is more directive on broad, fluid and even unpredictable long-term objectives. Furthermore, coaching is structured, with regular contact and a reasonably firm agenda, while mentoring relationship, on the other hand, is more unstructured, with irregular contact.

The Purpose and Benefits of Coaching:

Regardless of the context, the fundamental purpose of coaching is to maximise people's performance and productivity. According to the Institute of Coaching, over 70% of individuals that received coaching benefitted from work performance, improved relationships and more effective communication. Coaching helps achieve greater staff discretionary output and increased innovation. It also increases overall productivity, better work quality, and the achievement of financial results at lower costs. Coaching staff within an organisation enhances employee experiences through better relationship development and management, increased engagement, and collaboration between colleagues. Coaching has also been established to help staff reduce anxiety and stress through positive behaviour. It is also a key determinant in shaping organisational culture.

Elements of Coaching: The elements of coaching are the Coach, the Trainee, Philosophy and Principles, Goals, Systems and Processes, and the Environment as shown in the schematic below. These shall be the basis of our discussions in the series.



Today we have introduced what coaching is, the purpose and benefits of coaching as well as the elements of coaching. Next week, we will begin to take up each of the elements of coaching in greater detail.

PROPERTY

'Real estate needs subsidy to weather 2023 storm'

...Building for low-income earners not profitable

By **Terkula Igidi**

Key players in the real estate sector have forecast a bleak outlook for the all-important-segment of the economy in 2023, saying it will need government subsidy to perform creditably.

Economic activities in the construction and real estate sector contributed N20 trillion to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first three quarters of 2022, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Africa Housing Show, Barr Festus Adebayo, in an interview with Daily Trust, said inflation, high cost of building materials and double

digit lending rates by mortgage banks impacted negatively on the sector in 2022 and that the trend will continue in 2023.

He said, "2023 is not going to be an easy road for the real estate sector unless we are going to have urgent government intervention in some critical areas.

"The major obstacles to the excellent performance of the sector in 2022, were inflation, which affected it negatively, and then the high cost of building materials," which he described as a terrible situation.

"High cost of building materials has raised the bar of affordability of housing in Nigeria," he said.

He, therefore, called on the government to provide subsidies to the sector to ensure

that it performs optimally to continue to create employment and boost the economy.

"We are heading into 2023 with a double-digit interest rate and that is why I said it may not be an easy road for the sector.

"However, for those who are building luxury homes for the rich, they can still make it. But building for the low-income earners will not be profitable in 2023," he added.

He also predicted that some primary mortgage banks may convert to commercial banks in 2023 because of the tough economic environment in which they operate.

"In 2023, you will witness some primary mortgage banks changing to commercial banks where they can have more opportunities for survival,"

Adebayo said.

He urged the private sector to collaborate and find alternatives to cement and other building materials that have made the production of houses very expensive.

The managing partner of Black Orchard Group, Nasiru Ibrahim, on his part said 2023 is going to be a milestone year for players in the sector.

He said inflation, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) policies, foreign exchange rates and the proposed removal of subsidy will all impact the performance of the real estate segment of the Nigerian economy.

Ibrahim also said the 2023 elections will impact the performance of the sector.

"A lot of things are going to change; we are hoping it's for the

best but the changes we come with a lot of pains. It is going to be similar to 2015 when there was change in government and a lot of real estate companies had to phase out because all the markets that were available pre-2015 disappeared. Some real estate companies folded up but some were resilient and they restructured and continued.

"So I am predicting a similar trend in 2023. There will be changes as usual; some will fizzle out, some will soldier on and some will pop up but the business model is going to be a lot more responsive to the realities on the ground," he said.

He said to survive the 2023 storm, investors need to take calculated risks and be able to hedge those things they can as early as possible.



■ A residential building in Gana Street, Maitama Abuja

Photo: **Onyekachukwu Obi**

Obaseki commissions 12.1km streetlight

From **Usman A. Bello, Benin**

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has commissioned a 12.1km streetlight project, connect Ogebe community and Ring Road-axis in Oredo LGA to 95MW Ossiomo power plant, as part of light-up Edo programme.

Commissioning the project, Obaseki said the Ossiomo Independent Power Project (IPP) can now supply steady and uninterrupted electricity to the community, adding that the initiative would boost socio-economic activities in

the area.

According to him, the state government has provided stable electricity supply to the commercial area to boost the growth of businesses and improve livelihoods.

"After the trading hours, when the traders have closed, this electricity will enable the street sweepers to work easily as they clean the area," he added.

On his part, the Permanent Secretary, Edo State Ministry of Electricity, Engr Victor Obanor, said the project is multi-faceted and will benefit the people and improve the economy of the area.

High cost of rent worries Lagos residents

From **Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos**

The skyrocketing cost of rent in Lagos has continued to worry residents most of whom are tenants. In fact, the just-ended 2022 witnessed a sharp rise in rent in various nodes in the former capital city.

Since 2020 when COVID-19 struck, many tenants have lamented the high cost of rent amidst inflation and declining purchasing power in the country.

Investigations by Daily Trust revealed that rent of a two-bedroom apartment in Lagos is between N1m and N2m, in what observers believe was an over 100 per

cent increase in what was obtained in the pre-COVID era.

In Ojodu, Ikeja, Gbagada, Ilupeju, Yaba, Surulere, Oworonshoki, Magodo, Ogudu, and Agege on the Lagos Mainland, a two-bedroom apartment costs between N1.1m and N2m.

But on Lagos Island, down to Ikoyi, the same two-bedroom costs between N6m and N12m.

It is only in areas such as Mushin, Ayobo, Iyana Ipaja, Ijaiye/Ojokoro, Ikorodu, Epe, among others, not regarded as key nodes that the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment goes for N350,000 to N700,000, depending on

the accommodation type according to the popular property tech platform, [nigeriapropertycentre.com](https://www.nigeriapropertycentre.com).

Findings by our correspondent showed that the spiral effect of the increasing cost of rent in Lagos is now being felt in neighbouring communities in Ogun State occupied largely by Lagosians.

These areas include Ojodu-Abiodun, Akute, Yakoyo, Alagboye and along the Lagos-Ibadan expressway, Arepo, Ibafo, Magboro, among others.

For instance, an average two-bedroom flat in Alagbole and Akute in Ogun State now costs between N800,000

and N1.2m for brand-new standard apartments.

A real estate expert, Mr Taiwo Muili, blames the high cost of rent on increased demand and preference to live in highbrow areas.

Muili, who operates around Ojodu, said the cost of rent in the area is high because of the proximity of the area to Ikeja and the seamless connection to the Lagos-Ibadan expressway.

"Here you see new houses competing with old houses because they offer the same benefits and advantages to the homeowners. Again when you look at the road network here, you can easily connect Ikeja, that is why you are having the same rate with what you will

get in the Ikeja axis.

"N1m not enough to get someone a very decent 2-bedroom flat from Ikeja down to Yaba is very criminal and God will punish everyone involved," a lady recently tweeted with the handle, Osasbaby voicing out her frustration over the skyrocketing rent, adding, "I am so irritated. House that someone will still end up renovating is what you people are putting these ridiculous prices on."

Olamide Towobola said, "As of late last year, you will get a decent 2-bedroom for N800k-1m in Yaba but I am not sure you can get it for that price right now."

Quote ▶ Home is the nicest word there is. – Laura Ingalls Wilder, author

Trust TV PROGRAMME GUIDE

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7:00-7:30AM	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	KIDDIES SHOW	ROUND UP
7:30-8:00AM	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	HEALTHY LIVING	KIDDIES SHOW
8:00-8:30AM	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK XTRA (LIVE)	DOCUMENTARY
8:30-9:00AM	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK (LIVE)	DAY BREAK XTRA (LIVE)	DIVINE PATH
9:00-9:03AM	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEW SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	DAY BREAK XTRA (LIVE)	DAILY POLITICS HIGHLIGHTS
9:03-10:00AM	EYEWITNESS	DAILY POLITICS	DAILY POLITICS	DAILY POLITICS	DAILY POLITICS	DAY BREAK XTRA (LIVE)	DAILY POLITICS HIGHLIGHTS
10:00-10:30AM	360 SPORTS (LIVE)	360 SPORTS (LIVE)	360 SPORTS (LIVE)	360 SPORTS (LIVE)	360 SPORTS (LIVE)	SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)
10:30-11:00AM	DOCUMENTARY	BBC/VOA	NATIONALIST	BBC/VOA	BBC/VOA	SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS (LIVE)	ADAMS KITCHEN
11:00-11:30AM	BUSINESS DAILY	DOCUMENTARY	BUSINESS DAILY	DOCUMENTARY	BUSINESS DAILY	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)
11:30-12:00PM	BBC/VOA	BBC/VOA	BBC/VOA	BBC/VOA	TRUST CHECK		VOA
12:00-12:30PM	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)
12:30-1:00PM	INSIDE ABUJA	BBC/VOA	DOCUMENTARY	BBC/VOA	DOCUMENTARY	BBC: AFRICA EYE	BBC: SPORTS AFRICA
1:00-1:30PM	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)
1:30-2:00PM	360 SPORTS	360 SPORTS	360 SPORTS	360 SPORTS	360 SPORTS	SHOW TIME	INSIDE SOKOTO
2:00-2:03PM	NEW SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEW SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEW SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEW SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEW SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	VOA: STRAIGHT TALK AFRICA
2:03-2:30PM	TECH PROGRAM	REMINISCENCES	TODAY'S WOMAN	DOCUMENTARY	DOCUMENTARY	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	VOA: STRAIGHT TALK AFRICA
2:30-3:00PM	BBC: MONEY DAILY	REMINISCENCES	BBC: MONEY DAILY	BBC: MONEY DAILY	BBC: MONEY DAILY	NEWSFEED	HEALTHY LIVING
3:00-3:03PM	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	SPORTS HIGHLIGHT	
3:03-3:30PM		NEWSFEED		NEWSFEED		SPORTS HIGHLIGHT	
3:30-4:00PM	YOUR RIGHTS	SHOWCASE	INSIDE SOKOTO	HEALTHY LIVING	POETRY WITH MARIAM	SPORTS HIGHLIGHT	SHOWCASE
4:00-4:03PM	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	NEWS SUMMARY (LIVE)	WEEK IN REVIEW	KIDDIES SHOW
4:03-4:30PM	BUSINESS DAILY	DOCUMENTARY	BUSINESS DAILY	DOCUMENTARY	BUSINESS DAILY	WEEK IN REVIEW	KIDDIES SHOW
4:30-5:00PM	VOA: AFRICA TO AMERICA	VOA TEK	YOUR RIGHTS	AGRIPRENUER	LIGHT OF ISLAM	INSIDE ABUJA	AGRIPRENUER
5:00-5:30PM	BOOK READING	TRUST CHECK	KIDDIES SHOW	30 MINUTES	TRUST CHECK	TODAY'S WOMAN	POETRY WITH MARIAM
5:30-6:00PM	360 SPORTS EVENING	360 SPORTS EVENING	360 SPORTS EVENING	360 SPORTS EVENING	360 SPORTS EVENING	AFRICA UPDATE	DIVINE PATH
6:00-6:30PM	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	EYEWITNESS	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)
6:30-7:00PM	DOCUMENTARY	DOCUMENTARY	INSIDE KASTINA	ROUND UP	EYEWITNESS	ADAMS KITCHEN	AFRICA UPDATE
7:00-7:30PM	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	NEWS UPDATE (LIVE)	REMINISCENCES	
7:30-8:00PM	30 MINUTES	DOCUMENTARY	TECH PROGRAM	DOCUMENTARY	NATIONALIST	REMINISCENCES	TECH PROGRAM
8:00-9:00PM	DAILY POLITICS (LIVE)	DAILY POLITICS (LIVE)	DAILY POLITICS (LIVE)	DAILY POLITICS (LIVE)	DAILY POLITICS (LIVE)	DOCUMENTARIES	EYEWITNESS
9:00-10:00PM	NEWS HOUR (LIVE)	NEWS HOUR (LIVE)	NEWS HOUR (LIVE)	NEWS HOUR (LIVE)	NEWS HOUR (LIVE)	NEWS HOUR (LIVE)	NEWS HOUR (LIVE)
10:00-10:30PM	DOCUMENTARY	DOCUMENTARY	DOCUMENTARY	REMINISCENCES	EYEWITNESS	ROUND UP	TRUST CHECK
10:30-11:00PM	YOUR RIGHTS	DOCUMENTARY		REMINISCENCES	EYEWITNESS	SHOW TIME	DOCUMENTARY
11:00-11:30PM	DAILY POLITICS	DAILY POLITICS	DAILY POLITICS	DAILY POLITICS	DAILY POLITICS	DOCUMENTARY	DOCUMENTARY
12:00-12:30 AM	NEWS HOUR	NEWS HOUR	NEWS HOUR	NEWS HOUR	NEWS HOUR	NEWS HOUR	NEWS HOUR

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I'll focus on youth, women empowerment, climate change awareness — Sardaunan Katsina

From Tijjani Ibrahi, Katsina

The new Sardaunan Katsina, Ambassador Ahmed Rufa'i Abubakar, said in addition to his advisory function in the emirate, he would focus on good courses that include women and youth empowerment as well as climate change awareness campaign.

The new Sardauna disclosed this while briefing journalists after his turbaning by the Emir of Katsina, Dr Abdulmuni Kabir Usman on Saturday.

"Of course, there are things to do, advisory functions that I'm expected to perform, to be helping in advising His Royal Highness, the Emir

of Katsina, in his capacity as the Emir of Katsina in terms of running the Emirate and doing his functions, but also as a member of the Council of Chiefs of Katsina State, I will be required to also advise in that capacity.

"But personally, even before this title, I have been looking forward to finish my national engagement, In sha Allah, the time will come that I will retire home

and I have been investing in farming activities in agro allied kind of things, but also I have been looking forward to doing things related to good courses in terms of women empowerment, youth empowerment and in the issues of climate change.

"In Katsina, we have a sahelian climate and we are near the desert, so that also is an issue. We need to raise awareness in terms of tree

planting and not destroying trees and so on and so forth. So, these are the things,

"That is why as part of activities of this turban, we have already started the work. We did a Polo exhibition match in Abuja. And the sole purpose is to raise awareness, is to get sponsorship in that case, and that is why we linked the Polo match with the launching of a digital platform, the Sardauna digital

platform and this platform actually is going to play a key role in all the things that we will be doing with regard to what I have said," he said.

He said that was his hope in his capacity as Sardauna, as a citizen of this country who has been blessed, with the kind of trajectory that he has gone through from education, enjoying the scholarship and working in the government

"All the privileges, the honour that I got. So, I am willing and ready to also render services, continue to run the services to the community," he said.

He expressed his gratitude to all his friends and colleagues that came from far and near to grace the occasion and also to the local organising committee, headed by the Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika.

Police rescue kidnapped victims in Delta

From Meluwa Kelvin, Asaba

Delta State Police Command has rescued three kidnapped victims and recovered one locally -made- gun from the suspected kidnappers in a Delta community.

The information was contained in a statement signed by the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Bright Edefe on the Saturday, 31st December, 2022, at about 0120 hours.

According to the statement, "The police operatives attached to Orerokpe Division who were on visibility patrol duty along Warri/Sapele Road by Okuvo and Egborede communities, sighted some persons being dragged into the bush.

"The operatives suspected that they (victims) may have been kidnapped and therefore trailed the suspected kidnappers into the bush.

"When the hoodlums realised the police were closing in on them, they opened fire on the team, which the police quickly responded.

"When the hoodlums could not withstand the firepower of the police, they abandoned the victims and escaped.

"The victims (names withheld) who are aged 40yrs, 54yrs and 49yrs respectively, were rescued unharmed and have been reunited with their families while efforts are on to arrest the fleeing members of the gang."

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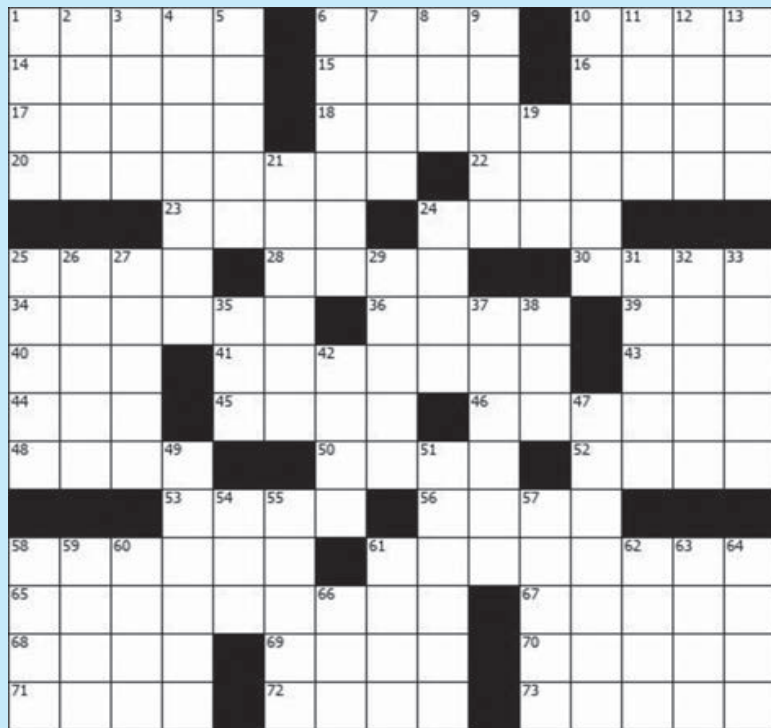


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EASY CROSSWORD >>



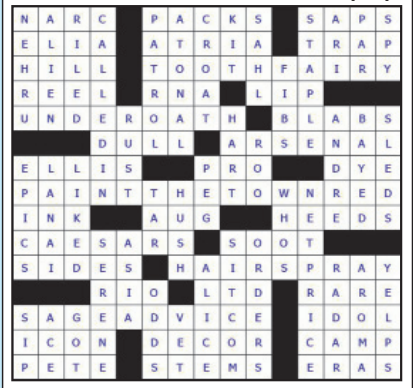
Across

- 1. Heavenly dish
- 6. Browns in the sun
- 10. Musician _____ McEntire
- 14. Laker Shaquille _____
- 15. Long, narrative poem
- 16. For all time
- 17. Slow mover
- 18. Symbolize
- 20. Notched like a saw
- 22. Spys
- 23. Responsibility
- 24. Location
- 25. Lackluster
- 28. Classify
- 30. Headliner
- 34. Go to bed
- 36. _____ Macpherson
- 39. Great anger
- 40. Gone by
- 41. Childhood disease
- 43. Seducer _____ Juan
- 44. Buddy
- 45. Fit of anger
- 46. Vouch for
- 48. She, in Barcelona
- 50. Stains
- 52. Takes advantage of
- 53. Cave dwellers
- 56. "Broadcast _____"
- 58. Landed property
- 61. Statue base

Down

- 1. Rock growth
- 2. Novelist _____ Rice
- 3. Advance upon
- 4. Kenya's capital
- 5. Edgar _____ Poe
- 6. Calcutta's Mother _____
- 7. Mocked
- 8. Small bite
- 9. Remnant
- 10. Adjusts again
- 11. Tied
- 12. Curved
- 13. Crafts
- 19. Freudian term
- 21. Soup vessel
- 24. Auction off
- 25. Curtain
- 26. Kingly
- 27. Coral island
- 29. Irritable
- 31. Ocean currents
- 32. Ascended
- 33. Leases
- 35. Motel units (abbr.)
- 37. Rented
- 38. NJ time zone
- 42. Assists
- 47. Scuffles
- 49. Diminishes
- 51. Pep
- 54. Had a snack
- 55. Keyed up
- 57. Make cloth
- 58. Wanes
- 59. Delhi dress
- 60. Stumble
- 61. Remain undecided
- 62. Neckwear items
- 63. Land unit
- 64. Smaller amount
- 66. Defective bomb

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD (39)



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!

40

Solution to Sudoku 39

9	4		5				3	7
	5		8	1				9
7					3	5		
5		6	7					
				8	6			
						7	4	
4	3					6	1	8
8	6			4		9	5	

5	4	6	7	1	3	9	8	2
3	7	8	9	2	6	4	5	1
9	1	2	4	8	5	6	3	7
2	3	4	8	6	7	1	9	5
7	5	1	2	3	9	8	6	4
6	8	9	1	5	4	7	2	3
8	9	7	5	4	2	3	1	6
1	6	5	3	7	8	2	4	9
4	2	3	6	9	1	5	7	8

SNAPSHOT >>

South Korea reports thousands are dying 'lonely deaths'



The Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare reported a staggering 3,378 "lonely deaths" occurred in the country in 2021. Lonely deaths, or "godoksa" in Korean, have received increased attention in the country over the last decade. The phenomenon refers to people who live alone and pass away at home with their deaths going unnoticed, sometimes for weeks and even months, because of their isolation from family members and friends. According to the report, the demographic most impacted were people in their 50s and 60s, who comprised 60 percent of reported lonely deaths. All adult age groups were impacted, however, including younger people in their 20s and 30s, which accounted for between 6-8 percent of lonely deaths in the country. Another element noted in godoksa deaths was gender. In the 2021 report by the Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare, men were found to be 5.3 times more likely to die a lonely death than women. The disparity of deaths between the genders is growing, as men were only four times as likely to suffer lonely deaths as women in 2019. Additionally, socioeconomic factors were often at play in lonely deaths. A 2019 report from nonprofit organization the Seoul Welfare Foundation showed that 52 percent of godoksa in the city occurred in "low rise or rental apartments." The same report showed that 95 percent of people who died lonely deaths were unemployed. A similar phenomenon known as "kodokushi," or "dying alone," has received attention in Japan. Government officials there also attribute the rise in lonely deaths to an aging population and increasing social isolation of elders. In Hong Kong, where increasing numbers of elders face isolation, lonely deaths are also expected to rise. Some believe that technology can help alleviate the number of isolated deaths. One solution being deployed in Korea is a "smart plug device" that can detect if electricity is not used over a period of time, or if the lighting in a room stays consistent for an unusual amount of time. The government is also exploring ways to employ AI technology in a similar fashion.

- NextShark

SIGN LANGUAGE >>

Sign at a local park



- boredpanda



■ From Right: Sayyida Umuhani Nyass; Chairman of Conference, Alhaji Abba Lawan- Shettima; Chairman, International Organisation of Tijaniyya Brotherhood, Prof. Abdullahi El-Okene; and Rep. Abubakar Yunusa Ahmed, during the 12th Tijaniyya Muslim Students' National Conference in Abuja yesterday

Photo: Abbas Jimoh

By Abbas Jimoh, Balarabe Alkassim (Abuja), Peter Moses (Abeokuta), Bassey Willie (Yenagoa), Raphael Ogbonnaiye (Ado Ekiti), Abubakar Akote (Minna), Usman A. Bello (Benin) & Titus Eleweke (Awka)

New Year: Govs promise better deliveries, preach peace

•CAN cautions politicians, religious leaders

Governors have asked residents to believe in a better Nigeria and promised to deliver more democratic dividends to them in 2023 which began yesterday.

Leading the charge is Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq who, while congratulating the people of the state on the New Year, unveiled his progressive agenda for 2023.

AbdulRazaq prayed that the new calendar ushers in glad tidings and greater things for everyone in the state and Nigeria in general.

"Everyone can attain their full potential on the strength of their hard work, talents and God's grace, and not necessarily on account of any political affiliations," he said.

Governor Ahmadu Fintiri of Adamawa in his New Year message urged citizens to continue to live in peace and harmony for more development.

He urged residents to start by defining for themselves the kind of future they want.

The governor also urged politicians to pursue issue-based campaigns instead of campaign of calumny, hatred and winning at all cost.

The Ogun State governor, Dapo Abiodun, during the service to usher in the New Year held at the Cathedral Church of St. Peters, Ake, Abeokuta, called on Nigerians to continue to hold to their faith in Almighty God, in the New Year.

He noted that even though things were tough and hard, it was only through hope and faith that trials and tribulations can be defeated.

The governor, who also noted that his administration would continue to carry on with the people-oriented projects across the state, added that the government had signed its Social Investment Programme which would ensure that it directly

sends money into the accounts of the poor and the unemployed every month.

Adeleke, Diri, Oyebanji promise better days

Osun State Governor Ademola Adeleke reassured residents of the state of good governance while promising to remain responsive and accountable towards repositioning the state for greater heights.

Adeleke, in his New Year address to the people of the state on Sunday in Osogbo, said in spite of the tension and anxiety in 2022, the state had gallantly emerged stronger with the support and goodwill of everyone.

The governor further said his administration had created a strong working relationship among the three arms of government.

Bayelsa State governor, Senator Douye Diri, assured people of the state of better days ahead, despite the several challenges they passed through in 2022.

Speaking during a statewide New Year broadcast on Sunday, Diri acknowledged the challenges of the outgone year but expressed optimism that with the help of Almighty God, as well as the careful planning being implemented by his administration, the state would fare better in 2023.

He called on the people of the state to put their differences aside and resolve to work together to achieve the dreams of the Bayelsa founding fathers, especially as the 2023 general elections were approaching.

Ekiti State governor, Biodun Oyebanji, in his own message urged the people of the state to look forward to 2023 with great hope and expectations for overall development and positive turnaround in all sectors.

He expressed hope that 2023 would be a "year of giant lift for

Ekiti", calling for the support of the people to make the dream a reality.

He assured the people that they would witness "massive improvement in security, infrastructure and government services than we have ever seen," adding that 2023 promises to be a glorious year of strong beginning for the government and people of Ekiti State."

Bello, Soludo, lament thuggery, insecurity

Niger State governor, Abubakar Sani Bello, has warned against the use thugs and campaigns of bitterness as politicians begin full campaigns ahead of the 2023 elections in the state.

Bello, in a New Year message by his chief press secretary, Mary Noel-Berje, emphasised the need for issues-based campaigns among candidates and their loyalists.

While assuring that the APC-led government would continue to focus on the welfare of the people, Bello said the ruling party remained the most viable option for the citizens ahead of the 2023 general elections.

He prayed for the sustenance of peace and unity in the state and country, adding that the collective prosperity of a people was dependent on their unity and peaceful coexistence.

In his New Year message, Edo State governor, Godwin Obaseki, commended the Edo people for their resilience in the face of daunting challenges to earn a living.

He pledged to sustain the ongoing reforms and projects across various sectors of the state's economy aimed at improving the livelihoods of the people and achieving economic prosperity.

He said his administration was transitioning Edo from a civil service-dominated state to one attracting manufacturing, commercial agricultural

concerns, service and technology companies, real estate and several SMEs, among others.

Governor of Anambra State, Professor Charles Soludo, in his New Year message stated that there were enough reasons to celebrate in the state.

He said despite the daunting challenges, Anambra people had continued to win from all fronts.

He assured that 2023 would usher in accelerated development and progress in the state and Nigeria while wishing the people a bountiful 2023.

Obi speaks

Also, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Mr Peter Obi, has called on all Nigerians to unite their efforts in the journey of taking back the nation.

Obi said "2023 is a very critical year that will determine the next direction of the nation".

He explained that the nation could not continue in its retrogressive movement in the coming years, as that would result in its total collapse.

He called on Nigerians to hold him accountable for his promises of a better nation when given access to power.

In his own statement on Sunday, the Deputy Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Toby Okechukwu (PDP, Enugu), urged Nigerians to keep hope alive despite the prevailing economic hardship and security challenges in the country.

Lamenting insecurity that has taken over in the South East, Okechukwu noted that the Igbo were particularly known for communal living and conferring among themselves both at home and in the diaspora.

He said the New Year holiday was an opportunity for introspection on the incomprehensible and prevalent destruction of lives, property, and economy of Igbo land with a view to building lasting peace and

calm in the homeland.

2023 will be positive turnaround, says CAN

Meanwhile, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has urged all Nigerians, especially religious and political leaders, to be conscious that there is life after the 2023 general elections so should shun divisive acts and utterances.

The president of the association, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, made the call on Saturday in Abuja in his New Year message.

He said 2022 was filled with a seeming unabated climate of fear and uncertainty not just in Nigeria, but across the world.

"However, as Christians, we testify of God's kindness and faithfulness in 2022, considering the unconscionable attempts by criminal elements wielding sophisticated weapons to stake a claim on our lives and freedom as well as the steady decline in the national economy.

"Our politicians should realise that we don't have any other country but Nigeria. Consequently, this reality should inspire them to be more responsible in playing politics with the best interest of the masses at heart.

"In the same vein, religious leaders should know that there is life after the general elections of 2023. Therefore, our speeches and conduct should focus on encouraging our people to build a Nigeria where equity, justice and fairness will reign supreme," Okoh said.

He urged security agencies not to relent in their efforts to ensure safety and security in the country and also support the conduct of peaceful 2023 general elections.

Okoh also urged the government to do more to stop the downward trend of the economy by checking the sources of leakages and wastage of national resources in 2023.

Fuel subsidy favours the rich more than the poor – Tinubu

From Salim Umar Ibrahim,
Kano

Your Excellency, I understand you are in Saudi Arabia?

Yes, I am here in Saudi Arabia. It is a personal trip. It is a trip for spiritual rebirth. I like coming to perform the Umrah every now and then. It is an opportunity to connect with Almighty Allah. We need his guidance. Nigeria is in need of prayers and that is why we are here praying for our country, self and the society.

How is the campaign going so far?

So far, so good. We are reaching each and every Nigerian. We decided that rallies are not always enough. We need to engage all Nigerians from all parts of the country and across all sectors of our socio-economic life. We have engaged businessmen, farmers, miners, industrialists, entertainers, labour leaders, and so on.

By the engagements we are having it is clear that we are going to win this election. As the elections are coming closer the signs are clear and that is why our opponents are jittery. They

In this interview with Kano-based *Freedom Radio* monitored by our correspondent, presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu speaks on his stance on fuel subsidy removal, his health status and other issues around his campaign. Excerpt:



■ Tinubu

have now resorted to peddling fake news and quoting some of my statements out of context just to score cheap points.

Like what, Your Excellency?

Recently I was asked about fuel subsidy removal, and I said I will ensure we end the wastage and re-channel the money to the people who truly need it. This is one position that almost all

the candidates are united about. We all agreed that the subsidy regime is abused and it favours the rich more than the poor. It has to go.

I couldn't have opposed people expressing their own position on this. I believe in consultation and guaranteed by democratic values and norms. I respect opinion of people and I would not be party

to stifling dissenting views or any legitimate protest. I am a veteran of protests myself. So why should I say people should not embark on well-intentioned protest? There is no excuse for that and there is no abuse of power intended.

Some people say you are escaping from engaging directly with Nigerians, especially through media interviews...

(Cuts in) What do you mean? Are we not having interview now? I just finished talking to people through town-hall meetings and speaking directly to people. Those saying that are losers and they will lose.

There are still insinuations about your health and fitness. Are you really fit for the rigours of the Presidency?

Ah! I told you where I am now. I just finished performing the the umrah. I did the seven rounds of tawaf, I did the seven trips between safa and Marwa.

Can a sick person do that? That is stale news, my brother. People who are making those insinuations have nothing else to say but lies and rubbish.

I have moved round, spoke at different platforms and stood for hours to address different audiences. Before they said I could not walk, they said I could not stand, they are shamed. Since the campaign started I have marshalled more original ideas than anyone else. I have demonstrated knowledge, experience and great capacity to be on top of issues in the country.

And this job is about ideas and issues regarding leadership of our country. I have all it takes to be the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and I am asking people of the country to have confidence and respect for that, look at my background and my previous assignments. I want to serve the country and serve the country very well.

New Year: Gombe gov urges people to embrace 2023 with optimism

From Haruna Gimba Yaya,
Gombe

Gombe State governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, has enjoined the people of the state and Nigerians to embrace the New Year with steadfastness, renewed faith and optimism.

In a New Year message issued

by his spokesman, Ismaila Uba Misilli, the governor expressed the hope that the year would be bright and prosperous.

He urged people to work for peace and unity as well as security and development of the state and the country.

"The year 2023 holds a great promise for all of us. It is an important year in which we are

yet again going to the polls to elect our leaders at various levels.

"So as we enter the New Year, I call on all of us to draw on the lessons learned in 2022 in all aspects of human endeavors and continue to work assiduously for the peace, progress, security and development of our dear state," he stated.

Yahaya thanked the people of the state for their unwavering prayers, support and solidarity for his administration in the past years.

He urged them to continue in the same manner for the consolidation of the gains recorded so far and the attainment of our collective aspirations.

...Buhari has rekindled hope for credible elections – CNPP

By Abbas Jimoh

The Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has said that President Muhammadu Buhari has renewed hope for free, fair and credible elections this year with his recent warning to security agencies to maintain a high sense of professionalism and desist from behaviour that would bring disrepute to the service.

Secretary General of CNPP, Chief Willy Ezugwu, said on Sunday in a statement that Buhari's New Year's message urging Nigerians to resist attempts by politicians to disrupt the 2023 general

elections was also a welcome development.

Ezugwu in his own New Year message noted that a successful transition to a new administration would only be possible if all stakeholders ensure the credibility of the forthcoming general elections.

He said the dream of a smooth transition to the next administration on May 29, 2023 would be a mirage without the neutrality of all security agencies and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

He said that Nigeria could not afford to have a new crop of corrupt

politicians and their cronies take over the country's leadership at every level.

"For this reason, we specially charge the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to ensure that all efforts by politicians to buy votes during the scheduled general elections, beginning from February, were unsuccessful in line with the presidential directive to all security agencies to ensure free, fair and credible elections this year," he said.



■ President Buhari

...Ngige urges approach with positive mindsets

Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, has urged Nigerians to approach the New Year with positive mindsets and remain hopeful for a greater Nigeria.

The minister in his New Year

message on Sunday in Abuja said the challenges facing Nigerians were not insurmountable, hence the need for all to approach the year with positive mindsets.

"It is this spirit that will keep us going until we reach

the desired destination of a prosperous and bountiful Nigeria that our founding fathers fought for," he added.

Ngige used the opportunity to thank Nigerian workers for their support to the administration of

President Muhammadu Buhari and himself since 2015.

He said the administration had prioritised workers' welfare from inception, and remained committed to them as it winds down in five months. (NAN)

Tijjaniyya group tasks youths on 2023

By Abbas Jimoh

The Tijjaniyyah Muslim Students' Association of Nigeria (TIMSAN) has urged members and other youths across the country to avoid acts capable of heating up the polity and threatening the smooth conduct of the 2023 general elections.

The Chairman, International Organisation of Tijjaniyya Brotherhood (IOTB), Prof. Abdullahi El-Okene, gave the charge at the 12th Tijjaniyya Muslim Students' National Conference on Sunday in Abuja.

He said the conference was to bring the organisation's members together on their wellbeing and how to the good members of the organisation and good citizens in the country.

The conference urged members to make the best of their studentship in the various higher institutions to be able to make positive impacts with their knowledge and experiences.

Also, the Mukadam (leader) of the organisation in South West, Hakeem Muhydeen Folahan, and the Mukadam in Kaduna State, Ahmad Abdullahi, in separate presentations at the conference urged members to be forthright in their relationship with Allah and fellow citizens.

Couple dies as arsonists set house ablaze in Ogun

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

A couple has been killed after some hoodlums suspected to be arsonists set their house ablaze in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The couple, Kehinde and Bukola Fatinoye reportedly died during the incident that occurred at their residence located within the Ibara Government Reservation Area (GRA), Abeokuta.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident occurred shortly after the couple returned from Cross over Service to usher

in the New Year.

The wife was a worker at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), while the husband was in the employ of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

It was further gathered that one of the children of the victims and their maid were kidnapped by men of the underworld during the attack.

The victim's son and the maid, according to a family member, were said to have been thrown into a river along the Adigbe-Obada area of the town.

The police spokesman,

Abimbola Oyeyemi, confirmed the incident.

He said a suspect had been arrested in connection to the incident and that the command has commenced investigation on the matter.

"It is true that a couple was killed and set ablaze at their residence in Abeokuta, shortly after they returned from Cross over Service.

"One person has been arrested by our operatives in connection to the incident. We will get to the root of the matter, as investigation has since begun," he said.



■ From left: Commissioner for Health Lagos State, Prof. Akin Abayomi; Wife of the Deputy Governor Lagos State, Mrs Oluremi Hamzat; Wife of the Lagos State Governor, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr Olusegun Ogboye and Chief Medical Director of Eti-Osa General Hospital, Dr Mustapha Quadri, during the visit of the wife of Lagos state Governor to welcome the 1st Baby of the Year 2023, in Lagos yesterday

Photo: NAN

Adeleke suspends heads of agencies, orders probe

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State has suspended the Executive Secretary of the Osun Health Insurance Scheme (OHIS), Dr Niyi Oginni and the Head of the Primary Health Care Development Board, Dr Adebukola Olujide.

The governor has equally ordered the Public Procurement Agency and other relevant government agencies to immediately kick off the process to recover all outstanding tender fees on contract awards to which the state government is a party,

in the last four years.

This was contained in a statement signed by Adeleke's spokesperson, Rasheed Olawale in Osogbo on Sunday.

Adeleke also announced a holistic investigation of the Public Procurement Agency (the Due Process Office) to determine the extent of its culpability in the alleged non-remittance of tender fees to the state treasury and contract manipulation during the administration of his predecessor, Adegboyega Oyetola.

The suspension of the two chief executive officers was a sequel to the interim report of

the Committee on Contracts and memorandum of understanding chaired by Hon Niyi Owolade, which indicted the two agency's chiefs of gross abuse of office, mismanagement of public resources and serial violations of agency and public service regulations and laws.

The committee accused the suspended officers of unethical practices including contract awards without due process, non-remittance of the actual tender fees collected from contractors, contracts without value for money like the PHCs and deliberate splitting of contracts.

Only God knows Nigeria's next leaders — Muslim students

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

Ahead of the 2023 elections, the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN), yesterday said only Allah knows the next set of Nigerian leaders.

The students also urged all stakeholders to tackle prevalent challenges in Nigeria so that equal rights and peaceful coexistence prevail in the society.

The Amir (President) of MSSN Lagos, Miftahudeen Thanni, made the appeal during the formal closing ceremony of the society's 113th Islamic Vacation Course (IVC) in the Epe area of Lagos State.

The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Governor of Lagos State,

Dr Obafemi Hamzat, lawmakers in the state, prominent clerics and other notable personalities.

The students' leader said Nigerians' patriotism had been weakened by the challenges confronting Nigeria.

He noted that "Islam and Humanity" was chosen as the theme of the week-long camping programme to reflect on how Islam and Muslims could be saviours to the myriads of problems facing humanity.

The organisers commended the Lagos State government for issuing a circular on the implementation of the Supreme Court Judgement granting the use of hijab for Muslim female students in Lagos schools, stating that "the act

deepens constitutionalism".

Addressing the students, the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Obafemi Hamzat advised the youth to participate in the next elections, saying their failure to vote was detrimental to good governance.

He said many Nigerian leaders have questions to answer before God.

He said, "The future belongs to the youths, whether we like it or not, our generation will leave soon, so it is their country, they must participate in the elections that is why they should ask the right questions because 2023 is about capability and ability to achieve their goals and who are the people that can do it for them based on proven records."

Felling of trees, refuse dumping putting lives at risk in Kano — Gov't

From Zahraddeen Yakubu Shuaibu, Kano

Kano State Government has attributed the incessant change in weather, which further leads to flooding and harsh weather to the attitudes of residents who "indiscriminately" dump refuse on roads and drainages across the state.

The state government also said the attitude of felling down trees across the forests and city areas without planting more of them is affecting the city, thereby exposing it to more dangers associated with climate change.

The state Commissioner for Environment, Dr Kabiru Ibrahim Getso stated this while briefing newsmen during the end of the year review of the activities of the ministry in Kano.

Dr Getso said all hands must be on deck to address climate change, which had become a global issue, adding that the masses had a great role to play in mitigating the effect of the phenomenon.

He said their administration had accorded priority to the environment sector "especially

in the areas of biodiversity conservation, restoration of degraded land, focus on climate change issues, fight against the menace of desertification and desert encroachment, pollution control and environmental sanitation among others.

"During the year under review, several policies and activities were introduced to protect the environment against various disasters such as Keep Kano Clean Exercise where refuse was evacuated within a period of 20 days, drainage clearance exercise, planting of one million trees across the 44 LGs, among many others."

According to him, part of the 2023 target of the ministry is to ensure that waste recycling industries are given priority to convert the state refuse into wealth that will further reduce the effects of climate change, including flood, which affected many people in the state during last rainy season.

He urged people in the state to refrain from indiscriminate dumping of waste and embrace the culture of planting and nurturing of trees in their immediate communities for a safe and healthier environment.

'Kidnapper' flees as police recover 2 AK-47, ammunition, cash in Kwara

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Police operatives in Bode Sadu axis of Moro Local Government Area of Kwara State have recovered guns, ammunition and money believed to be ransom during a 'stop-and-search' operation.

It was gathered that the suspect who was on a Bajaj motorcycle ran into the bush after sighting the police officers who had flagged him down.

Speaking on the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer, Okasanmi Ajayi said a search of the bag tied to the motorcycle "revealed some ammunition and money".

"Two AK-47 rifles, seven

empty magazines, fifty rounds of AK-47 live ammunition, three Techno handsets, eleven telephone handset batteries, criminal charms, clothes and the sum of N255,000", suspected to be payment for ransom were recovered after the search," Okasanmi said.

He added that efforts to arrest the fleeing suspect "Strongly believed to be one of the kidnappers operating around the border towns of Ekiti, Kogi and Kwara states" were ongoing.

According to him, the development was the outcome of the Kwara State Commissioner of Police, Paul Odama's resolve to rid the state of kidnappers and their gangs operating along the axis.

Ekiti first lady donates gifts to first baby in 2023

From Raphael Ogbonnaiye, Ado-Ekiti

The wife of Ekiti State governor, Dr. Olayemi Abiodun Oyeibanji, has presented cash and gift items to the first baby of the year in the state, born to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Gbenga Adeyemo in Ise-Ekiti.

The first baby was delivered at 12.00a.m yesterday at the Comprehensive Health Centre, Oke-Yadi, Ise-Ekiti. The baby girl weighed 3.0kg at birth.

The governor's wife congratulated the family and

charged them to take good care of the baby girl.

The father of the baby, a bricklayer, said the baby, the second child, was delivered without any complications.

Mrs. Yetunde Salami, the officer of the health centre, said the mother and child were in stable condition.

In a related development, the governor's wife visited the Ekiti State Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti, where she donated cash and gifts to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Tons Owoeye, who were blessed with triplets last week.

New Year: El-Rufai releases 11 convicts from correctional centre

From Mohammed I. Yaba, Kaduna

Governor Nasir El-Rufai has approved the release of 11 convicts in exercise of the prerogative of mercy powers conferred by Section 212 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

A statement from Sir Kashim Ibrahim House noted that the governor who acted on the recommendation of the State Advisory Council on the Prerogative of Mercy released the convicts on New Year day.

The statement added that it was customary to extend a gesture of compassion on New Year day by granting pardon to deserving prisoners within the jurisdiction of Kaduna State.

The governor who spoke at the Kaduna 2023 countdown celebrations organised by Kaduna Capital Territory Authority (KCTA) wished the people a happy New Year and appealed for optimism despite tough times.

The Kaduna State Advisory Council on Prerogative of Mercy had earlier recommended the grant of amnesty and for the immediate release of Musa John, Yakubu Abdullahi and Habu Usman.

Other convicts that were released included Shamsu Usman, Abdullahi Abdulmumuni, Mahadi Abdullahi, Fortune Mabuke, Abdullahi Lawal, Sunday Iliya, Mohammed Anas and Kayode Gabriel Adenji.

NASFAT missionary to politicians: Don't make your ambitions do-or-die

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

The Chief Missioner of Nasrul-Lahi-l-Fatih Society (NASFAT), Imam Abdul-Azeez Onike has advised Nigerian politicians to play the political game by the rules and put the interest of the populace at heart. He stated this in his New Year message to Nigerians, saying, "As we move into the election year, our politicians should not make their political ambition a do-or-die affair, knowing fully well that what has been destined for every individual will not miss him."

He made reference to a saying of the Noble Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that "Everything has a reality, and the servant will not reach the reality of faith until he knows that what afflicted him could never miss him and that what missed him could never have afflicted him."

Onike however stated that his message should not be seen as giving a spiritual or religious value to the new Gregorian year, saying the Islamic faith has no special attachment to the year apart from the fact that the sun and moon are two means of knowing the number of years, as referenced in the Holy Qur'an. He prayed to Allah to continue to make peace reign supreme in Nigeria.

Residents flee as security, gunmen clash in Imo community

From Jude A. Owuamanam, Owerri

Residents of Ihube in the Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State have deserted their community following continuous clashes between gunmen and security agents.

Our correspondent gathered

that both the DSS and the army have been combing the forests of Ihube in search of a female army officer, who was kidnapped and stripped naked. The officer, a lieutenant, identified as Phoebe Johnson, was seen in a viral video where she was being dehumanised by her abductors.

Lt. Johnson was said to have recently passed out from the

Nigerian Defence Academy and was on the way to visit her grandmother before she was kidnapped by the gunmen.

Earlier reports had it that she had been released, but the army authorities denied it, saying that she is yet to be set free.

A resident of the area, who fled from the clashes, told our correspondent that since the

abduction of the female army officer, the residents have not been at peace. The resident, also identified as Phoebe, said, "As I am talking to you now, everybody is on the run. You cannot see a single person in Ihube."

The Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Mike Abattam, is yet to respond to inquiries as of the time of filing this report.



■ Chairman, Media Trust Group, Kabir Yusuf (right) congratulates a member of the Media Trust Group Board of Directors, Alhaji Aminu Dangana after he was turbaned as the first Matawallen Tudun Wada by the Village Head of Tudun Wada town in Nassarawa Local Government Area of Kano State yesterday
Photo: Zahraddeen Y. Shuaibu

Daily Trust director, Aminu Dangana, bags traditional title in Kano

From Zahraddeen Y. Shuaibu, Kano

A director of Media Trust Group, owners of *Daily Trust*, *Trust TV* and other titles, Alhaji Aminu Dangana, has been turbaned as the Matawallen Tudun Wada by the Village Head of Tudun Wada town in Nassarawa Local Government Area of Kano State. The title, which is the first of its kind in the history of the council, was conferred on Dangana for his tremendous contribution to the development of his immediate community.

He was turbaned alongside other prominent people in the community, who were given different titles to serve in the council with the consent of the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero, who was represented by the District Head of Nassarawa.

Speaking shortly after he was turbaned, Alhaji Dangana said he

was excited to have himself back to society to give his quota to the development of the community.

He added that some of his friends were not alive to witness the occasion, hence, the need to thank Almighty God for sparing his life.

"One of the reasons why we are appointed is to come closer to our people. We have been working elsewhere, we have been giving our quota to so many communities. Now, we are back closer to our people so we know their problems and are in a better position to help them in uplifting their lives.

"It is a title that comes along with responsibilities. It is also a title that will help to strengthen the relationship between people of Tudun Wada and the rest of the communities in Nigeria as a whole. So, it is a welcome development and I am happy, overjoyed and I pray that God Almighty will help us to discharge the responsibilities

that have been placed on us."

Speaking on behalf of the new title holders, the Matawallen thanked the entire Kano Emirate and the Tudun Wada LGA for the gesture, adding that they will commit themselves to developing the community.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Group General Manager, Human Resources & Management Services of Media Trust Group, who is also a member of the community, Hajija Hadiza Ibrahim Bala, described the appointments as well deserving and a move towards strengthening relationships in the community.

"I am a member of this community through my parents and great grandparents. This is the first time I am actually witnessing something like this happening in Tudun Wada.

"A lot of our family members were also recognised. We also received a certificate on behalf

of our late father, Alhaji Ibrahim Bala, who was also a very well-known person. I'm very proud to be part of this community."

On his part, the Executive Director, Editorial and Digital of the Media Trust, Malam Naziru Mikail, congratulated the new Matawallen on the appointment and also appreciated members of the community for honouring their son.

"This is a well-deserved title and it shows that the community has seen what he has done over the years for them. It is a well-deserved recognition and we pray to Almighty Allah to help him and guide him and also to continue to bless the community," he said.

Other people turbaned along with the Matawallen were the Madaki of Tudun Wada, Sa'in Tudun Wada, Dan Masanin Tudun Wada, Talban Tudun Wada and Zannan Tudun Wada, among others.

Late Ohanaeze Ndigbo's president was a reconciliator – ACF

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has described the late leader of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Professor George Obiozor, as a reconciliator whose exemplary leadership will be missed. The ACF, in a statement issued yesterday by its Chairman, Chief Audu Ogbah said "Departing at this moment when various groups and tendencies are reaching

out to one another for national cohesion will no doubt impact on the project Nigeria."

According to him, "ACF received with shock the news of the demise of Professor Obiozor George Achulike, the leader of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, which was announced by His Excellency, the Governor of Imo State, Senator Hope Uzodinma. It is indeed a great loss, especially at this time when his exemplary leadership is in great

need.

"The late Professor George Obiozor made a mark in diplomacy and scholarship. Having served in the United Nations and being part of the think-tank of the Obasanjo administration, his domestic and global roles no doubt placed him in a position to lead the Igbo main socio-cultural group, the Ohanaeze Ndigbo.

"The late Professor Obiozor was a reconciliator, a person of

depth and a strategist. He was the Ugwumba I of Orlu, and a recipient of the Grantee Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, and Alice Stetten Fellowship of Columbia University School International Affairs amongst others. He will be greatly missed. The leadership and the entire membership of the Arewa Consultative Forum join millions of mourners of the late professor. May his soul rest in the Lord, amen."

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LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

COMPANY REGISTRATION

CHANGE OF NAME

LEGAL NOTICE

GENEVIEVE: I, formerly known as **MISS GENEVIEVE BASSEY IGIRI,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS GENEVIEVE LEO IBONG.** All documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public to take note.

I am known and addressed as **SHAFIU UMAR** my correct **02-02-1991** not **02-02-1987** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly known as **ABDULHADI MOHAMMED** now wish to be called and addresses **MOHAMMAD ABDULHADI DAMBATTA** all former document remain valid authority concern and general public should take note

OGUNDIPE: I, formerly known and addressed as **BALOGUN TAWAKALITU FOLAKEMI.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **OGUNDIPE TAWAKALITU FOLAKEMI.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
This is to inform the general public of the Loss/ Misplacement of Original Plot Documents of **ABDULLAHI ADAMS AUDU** one of the Heirs of **LATE ALHAJI AUDU ADAMS.** That his late father is Legal and Rightful owner of a **Plots No 29,** which the said Plots is lying and situated at **GBAGADA VILLEGE BARIGA SHOMOLU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA LAGOS STATE** of which he bought the said Plots from **DR. S.A. JINADU** who is the former owner of the said Plots. The sales agreement and the Original Allocation Letter of the said House given to his late father got missing/misplacement and all efforts made to trace same proved abortive. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME: Formerly known as **FAMILY GARDI YOUTH COOPERATIVE SOCIETY,** now to be known and addressed as **AALI GARDI and SONS MULTI LINK SERVICES.** All former documents with **CAC** remained valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known as Ummu muhammad Dan Hege now wish to be known and addressed as Ummu Muhammad Dan Ige. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note

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

ADDITION OF NAME AND CORRECTION ON DATE OF BIRTH **BASANYA: I,** formerly known and addressed as **BASANYA SUSAN.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **BASANYA SUSAN OJOCHOGWU.** That I was born on 26th day of November, 1979 not 26th day of November, 1982. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
This is to inform the general public of the Loss/ Misplacement of Original Plot Documents of **ABDULLAHI ADAMS AUDU** one of the Heirs of **LATE ALHAJI AUDU ADAMS.** That his late father is Legal and Rightful owner of a **2 Plots,** which the said Plots is lying and situated at **MILLINIUM ESTATE LAGOS** of which he bought the said 2 Plots from **ALHAJA TOYIBAT YUSUF ADENIJI** who is the owner of the said Plots. The sales agreement and the Original Allocation Letter of the said Plots given to his late father got missing/misplacement and all efforts made to trace same proved abortive. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

NAFISA: I formerly known as **NAFSA SALEH,** now wish to be known and addressed as **NAFISA SANI.** All former documents should remain valid, general public should please take note.

ASHEIKH: I formerly known as **ABDULRAHMAN AHSHEK.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULRAHMAN ASHEIKH.** With **D.O.B: 2001/1996.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

LUCY: I, formerly known as **LUCY WATURU ZIRRA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **LUCY FINBARR ZIRRA.** All former documents remain valid. For the reconciliation of existing international passport, school certificate, **NIN** and bank details. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

IKUGBANMIRE: I, formerly known and addressed as **ORIOYE IKUMAABAMIRE.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **IKUGBANMIRE ORIOYE FRANCIS.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
This is to inform the general public of the Loss/ Misplacement of Original Plot Documents of **ABDULLAHI ADAMS AUDU** one of the Heirs of **LATE ALHAJI AUDU ADAMS.** That his late father is Legal and Rightful owner of a **2 Plots,** which the said Plots is lying and situated at **ALHAJA TOYIBAT YUSUF ADENIJI** who is the owner of the said Plots. The sales agreement and the Original Allocation Letter of the said Plots given to his late father got missing/misplacement and all efforts made to trace same proved abortive. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

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

I formerly known and addressed as **HAUWAWU MOHAMMED YUSUF** now wish to be known and addressed as **HAUWAWU AHMAD YUSUF.** All former documents remain valid general public should take note

ABDULLAHI: I formerly known as **ABUBAKAR YUSUF** now wish to be known as **ABDULLAHI YUSUF** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

REMOVER OF NAME That my name is **SHAIBU YUSUF.** That my name was formerly known as **SHAIBU YUSUF MAGA** and now wish to be **SHAIBU YUSUF.** That this sworn affidavit is to enable me declare that my correct and arrangement of name is **SHAIBU YUSUF.** All former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned should thereby take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
This is to inform the general public of the Loss/ Misplacement of Original Plot Documents of **ABDULLAHI ADAMS AUDU** one of the Heirs of **LATE ALHAJI AUDU ADAMS.** That his late father is Legal and Rightful owner of **Plots,** of which the said Plots is lying and situated at **OKE ORA KANKANLA ABOYOI NIG OWODE AJEGUNLE IKORODU ROAD KOSOFE L.G. LAGOS** of which he bought the said Plots from **ODOYO OGBO ROYAL FAMILY AGBOYOI 1** who are the owners of the said Plots. The sales agreement and the Original Allocation Letter of the said Plots given to his late father got missing/misplacement and all efforts made to trace same proved abortive. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

KACHALLAH: I formerly known as **ZAINAB KACHALLAH SARKI,** with **DOB as 05/09/1989,** but now wishes to be known and addressed as **ZAINAB KACHALLAH,** with **DOB as 05/09/1997.** All formal documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **RUMASAU MOHAMMED YUSUF** now wish to be known and addressed as **RUMASAU ABDULKADIR IBRAHIM.** All former documents remain valid general public should take note

FATIMA: I formerly known as **FATIMA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known as **FATIMA ISAH** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

SHOYEMI: I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss IRO CHINYERE ODOCHI.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs SHOYEMI CHINYERE ODOCHI.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
I, ALHAJI BUKAR YASULUMI 'M' of Mafoni Ward Maiduguri, wish to inform the general public of the lost of original certificate of occupancy No. **NE/1643** situated at new prison old Maiduguri, On the 18th September 2000. With the name of **ALHAJI MUSTAPHA YASULUMI.** as the original allottee where kept. All effort made to trace it proved abortive, hence he reported the incident to the Police, General public should please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **TUNDE SUNDAY OJELEYE** now wish to be known and addressed as **TUNDE DE GREAT.** All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **AHMADU D/ TAWAYE,** wish to be known and addressed as **AMADU ADO.** All former documents remain valid general public should take note

SALISU: I formerly known as **SALISU MAIGORO** now wish to be known as **SALISU DODO** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

KOJEKU: I, formerly known and addressed as **ANIMASUN KABIRAT BOLA.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **KOJEKU KABIRAT BOLA.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

UMAR: I formally known as **FIRST NAME: UMAR SURNAME: SHEHUGARBAI,** now wish to be known and addressed as **SUWAIBA ALIYU** with **D.O.B 07-01-1985.** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **SUWAIBA UMMARU ALIYU** with **D.O.B 07-01-1985** now wish to be known and addressed as **SUWAIBA ALIYU** with **D.O.B 01-01-1985.** All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **AMBE ABRAHAM** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMBE KOFULO ABRAHAM** with date of birth **08/12/1972.** All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known as **UMMI GUMEL BASIRU** **05/02/1996** now wish to be called and addressed as **UMMI BASIRU.** **DOB: 01/01/1998.** All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

ADAMS: I, formerly known **ADAMS FAIVA ADAMS ZIRRA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMS TIZHE ZIRRA.** All former documents remain valid. For the reconciliation of existing international passport, school certificate, **NIN** and bank details. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS AJIFOLOKUN ADENIKE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS SOLOMON ADENIKE OLUFISAYO. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE NOTE.

Requirement for Change of Name Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit

I, formerly known and addressed as **BENUÉ ELIAS** now wish to be known and addressed as **ELIAS BENUÉ NOMA.** All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known as **Hauwa Yabanma** now wish to be called and addressed as **Hauwa Ibrahim** and Correct Date of Birth: **10/07/1996.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ZACHARIAH: I, formerly known as **ZACHARIAH FINBARR ZIRRA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZACHARIAH TIZHE ZIRRA.** All former documents remain valid. For the reconciliation of existing international passport, school certificate, **NIN** and bank details. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS NNADI ELECHI CHRISTIANA. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS DADA ELECHI CHRISTIANA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE NOTE.

IKHAI: I formerly known and addressed as **MRS JOSEPHINE IKHAI.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS IKHAI CHRISTIANA NNENE.** All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take.

I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD SODANGI** now wish to be called and addressed as **IDRIS TALLE SULE.** All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

VICTOR: I, formerly known as **VICTOR TUMBA ZIRRA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **VICTOR TIZHE ZIRRA.** All former documents remain valid. For the reconciliation of existing international passport, school certificate, **NIN** and bank details. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

FAWOLE: I, formerly known and addressed as **ADEJINMI TAYO FEMI.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **FAWOLE SAMSON SEGUN.** All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

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

I formerly known as **MOHAMMED ISHAQ** **22/02/1984** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUHAMMAD ISHAQ.** **09/10/1985.** All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

JOSEPH: I, formerly known as **JOSEPH VANDU ZIRRA,** now wish to be known and called **JOSEPH TIZHE ZIRRA.** All former documents remain valid. For the reconciliation of existing international passport, school certificate, **NIN** and bank details. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

I, formerly known and addressed as **ALIHU TAJU MUHAMMED,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMED ALIHU TAJU.** All former documents remain valid, Stanbic IBTC Bank and General public should please take note.

BLESSING: I formerly known and addressed as **MISS OMOHOBE BLESSING.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS BLESSING OMON-AHONSI EKEINDE.** All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD MOHAMMED MUSA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUHAMMAD JA'O MUSA.** All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

HILARY: I, formerly known as **HILARY GOJI ZIRRA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **HILARY TIZHE ZIRRA.** All former documents remain valid. For the reconciliation of existing international passport, school certificate, **NIN** and bank details. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

RUKAYYA- I formerly known as **RUKAYYA MOHAMMED** now wish to be known as **RUKAYYA MOHAMMED INUWA.** With **D O B 01/01/1991 TO- 10/08/1993.** All former document remain valid. General public should take note

MUSTAPHA I formerly known as **MUSTAPHA MUDURU RIDWAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSTAPHA RIDWAN MUDURU.** All former documents remain valid and general public should take note

I formerly known as **Amina ABDULLAHI** now wish to be called and addressed as **Amina ABDULLAHI UBA.** All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

MUHAMMAD SANI YAHAYAI formerly known as **SANI MUSA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD SANI YAHAYAI.** All former documents remain valid. The authorities concerned and general public should take note.

KYARI : I formerly known as **MOHAMMED KYARI AND MOHAMMED KYARI MOHAMMED AND KYARI MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD.** now wish to be known as **KYARI MOHAMMED MOHAMMED.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

***DESTINY* I,** formerly known as ***DESTINY JUNIOR NWOSE*.** Now wish to be known called and addressed as ***DESTINY JUNIOR NWAOLISE*.** All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

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

I formerly known as **AYARA AMOS ANZALA** now wish to be called and addresses **AYARA AMOS** all former document remain valid authority concern and general public should take to note

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

ILIYASU I formerly known and addressed as **ILIYASU MOHAMMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **ILIYASU BABAYO** All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note

FESTUS: I, formerly known and addressed as **EMUOHA CHINONSO PRECIOUS,** now wish to be known and addressed as **FESTUS CHINONSO PRECIOUS.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note

I formerly known as **ABDU DAMBO** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULAZIZ DAMBO KANGIWA** All former documents remain valid. Authority concern to please take note

I formerly known : **Lawan Indabo** now wish to be called and addresses **Malam Lawan Indabo** all former document remain valid authority concern and general public should take to note

HALIMA: I formerly known as **HALIMA IDRIS MOHAMMED** now wish to be known as **HALIMA IDRIS 1/1/1988** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

SADIQ I formally known as **ABUBAKAR INUSA,** now wish to be known and Addressed as **ABUBAKAR SADIQ INUSA.** All former documents remain valid. With correct **DOB 07/12/2003,** General public should please take note.

PARADISE: I, formerly known and addressed as **OYEH PATIENCE,** now wish to be known and addressed as **PARADISE AJIRI PERPETUAL.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note

SPORT



■ Aston Villa players celebrate Emiliano Buendia's opening goal against Tottenham in yesterday's match

Villa punish Lloris mistake to shock Spurs

...As Chelsea frustrated in damaging draw at lowly Forest

Aston Villa ruined Tottenham's bid to climb back into the Premier League's top four as a costly mistake from Hugo Lloris condemned the north Londoners to a damaging 2-0 defeat on Sunday.

Playing for the first time since France's World Cup final defeat against Argentina, Tottenham goalkeeper Lloris weakly spilt Douglas Luiz's shot early in the second half and Emiliano Buendia pounced to put Villa ahead.

Lloris was left on the bench for Tottenham's draw against Brentford on December 26 as he

rested after France's agonising final loss in Qatar.

The 36-year-old, who conceded three times against Argentina before France lost on penalties, might have wished he had been given longer to recover after his blunder against Villa.

Brazilian midfielder Luiz added Villa's second goal in the closing stages, leaving Antonio Conte's side to endure jeers from frustrated fans at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Tottenham had hoped the first Premier League match of 2023 would serve to kick-start their bid to qualify for next season's Champions League via

a top four finish.

Instead, they suffered a New Year's Day hangover as mid-table Villa punished a lethargic display.

Meanwhile, Chelsea's spluttering Premier League campaign took a turn for the worse as Serge Aurier's equaliser gave lowly Nottingham Forest a 1-1 draw.

Raheem Sterling put Chelsea ahead at the City Ground in the first half of their opening game in 2023.

But Ivory Coast right-back Aurier levelled after the break and Chelsea were fortunate to escape without an embarrassing

defeat after Forest dominated for long spells in the second half.

Chelsea are languishing in eighth place after failing to win for the sixth time in their last seven league games.

The Blues are seven points adrift of fourth placed Manchester United in the race to qualify for the Champions League via a top four finish.

Just months after replacing the sacked Thomas Tuchel, Chelsea boss Graham Potter is starting to come under fire as the early optimism after his move from Brighton begins to fade.

Ogun Govt begins renovation of MKO Abiola Stadium

Ogun Government has begun renovation of the MKO Abiola International Stadium, Abeokuta, to provide adequate comfort for spectators.

The Chief Press Secretary to Gov. Dapo Abiodun, Mr Kunle Somorin, said in a statement that the 10,000-capacity stadium would be fully covered to ensure a facelift.

He said that the renovation was part of Abiodun's promise to raise the bar of sports and sporting activities in Ogun.

According to him, it is a follow-up to the money spent on the state's contingent to the just-concluded 2022 National Sports Festival hosted by Delta.

He said that the reconstruction of the stadium started on Friday and had continued to Saturday morning as more materials and workers arrived the site.

The governor's aide said that the facelift was expected to be completed in four weeks.

He noted that the stadium, named after the acclaimed winner of Nigeria's June 12 Presidential Election, Bashorun MKO Abiola, who also hailed from Abeokuta, had been used as a multi-sports event centre for over two decades.

He said that the arrangement to cover the whole spectators stand would no doubt add beauty, comfort and further raise the standard of the facility.

He added that it would also prepare the stadium for the 2023 National Sports Festival which Ogun recently got the right to host. (NAN)

3rd edition of Table Tennis Challenge ends in Calabar

Eyo Charles, Calabar

The annual Cross River Table Tennis Challenge has ended at the Indoor Sports Hall of UJ Esuene Stadium Calabar with winners in different categories taking home cash prizes.

The two-day tournament ended on December 31, 2022 and over 14 winners smiled home with over N200,000 cash prizes.

Bright Joel, Akabom Ekpo and Victor Sunday emerged as singles winners in the men's elite category while Hope Udoaka and Vivian Ekpeyong were winners in Women's singles.

For the Cadet singles, Daniel Ekok, Samuel Eze and Victor Daniel emerged as champions.

In the Cadet girls category, Esther Ekok, Ela Ogabu and Precious Edem emerged as winners just as the singles



prizes in the boys junior category were won by Victor Edem, Jim Victory and Sylvanus Irukwa.

The third edition of the championship was staged in collaboration with the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Cross River State Chapter.

The Vice Chairman of Cross River State Table Tennis Association, Usen Umoh, also said the state is

lucky to have produced an international table tennis player like Offiong Edem who represented Nigeria at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

One of the sponsors, Michael Asim Ita, said the aim of the tournament is to discover budding talents at the grassroots and to consolidate the popularity of table tennis in the state.

"I commend the Cross River Table Tennis Association for producing national and international players.

"We aim to further popularise the game and encourage everyone to play table tennis for physical well being and to encourage sports loving individuals and the organised private sector to invest in sports as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)," he said.

Igoche Mark reiterates commitment to Mark D Ball basketball tourney

By David Ngobua

The initiator of Mark D Ball Basketball Championship, Igoche Mark, has reiterated commitment to the tournament as he also expressed happiness with its impact on the sport in Nigeria in the year 2022.

In his New Year message, the proprietor of Mark Mentors and Apa Flames basketball clubs noted that the little achievement in 2022 was met with great resistance by those he described as "enemies of the game".

"The New Face of Basketball, organiser of Mark D Ball Basketball Championship is so blessed and happy to note that our little impact in the game of basketball in 2022 was as a result of partnership with stakeholders; players, coaches, technical officials, referees, club owners, administrators, veterans and the media.



"The year was one of mixed feelings as our attempt to get the ball bouncing was fought with great resistance by the enemies of the game, alongside state actors.

"These enemies ensured that the D'Tigress became the biggest victims in the year 2022. They denied our

ladies the chance to participate at the FIBA Women's World Cup in Sidney, Australia," Mark said in a statement.

He, however, promised that the 'New Face of Basketball' has come to stay as he assured stakeholders and lovers of the game of a better 2023 edition of Mark D Ball Basketball Championship.

"Let me use this medium to inform all stakeholders that the 2023 edition of Mark D Basketball Championship will become a reference point in Africa, as we will soon let the cat out of the bag," he pledged.

THE WHITE PAPER

with
Suleiman A Suleiman
suleimansuleiman@dailytrust.com
(07066451983 SMS)

Buhari's pay rise

I was mildly surprised last Tuesday when newspapers reported that the federal government was considering an upward review of salaries of workers this new year 2023. And reading through the stories I allowed myself a wry smile for the happy coincidence because just the day before on Monday, I had made the argument in these pages that poor salaries and wages are perhaps the single most important cause of rising poverty in Nigeria.

Although the argument was in the context of the UK government's strategic attempt to empty Nigerian schools of its teachers by dangling an attractive visa scheme at them, the point still holds. Nigeria pays some of the lowest salaries and wages for work done, which accounts not only for the tendency among Nigerian professionals to seek to migrate elsewhere for work, but is also why we are still deep in poverty, by whatever metric it is measured. So, I thought news of a pay rise at some time in this new year would be good for the workers and the economy. But most importantly, it would be sound policy for the government itself.

Unfortunately, just a few days later by Friday, the government demurred, with the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Senator Chris Ngige, who made the initial announcement only a few days earlier, now claiming that it was only "allowances and emoluments" that are being reviewed by the government and not the salary structure. I do not know the federal government's reasons for the reluctance, but there are at least several reasons why such a policy would be good for the country at this point, and why the government needs to move ahead with the pay rise.

First, as newspapers reported Dr Ngige himself to have said during his "clarification" on the federal government's plan, "It's hoped that this rightful step, which the federal government had embarked upon on compassionate grounds without any prodding or threat to strike will help to cushion the debilitating effects of spiraling inflation, especially that which affects food and energy prices (Electricity and Petroleum product)". It is sad that a minister of the federal government will see salary increase by an elected government for its own workers as something to do "on compassionate grounds", rather than as rightful entitlement of workers as if

President Buhari were some emperor ruling over a conquered people, not a leader Nigerians freely elected.

But we can ignore Ngige's sycophantism for the moment. Salary increases are due because the consequences of galloping inflation in the last year has pushed even people who used to live decent lives into poverty. The prices of food has increased every single month consecutively for most of last year. The lingering fuel crises have also not helped and today, Nigerians have to spend the same monthly salaries they have been receiving five or more years ago on consumer goods and services that now cost up to five times more. That is a legitimate reason for pay rise.

Second, whenever the federal government raises the pay of workers, it tends to cascade right across the entire economy as state governments and the private sector tend to follow also, even though the federal government doesn't have any control over what states and private companies can pay their workers, except for the ineffective minimum wage system. This generally helps to increase wages across the board and by implication puts more income at the hands of working households. This in turn also reduces poverty, at least, to some degree, since better income is one of the most effective ways of reducing poverty.

There is an alternative argument to this which we must explore. If the federal government raises the pay of its workers, it puts pressure on the private sector and poorer states to do the same. This often results in loss of jobs as many companies may be forced to lay off workers in order to meet up with the demand for more pay. State governments, particularly those in the north, are also often compelled to lay-off staff to accommodate the new pay, or as is mostly the case, they simply refuse to pay the new salaries. While this may be true, the counter argument is that even where companies and subnational governments are forced to lay-off staff, the overall positive effects of pay increase tend to outweigh the negative effects of lay-offs.

Moreover, like most African countries, culture is intricately linked to the economy in Nigeria, in such a way that most workers who earn any kind of income are compelled to "share" it with others in the form of "gifts" or "allowances" to siblings

in school, parents, relatives, friends, neighbours or townspeople. Very few people spend their salaries on themselves and their immediate families alone in Nigeria, regardless of how much they earn or in what sector of the economy they work. In fact, with increasing digitisation of the economy, this culture has also become digitised through electronic transfers of cash from income earners to those who earn less or nothing.

By contrast, this culture does not exist anywhere in the western economic system for which our current "salary structure" is modelled. If you work and earn income in London or New York, chances are that after paying all forms of taxes to the central or local government, you will spend the balance for yourself and family alone. But if you work and earn an income in Lagos, Kano or Abuja, chances are that after paying taxes to the government, you will still need to make "transfers" to other people close to you in some way. This culture of "sharing" in Nigeria has been derided in tons of books and it is one of the main complaints you will hear from almost all income earners above the poverty level.

But it is not a bad culture at all. More than anything else, it helps to cushion the negative effects of high unemployment and underemployment in our context. An unemployment rate of even 10-15 per cent is enough to cause a major uprising in many western countries. In Nigeria, our governments remain stable with unemployment rates often above 40 per cent among certain demographics, such as youths. It is this cultural-economic system of "sharing" that makes the difference. And if our governments and economists had any independence of thought, it should be factored into our salary structures as a matter of deliberate policy.

Thus, if the federal government were to increase salaries for federal workers today, it will not only cascade down to workers in the private sector and in the employ of state governments, but it will also benefit others who are unemployed or underemployed, and by implication, it will trickle down to the economy as a whole and help revive it. The counter-argument that salary increase at this point will increase inflation is feeble because we have had inflation rising over the past five consecutive years that was not caused by pay rise. Much the same applies to the argument that it will increase the government's debt stockpile. The debts have stockpiled anyways without salary increases, and in any case, it is local debt in a currency owned by the government itself. A pay rise for workers right now is the best thing a government desperate to finish on a high will do.

SPORT REPORT

Andreescu makes gritty comeback to beat Muguruza in Adelaide



■ Bianca Andreescu

Bianca Andreescu staged a dramatic comeback on Sunday to topple Garbine Muguruza in a battle of former Grand Slam champions on day one of the Adelaide International.

The Canadian, who won the 2019 US Open, was crushed in the first set and slipped 2-5 behind in the second before surging home 0-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 to get her 2023 season off to a winning start.

It maintained her perfect record against two-time Grand Slam winner and former world No 1 Muguruza, improving to 3-0.

Golovin gives Monaco winning start to Ligue 1 year



■ Aleksandr Golovin

Monaco edged visiting Brest 1-0 on Sunday to start the Ligue 1 New Year by tightening their grip on fourth and closing in on a Champions League spot.

Aleksandr Golovin smashed in the only goal from outside the penalty area as the home team did just enough to win. They moved level with Marseille, who are third and visit Montpellier on Monday.

Brest dominated the rest of the second half but could not score and remained 17th and in the relegation places.

Nantes jumped from 16th to 14th as they beat struggling Auxerre with a 73rd-minute goal from Marcus Coco.