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Buhari renews hope for better Nigeria

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AT NEW YEAR NIGERIA'S DECADE

My Dear Compatriots,

Today marks a new decade. It is a time of hope, optimism and fresh possibilities. We look forward as a nation to the 2020s as the opportunity to build on the foundations we have laid together on security, diversification of our economy and taking on the curse of corruption. These are the pledges on which I have been twice elected President and remain the framework for a stable, sustainable and more prosperous future.

Elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. I salute the commitment of the millions who voted in peace last February and of those leaders who contested for office vigorously but fairly, submitting to the authority of the electorate, the Independent National Electoral Commission and judicial process. I understand very well the frustrations our system has in the past triggered. I will be standing down in 2023 and will not be available in any future elections. But I am determined to help strengthen the electoral process both in Nigeria and across the region, where several ECOWAS members go to the polls this year.

As Commander-in-Chief, my primary concern is the security of the nation and the safety of our citizens. When I assumed office in May 2015 my first task was to rally our neighbours so that we could confront Boko Haram on a coordinated regional basis. Chaos is not a neighbour any of us hope for.



We have been fighting on several fronts: violent extremists, cultists and organised criminal networks. It has not been easy. But as we are winning the war, we also look to the challenge of winning the peace, the reconstruction of lives, communities and markets. The North East Development Commission will work with local and international stakeholders to help create a new beginning for the North East.

The Federal Government will continue to work with State Governors, neighbouring states and our international partners to tackle the root causes of violent extremism and the networks that help finance and organise terror. Our security forces will receive the best training and modern weaponry, and in turn will be held to the highest standards of professionalism, and respect for human rights. We will use all the human and emerging technological resources available to tackle kidnapping, banditry and armed robbery.

The new Ministry of Police Affairs increased recruitment of officers and the security reforms being introduced will build on what we are already delivering. We will work tirelessly at home and with our allies in support of our policies to protect the security of life and property. Our actions at all times will be governed by the rule of law. At the same time, we shall look always to engage with all well-meaning leaders and citizens of goodwill to promote dialogue, partnership and understanding.

We need a democratic government that can guarantee peace and security to realise the full potential of our ingenious, entrepreneurial and hard-working people. Our policies are designed to promote genuine, balanced growth that delivers jobs and rewards industry. Our new Economic Advisory Council brings together respected and independent thinkers to advise me on a strategy that champions inclusive and balanced growth, and above all fight poverty and safeguard national economic interests.

As we have sat down to celebrate with friends and family over this holiday season, for the first time in a generation our food plates have not all been filled with imports of products we know can easily be produced here at home. The revolution in agriculture is already a reality in all corners of the country. New agreements with Morocco, Russia and others will help us access on attractive terms the inputs we need to accelerate the transformation in farming that is taking place.

A good example of commitment to this inclusive growth is the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the creation of the National Action Committee to oversee its implementation and ensure the necessary safeguards are in place to allow us to fully capitalise on regional and continental markets.

The joint land border security exercise currently taking place is meant to safeguard Nigeria's economy and security. No one can doubt that we have been good neighbours and good citizens. We have been the helpers and shock-absorbers of the sub-region but we cannot allow our well-planned economic regeneration plans to be sabotaged. As soon as we are satisfied that the safeguards are adequate, normal cross-border movements will be resumed.

Already, we are making key infrastructure investments to enhance our ease of doing business. On transportation, we are making significant progress on key roads such as the Second Niger Bridge, Lagos – Ibadan Expressway and the Abuja - Kano highway. 2020 will also see tangible progress on the Lagos to Kano Rail line. Through Executive Order 007, we are also using alternative funding programmes in collaboration with private sector partners to fix strategic roads such as the Apapa-Oworonshoki Express way. Abuja and Port Harcourt have new international airport terminals, as will Kano and Lagos in 2020. When completed, all these projects will positively impact business operations in the country. These projects are not small and do not come without some temporary disruption; we are doing now what should have been done a long time ago. I thank you for your patience and look forward to the dividends that we and future generations will long enjoy.



Power has been a problem for a generation. We know we need to pick up the pace of progress. We have solutions to help separate parts of the value chain to work better together. In the past few months, we have engaged extensively with stakeholders to develop a series of comprehensive solutions to improve the reliability and availability of electricity across the country. These solutions include ensuring fiscal sustainability for the sector, increasing both government and private sector investments in the power transmission and distribution segments, improving payment transparency through the deployment of smart meters and ensuring regulatory actions maximise service delivery.

We have in place a new deal with Siemens, supported by the German government after German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited us in Abuja, to invest in new capacity for generation, transmission and distribution. These projects will be under close scrutiny and transparency – there will be no more extravagant claims that end only in waste, theft and mismanagement.

The next 12 months will witness the gradual implementation of these actions, after which Nigerians can expect to see significant improvement in electricity service supply reliability and delivery. Separately, we have plans to increase domestic gas consumption. In the first quarter of 2020, we will commence work on the AKK gas pipeline, OB3 Gas pipeline and the expansion of the Escravos – Lagos Pipeline.

While we look to create new opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing and other long neglected sectors, in 2020 we will also realise increased value from oil and gas, delivering a more competitive, attractive and profitable industry, operating on commercial principles and free from political interference. Just last week, we were able to approve a fair framework for the USD10 billion expansion of Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas, which will increase exports by 35 percent, restore our position as a world leader in the sector and create thousands of jobs. The Amendment of the Deep Offshore Act in October signalled our intention to create a modern, forward-looking industry in Nigeria. I am confident that in 2020 we will be able to present a radical programme of reform for oil and gas that will excite investors, improve governance and strengthen protections for host communities and the environment.

We can expect the pace of change in technology only to accelerate in the decade ahead. Coupled with our young and vibrant population, this offers huge opportunities if we are able to harness the most productive trends and tame some of the wilder elements. This is a delicate balance with which many countries are struggling. We are seeking an informed and mature debate that reflects our rights and responsibilities as citizens in shaping the boundaries of how best to allow technology to benefit Nigeria.

During my Democracy Day speech on June 12, 2019, I promised to lay the enduring foundations for taking a hundred million Nigerians out of mass poverty over the next 10 years. Today I restate that commitment. We shall continue reforms in education, health care and water sanitation. I have met international partners such as GAVI, the vaccine alliance, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation who support our social welfare programmes. I will continue to work with State and Local Governments to make sure that these partnerships deliver as they should. Workers will have a living wage and pensioners will be looked after. We are steadily clearing pensions and benefits arrears neglected for so long.

The new Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development will consolidate and build on the social intervention schemes and will enhance the checks and balances necessary for this set of programmes to succeed for the long term.

I am able to report that the journey has already begun with the passage and signing into law of the



2020 Appropriation Act. As the new decade dawns, we are ready to hit the ground running. Let me pay tribute to the Ninth National Assembly who worked uncommonly long hours to make sure that the 2020 budget scrutiny is both thorough and timely. The close harmony between the Executive and Legislature is a sharp contrast to what we have experienced in the recent past, when the Senate kept the previous budget for 7 months without good reason just to score cheap political points thereby disrupting the budgetary processes and overall economic development plans.

Our policies are working and the results will continue to show themselves more clearly by the day. Nigeria is the most tremendous, can-do market, offering extraordinary opportunities and returns. Investors can look forward with confidence not only to an increasing momentum of change but also to specific incentives, including our new visa-on-arrival policy.

They can also be certain of our unshakeable commitment to tackle corruption. As we create an environment that allows initiative, enterprise and hard work to thrive, it is more important than ever to call out those who find the rule of law an inconvenience, or independent regulation an irritation. We are doing our part here in Nigeria. We will continue to press our partners abroad to help with the supply side of corruption and have received some encouragement. We expect more funds stolen in the past to be returned to us and they will be ploughed back into development with all due transparency.

This is a joint initiative. Where our policies have worked best, it has been because of the support of ordinary Nigerians in their millions, numbers that even the most powerful of special interests cannot defy. I thank you for your support. Transition by its very nature carries with it change and some uncertainty along the way. I encourage you to be tolerant, law abiding and peace loving. This is a new year and the beginning of a new decade - the Nigerian Decade of prosperity and promise for Nigeria and for Africa.

To recapitulate, some of the projects Nigerians should expect to come upstream from 2020 include:

- 47 road projects scheduled for completion in 2020/21, including roads leading to ports;
- Major bridges including substantial work on the Second Niger Bridge;
- Completion of 13 housing estates under the National Housing Project Plan;
- Lagos, Kano, Maiduguri and Enugu international airports to be commissioned in 2020;
- Launching of an agricultural rural mechanisation scheme that will cover 700 local governments over a period of three years;
- Launching of the Livestock Development Project Grazing Model in Gombe State where 200,000 hectares of land has been identified;
- Training of 50,000 workers to complement the country's 7,000 extension workers;
- Commissioning of the Lagos – Ibadan and Itakpe – Warri rail lines in the first quarter;
- Commencement of the Ibadan – Abuja and Kano – Kaduna rail lines also in the first quarter;
- Further liberalisation of the power sector to allow businesses to generate and sell power;
- Commencement of the construction of the Mambilla Power project by the first half of 2020; and
- Commencement of the construction of the AKK gas pipeline, OB3 gas pipeline and the expansion of the Escravos – Lagos pipeline in the first quarter of 2020.

Thank you very much!

President Muhammadu Buhari
State House,
Abuja.
1st January, 2020



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New Year: Buhari renews hope for better Nigeria

By Muideen Olaniyi

President Muhammadu Buhari today renewed hope for a better Nigeria with the unveiling of major projects expected to come on

President assures new lease of life for North East

In the New Year broadcast, President Buhari also assured better deal for millions of people affected by the Boko Haram insurgency.

"As we are winning the war, we also look to the challenge of winning the peace, the reconstruction of lives, communities and markets.

"The North East Development Commission will work with local and international stakeholders to help create a new beginning for the North East," Buhari said.

He promised to use all the human and emerging technological resources available to tackle kidnapping, banditry and armed robbery.

stream nationwide within the year.

The president, who also reiterated that he will not go for a third term come 2023, however, expressed his determination to help strengthen the electoral

New projects that will come on board in 2020

President Buhari, in the New Year nationwide broadcast, said Nigerians should expect the commencement of the construction of the Mambilla Power project by the first half of the year.

Daily Trust reports that the 3,050-megawatt (MW) Mambilla Hydropower project in Taraba State had witnessed several arbitrations that stalled it for over 40 years.

When completed, the project will be Nigeria's biggest power plant, expected to produce approximately 4.7 billion kWh of electricity a year. It is estimated to cost \$5.8bn and will generate up to 50,000 local jobs during the construction phase.

President Buhari said Nigerians should expect significant improvement in electricity delivery in the next 12 months.

process in the country and across Africa where many ECOWAS member states will elect new leaders.

In his New Year message to Nigerians, the president also assured that his leadership style

will continue to be governed by the rule of law, while looking forward to engaging well-meaning leaders and citizens of goodwill to promote dialogue, partnership and understanding.

He said Nigeria needs a democratic government that can guarantee peace and security to realise the full potential of its ingenious, entrepreneurial and hard-working people.

He said the year will witness further liberalisation of the power sector to allow businesses to generate and sell power.

The president said: "Power has been a problem for a generation. We know we need to pick up the pace of progress...In the past few months, we have engaged extensively with stakeholders to develop a series of comprehensive solutions to improve the reliability and availability of electricity across the country.

"These solutions include ensuring fiscal sustainability for the sector, increasing both government and private sector investments in the power transmission and distribution segments, improving payment transparency through the deployment of smart meters

and ensuring regulatory actions maximise service delivery.

"We have in place a new deal with Siemens, supported by the German government after German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited us in Abuja, to invest in new capacity for generation, transmission and distribution. These projects will be under close scrutiny and transparency - there will be no more extravagant claims that end only in waste, theft and mismanagement," he said.

The president who assured that 47 road projects would be completed this year, said, "Already, we are making key infrastructure investments to enhance our ease of doing business. On transportation, we are making significant progress on key roads such

as the Second Niger Bridge, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and the Abuja-Kano highway.

"(The year) 2020 will also see tangible progress on the Lagos to Kano rail line. Through Executive Order 007, we are also using alternative funding programmes in collaboration with private sector partners to fix strategic roads such as the Apapa-Oworonshoki Expressway. Abuja and Port Harcourt have new international airport terminals, as will Kano and Lagos in 2020.

"When completed, all these projects will positively impact business operations in the country. These projects are not small and do not come without some temporary disruption; we are doing now what should have been done a long time ago," he said.

Troops to enjoy improved welfare package in 2020 - Buratai

Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. Tukur Buratai, has assured Nigerian Army troops of Operation Lafiya Dole of improved welfare package in 2020. Buratai gave the assurance while addressing the troops during an operational visit to Pulka in Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno on Tuesday.

He said the government had assured the army of its commitment to the welfare of officers and men of the armed forces as well as those of their families. Buratai said: "I know the importance of this location and you have done your best in ensuring that the security here is maintained.

"So let me commend you for the wonderful performance and the way you have conducted yourselves in OPLD.

"I am here to see you, I have been to other places and I cease this opportunity to come and see you before the end of the year and wish you well in the coming year.

"We appreciate you for being so gallant, for decimating the Boko Haram terrorists and I want to urge you to maintain it, you must remain focused, disciplined and professional.

"We will do everything possible to ensure your comfort, especially your families in the barracks as well.

"Your welfare will be improved in the year 2020 and so you have to put in your best and ensure that you uphold the trust by the Federal Government. (NAN)



■ President Muhammadu Buhari (right) receives the President of the African Development Bank Group, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, during his courtesy visit at the State House in Abuja yesterday

Photo: State House

Army reconstructs Bama barracks, establishes aviation base station

The Nigerian Army said it has commenced the reconstruction of Kuru Muhammad Barracks in Bama, Borno State which was overrun by the Boko Haram terrorists.

News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that the insurgents overran the barracks at the peak of insurgency in the North East in 2014.

The terrorists occupation of the barrack led to the destruction of the building and critical infrastructure.

The Nigerian troops retook the barracks in 2015 almost a year after.

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. Tukur Buratai, who visited the barracks

on Tuesday to inspect the level of work, expressed satisfaction and urged them to redouble their efforts.

He was briefed by the Brigade Commander, 21 Special Armoured Brigade, Brig.-Gen. Saidu Audu, on the level of work.

NAN reports that a number of blocks of flats have been completed.

Buratai also inspected the Nigerian Army Aviation Base Station under construction in Bama to see the progress of work.

He also visited troops in 122 Battalion, Konduga also in Borno where he commended the troops for the recent successes against the insurgents in Sambisa

forest.

He urged them to ensure that the terrorists remained defeated.

Buratai assured them of better motivation in the coming year in terms of equipment and welfare for them and their families.

"Let me congratulate you on the successes from the operations you recently carried out in Sambisa and when next you meet them, do not spare anybody, clear them completely."

The Chief of Army Staff also visited the Amphibious Forces at Allo Dam in the outskirts of Konduga in Borno. (NAN)

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Buni to commissioners: Hit the ground running

Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni says he expects all members of the State Executive Council to hit the ground running with the kind of service delivery that will make our people proud.

The governor asked his cabinet members to use the 2020 budget which he said on Monday as their roadmap.

He spoke yesterday at the opening of the first State Executive Council meeting at the Council Chamber, Government House, Damaturu.

Buni noted that to ensure that cabinet members were always on their toes and delivering on their respective mandates, he had instituted monitoring mechanisms that would track progress across all the 20 ministries and all commissioners would be assessed accordingly.

He urged them to be team players in their respective ministries and to lead by example "because in today's world, when the public business must be conducted in the light of day, your moral leadership is equally as important."

He congratulated the commissioners for joining the team and for the historic opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of the people of the state.

He asked them to always remember the weight of public expectation on their shoulders and the sacred obligation they had to serve with dignity and honour.

The governor recalled: "During my interaction with you at your retreat in Kano on 26th November 2019 and during your swearing-in ceremony on 6th

December 2019, I have reviewed where we stood since our administration started on May 29th, 2019 and the

enormous tasks that lie ahead of us. I said that this administration is anchored on 'Continuity, Consolidation and Innovation'. This is a three-track approach that carries on with the pro-people programmes of the previous administration, consolidates on the progress that Yobe has made by doing even more to expand opportunity, and adopts novel and scientific approaches to governance by leveraging on best practices to deliver quality services to our people.

"Consequently, over the last six months, we have continued with the Yobe International Cargo Airport Project and a number of road projects we met on the ground, and we have gone ahead to break new grounds in service delivery to our people, including

the construction of new township roads in Buni-Yadi, Babbangida, Damagum and Jajimaji towns. We have resuscitated government-owned industries whose doors were closed for many years, such as the Yobe Flour and Feed Mills, Yobe Aluminium Company and the Woven Sacks Factory. And we have made significant progress in the construction of the first Ultra-Modern Market in Damaturu."

He said his government had also worked to improve its contacts and partnerships across sectors and domains, including with the federal government and the state's development partners.

"As a result, we are seeing increased levels of interest and participation from the federal government and many UN

and non-governmental agencies in our developmental efforts," he added.

According to him although it is still a work-in-progress, the state's security situation has also improved "thanks to our continuing partnership with the security agencies and the support and participation of people across the state. So, across the board, we have made appreciable progress over the last six months.

"And now as we look to the tasks that lie ahead and the challenges we must meet together as a team, let me say that I am proud of the quality of talent in this cabinet and the knowledge and experience you will bring to shape our policies and programmes. We must, therefore, make this government as efficient as possible."



Gov. Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State (third from right) inspecting text-coat and emulsion paints produced by 680 trainees across 17 Local Government Areas of the State at the close of the six weeks training provided to them by the government on Small-Scale Paint Production in Damaturu, yesterday.

New Year: Yobe will witness renewal, more socio-economic progress –Buni

..Governor pardons 6 inmates

Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni has expressed his best wishes and goodwill to the people of the state as the year 2020 dawns.

The governor, according to a statement yesterday by the Commissioner for Information, Home Affairs and Culture, expressed optimism that given the groundwork laid in the recent period, 2020 would be a year of renewal and more socio-economic progress for the state.

The governor, while reflecting on the outgoing year, observed that 2019 was full of opportunities and trials for the state, but expressed gratitude to Almighty God for the successes the state had recorded during the period.

Governor Buni commended the people of the state for their resilience and the security agencies for their hard work on behalf of peace and security.

The governor urged the people to continue to partner with the security agencies to ensure a peace that lasts across the state.

According to the statement, as part of celebrating the New Year, Buni has also granted pardon to six inmates who are serving jail terms for various offences.

They are Isa Mohammed, who was jailed for a year and six months and serving his time at the Potiskum Medium Security Prison; Isa Haruna, who was also convicted and sentenced to a year and six months and also serving his jail term in Potiskum and Umar Ibrahim, who was convicted and sentenced to three years and serving his jail term at the Gashu'a Prison.

Others are Manu Dari, jailed for three years and serving in Gashu'a; Adamu Bello serving a jail term of two years and seven months in Potiskum and Adamu Jauro Julee who was jailed for 11 months and 23 days and now serving his jail term at the Potiskum Medium Security Prison.

The commissioner noted that the governor granted these pardons in exercise of his Prerogative of Mercy as conferred on him by Section 212 (1) of the Constitution of the country and based on the advice of the Prerogative of Mercy Advisory Council.

Tourism: Yobe set to upgrade GAAT Hotel, others

The Yobe State Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Alhaji Barma Shettima, yesterday said the state government would soon upgrade the GAAT Hotel in Damaturu and other state-owned hotels for effective services to customers.

Barma, who inspected GAAT Hotel, said Governor Mai Mala Buni was ready to resuscitate all industries in the state, including tourism sector.

He said all hotels belonging to the state government would be upgraded for effective service delivery.

The commissioner said investing in the hotel business would enhance the state's internally generated revenue, resolve accommodation problem, create job opportunities and reduce youth restiveness.

Barma said: "His Excellency Governor Buni has made it clear in a policy statement that he is going to revive all the industries in the state, including tourism and hospitality."

He said this, among other things, informed the inspection visit to GAAT Hotel to see the state of the structure, equipment "and hear from the management for possible upgrade."

CRIME

CLEMENT A. OLOYEDE

HEAD, CRIME DESK

■ Email: crime@dailytrust.com

THE BIG STORY

How we planned Abuja foiled bank robbery - Suspects

By Clement A. Oloyede

Three of the four suspects arrested over the attempted robbery of a bank in Mpape area of Abuja on Saturday, have narrated how they planned the robbery that shocked the nation.

Daily Trust reports that the suspects, one of them a staff of the bank, had rattled the nation when they launched a daylight attack, which was foiled by the police and soldiers, on a branch of First Bank Nigeria branch in Mpape, a suburb of the capital city. One of the suspects was shot by the police during the operation while 19-year-old Elijah David; Princewill Obinna, 24; Timothy Joe, 21; and a staff of the bank, Larry Ehizo, 30, were arrested.

The policeman on duty, who it was gathered the robbers had unsuccessfully tried to tie down, had gunned down one of them and then called for back up.

Narrating how the robbery was planned, Ehizo said one Ernest (who he claimed to be the brain behind the robbery), a customer of the bank and barman at a beer parlour in Mpape met him "with threats based on a discussion we had sometime in November, which he said he recorded and was going to use against me", adding that he "did everything out of fear of dying".

The discussion, he said, was that banks' services were not satisfactory and that they (banks) needed to be 'touched'.

A customer service officer of the bank for the past two years, Ehizo said the role he played was that he took



■ L-R: 19-yr-old suspect, Elijah David; Timothy Joe; Princewill Obinna and Larry Ehizo, a staff of the bank.

the other suspects into the bank and that he was going to get 20% of whatever was recovered.

"Ernest said I should show them where the CCTV cameras were and where the officer on duty that day would be. He even came along that day in a different car and stayed across the bank," the 2014 graduate of political science from the University of Abuja said.

On his part, Obinna said he had military training for about six months when he went for recruitment in the Nigerian Army in 2017 but just a few weeks to their passing out parade, he was dismissed for medical reasons. He added that his involvement and the entire planning he took part in was just between December 24 and 27, a day before the crime was committed.

He said he was convinced to join the attack because they

were told it was going to be an easy job and that they would be paid N7 million.

"Ernest called me on December 24 and said he was going to link us with his person (Larry). So, I went to Mr. Larry and he told me there was a deal going on that he wants us to take up and that it would not last more than 15 minutes.

"He said their bank didn't operate on Saturdays but if we can come around, he will help us to get the money, and that he and Ernest have work out things. He (Larry) asked me to organise some people to help out and I called my friends," Obinna said.

He added that when they met on December 26, they perfected the plans and a day before the robbery, Patrick (the suspect that was killed) brought the guns.

The 19-year-old suspect

said he went outside to untie the other bank staff with the fear that the teargas shot into the bank could kill them and that he apologised to the "madam (the other bank staff) and she told me not to worry".

He said when they were arrested, they were asked who planned the robbery and that Larry pointed at an "innocent man but I said no, it was him (Larry)".

The Commissioner of Police in the FCT, Bala Ciroma, who paraded the suspects along with several others arrested for various crimes yesterday, said four locally made pistols, one Peugeot 206, two cutlasses, two daggers, an axe, a plier, a mobile phone and a saw blade were recovered from the suspects.

He said effort has being intensified to arrest other members of the gang who are at large.

Police arrest 77 suspected criminals

From Tony Adibe, Enugu

The police in Enugu State have arrested 77 suspected criminal and recovered 16 arms, 122 ammunitions and 30 live cartridges from them.

Also recovered from the suspects were six cars, six tricycles, two motorcycles, five mobile phones, a small axe, a toy gun and five wraps of cocaine.

The offences for which the suspects were arrested include armed robbery, kidnapping, car-snatching, cultism, murder, illegal possession of firearms, child abuse, and unlawful possession of substance suspected to be cocaine.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ahmad Abdur-rahman, who briefed journalists yesterday, said some of the suspects were picked up September 1 to December 1 by security operatives based on intelligence information, robust collaboration with other security agencies, effective partnership and cooperation with members of the public.

He said all the suspects would be charged to court as soon as the investigations were concluded.

3 men docked over conspiracy to rob bank

From Raphael Ogbonnaiye, Ado-Ekiti

Three men, Omotosho Aliu, 52; Oyelowo Akande, 56; and Taiwo Abayomi, 52, were yesterday docked before an Ado-Ekiti Chief Magistrate Court for allegedly conspiring to rob a bank.

Police prosecutor, Inspector Oriyomi Akinwale, told the court that the defendants and others at large, committed the offence on November 21, 2019 at about 3:05p.m in Oye-Ekiti, in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State.

He said the defendants conspired among themselves to commit felony to wit armed robbery on United Bank of Africa (UBA) in Oye-Ekiti branch.

The defendants were however arrested based on information gathered by the police after the bank robbery.

Upon an application for bail by the defence counsel, Timi Omotosho, the chief magistrate, Adesoji Adegboye, admitted the defendants to bail in the sum of N200,000 with one surety each in like sum.

He later adjourned the case until February 12, 2020 for hearing.

'Bandits invaded Dutsinma 29 times in December'

From Habibu Umar Aminu (Katsina) & Rasheedah Musa (Abuja)

Residents of Dutsinma Local Government Area of Katsina State have sent a save our soul message to government and security personnel, crying out that the town is under siege of kidnappers and bandits.

The locals said hardly a day goes by without a reported incidence of kidnapping or rustling and that many people have lost their lives and others have sustained life threatening injuries as well as property worth millions are also being lost.

It was gathered that many residents, especially the well-to-do and elite are fleeing the

town to Katsina and other places perceived to be "much safer", while others have resorted to 'sleeping with both eyes open' amid prayers for protection.

A compilation of attacks by the residence showed that from December 1 to 30, the town and neighbouring villages have been attacked 29 times with two persons killed, 13 kidnapped, with some freed after payment of ransom while others are still in captivity. Over 300 cattle and sheep were also said to have been rustled.

A victim, Shamsu Yusuf, whose wife and child were recently kidnapped and only released after payment of

ransom, said the "town is under daily siege because every day, even yesterday I couldn't sleep because of gun shots all over, from 1am till 4.30am."

"It was this morning that I leant they came to kidnap someone again. And rustled many animals in neighbouring villages," he added.

Sufyan Ahmad, chairman of Dutsinma United for Peace and Stability Association; Sani Haruna, chairman of Unguwar Tsamiya Youth Development Association; and Alh. Abu Abubakar, spokesman of Dutsin-Ma Youth Forum, at a press conference in Abuja, all called

for serious intervention from all authorities concerned.

When contacted, the Commissioner of Police, Sanusi Buba said the command has directed the DPO of Safana LGA to move the Armoured Personal Carrier (APC) in the town to Dutsinma to reinforce the area command and the DPO on ground.

"We have problems with indigenous members of the community who go about giving information about the presence of prominent people or connive with unrepentant bandits in the bush to come and kidnap people in towns," he said.



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New Year





OPINION

e-mail opinion@dailytrust.com

Tunde Asaju

tundeasaju@dailytrust.com

Happy New Year 2020?

It's the first day of the New Year 2020. But I say there's nothing potentially mirthful about the New Year, most of you would stop reading, and resort to your usual incantations without skills with which to offer services. This is a serious drawback that renders the youth vulnerable to several experiences of abuse. This must be addressed with all State Governments bending over backwards to provide for skills acquisition for the teeming youth.

I love the fact that most Nigerians are people of faith. Without faith it is impossible to be a Nigerian. For Nigerians must first believe that God is on their side the neighbour is the devil. After all, the politicians they elected or that are imposed on them have no time for them.

That is why you would never convince a Nigerian not to abandon hope; everyone is waiting for his or her chance to cheat the system into their promised land. We are the only rich country whose best times are behind us. Our elders regale us with stories of how beautiful Nigeria was when Mungo Park first discovered the River Niger where their forebears drank, fished and bathed before Park's forebears migrated like egrets to Europe.

Whenever those who enjoyed the halcyon post-independence era post their university lunch tickets, they fill us with nostalgia. We wish we could return there! When they display the Nigeria Airways ticket that took them to their first London visit (without visa), we wish Buhari could return us to 1985 and leave us there to find our way.

It's the first day of 2020 and nothing has changed. Buhari is still our president. Most of the governors who couldn't pay staff salaries have 'won' re-election in contests that took lives, but if you met a Nigerian today and didn't say – happy New Year, be assured that you have just made the enemy list

of the next decade.

So, what is going to change in 2020? Well, a lot and don't bother reading the predictions of the prophets who tell you that prominent people would die. None of us would get out of here alive. Suffering would change address in a few homes while some of those that thought they had levitated beyond penury would kiss the laws of gravity.

In 2020, it is still written that those who are destined that some would die in cattle rustling raids because we can't ranch without rancour. Some would be kidnapped, sending their pauperized siblings deeper into debts. Insecurity would increase, because our rulers have fortified themselves and left the rest to utter vulnerability. That way, if they succeed in foiling one robbery, we'll be clapping and dancing.

Our national and external debts would keep skyrocketing. Seventy percent of what we borrowed to finance would fill people's pockets. We'll jump and prance if the remaining 30% goes to what it was meant. But not to worry, we are fighting corruption. If that is cause for happiness – then happy New Year!

If you are a contractor listed to benefit from the N37 billion NASS building renovation – well, happy New Year. If you are a member of NASS who rubber stamped the budget but now wail about its application, happy New Year of politicking!

Boko Haram insurgency is melting the technicality of its defeat. They recently executed a dozen or so captives most of who are 'Christians'. Our president has asked us not to let the bloodhounds divide us along religious lines as if we have enjoyed the most harmonious ethno-religious entente in the world. If your area

is not yet overrun by the insurgents – well, happy New Year!

The kidnapers who made the Abuja-Kaduna road a no-ply zone for even army generals have shifted base to the Abuja-Lokoja road. But shhhh! Do not say I told you, what you don't know may neither bless nor hurt you. Government would find ad-hoc palliatives to take the news off the radar. So – happy New Year!

January is such a bad month that some call it the 13th month of the year. Nigerians are not immune to the global frenzy of Yuletide debt piling. They know that school fees would be paid, but at Christmas, they push that behind their minds in the shopping passion. Finally, the January we postponed is here with its – happy New Year bills, if you've found a way to pay – happy New Year!

The rest of you, go and take your happiness from the pastors who create lofty amulets of catchphrases to describe the year and sell the stickers to be pasted on your doorsills and cars while they are guarded by gun-totting security. Get your new year cheer from the Imams who endorse your oppressor ruinners because they show up at Juma'at prayers. Get your happy wishes from the herbalists who promise you a personalized minting company if you could bring in unique human parts or your girlfriend's pant. Get your goodwill charm from those who recommend verses of scripture to guarantee your safety and security from the problems imposed by bad and clueless leadership.

Whatever you do, remember that in the year 2020, there would still be seven days in a week, twenty four hours in a day, 52 weeks for the year. Blow your balloon of hope with caution, because time bursts all bubbles.

Timawus Mathias

timawusmathias@dailytrust.com

Goodbye yesterday, welcome today

Happy New Year, and welcome to the Year of Vision, the year 2020. I would make haste to forget the difficult year 2019, and I have already resolved that the year 2020 is going to be a better year. This is however against the mainstream of thought. A babel of voices from critics of the Buhari Administration say to me that given what policies are being offered, in terms of a debt-ridden economy, tottering over a cliff of another looming recession, my optimism lacks basis. The nation's debt according to the Government stands at \$84bn even though non oil earnings doubled at N2trn and the treasury single account inflows also doubled making the debt burden difficult to justify. Yet it is this profile of a turning around that has informed my hopes. They are not built on what I see. My hopes are built on my personal attitude to the coming times, and as I write this morning, my hope is to encourage anyone who desires a 2020 better than the dead year 2019, to adopt a new attitude to the new year, believed to turn out a more harsh economic climate, but well pregnant with potential for self actualisation. It is simply in obedience of the maxim, 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going'.

The year 2020 is going to be better for any one who abandons profligacy for a life of more thrift, and that is acting tough. It is going to be tough for pensioners because even if they were engaged in registered businesses, bankruptcy looms for without securing any contracts in 2019, their mushroom companies will not survive if no jobs come by June 2020. They are more likely to go under if they have not done so already. Survival on pension alone definitely means a change of lifestyle to one of a very mean living on austere choices. Yet also against this scenario, IT and especially Artificial Intelligence hold a new wide vista of opportunities for migrants from the analogue world and economy. 2020 is going to go down as a boom year for digital marketing of personal endowments. Simple.

Obviously this entails that for the year 2020 to be a better year, one must be more global in outlook, and indeed, more productive in a total turn off from consumption. One must make every effort to produce what food is consumed - a return to the old ways. Domestic livestock rearing to include birds like turkey, ducks, and chicken even in the smallest of stake-holding will be fulfilling and profitable. Where possible also fish production will prove to be a worthy venture. Many in fact survived 2019 by so doing.

I related a lot during 2019 with job seekers in the North East area. Majority of them are secondary school products either without university admission merit, or with the merit but are unable to support the cost of further education. I discovered that while the annual fees are between N100,000 and N150,000, living expenses would require another N200,000. A shocking discovery was also that many well to do folks I engaged, are prepared to pool resources together to fund genuine sponsorships. Regrettably there is no community link between the duo. The year 2020 would be fulfilling if time is committed to creating this awareness and as well the provision of a viable link. It is easy to brush this problem off with a wave of the hand offering

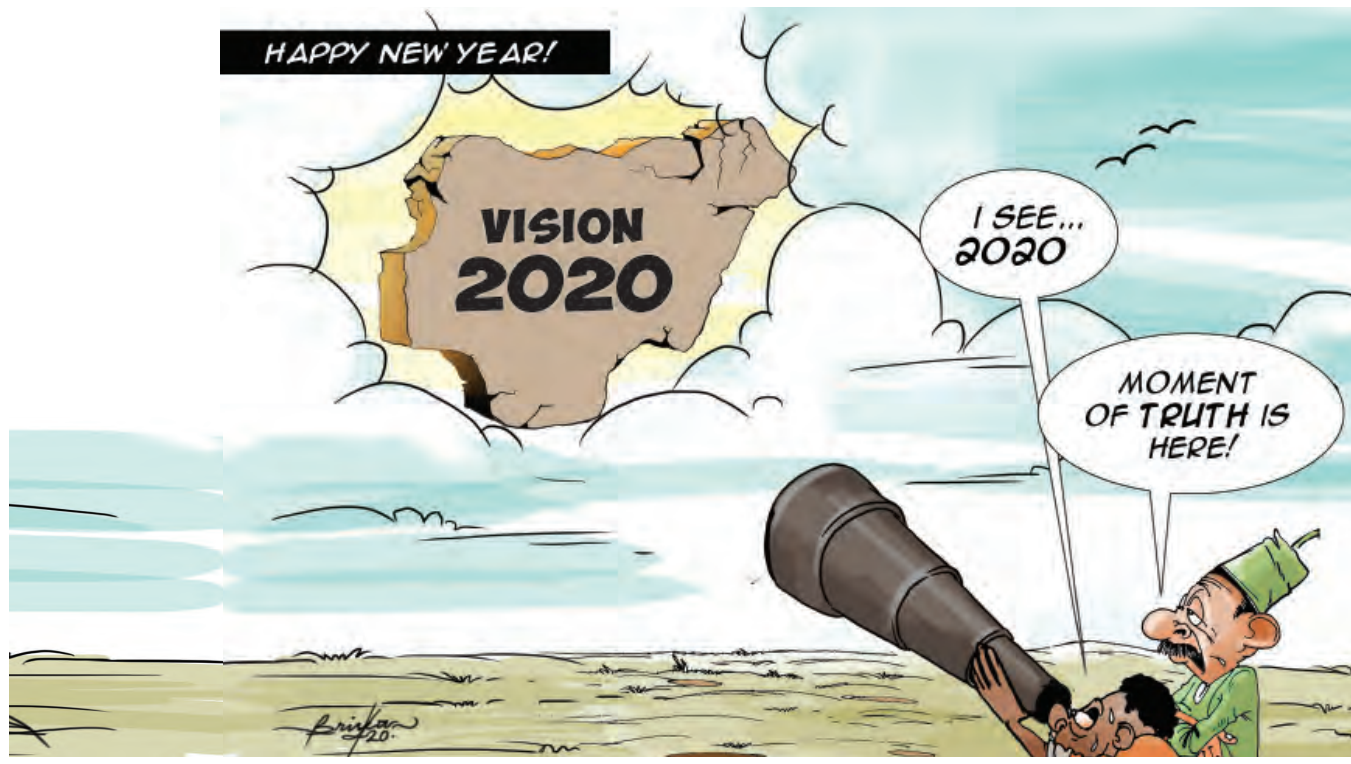
menial labour as a solution. Even at that, we have an economic downturn affecting activities that would support menial labour. Added to that, majority if not all the unemployed youth are without skills with which to offer services. This is a serious drawback that renders the youth vulnerable to several experiences of abuse. This must be addressed with all State Governments bending over backwards to provide for skills acquisition for the teeming youth.

Two issues will keep much of my attention. The first is the Boko Haram, which remains a frustrating challenge to our Armed Forces. Last week, I sided with Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State to contend against the military pronouncement that Boko Haram does not occupy an inch of Nigerian territory. Zulum had cried out that 3 local government areas, Kukawa, Marte, and Abadam are in the hands of the terrorists. As if to prove a point, Boko Haram began a fresh spate of attacks on soft targets. This makes big news. I quite understand that it suits the propaganda purpose of the terrorists, and I maintain that the intention is to downplay their degraded status, and cause a societal rift along religious lines. Abductions are mainly of Christians, with the church as target for destruction. The subsequent unspecified demands, I believe to include finances. I am happy that President Buhari has urged for unity between the Faiths, to put to lie the claim of the fundamentalists that their objective is faith based. Happily also, globally even the Islamic world is doubling down on fundamentalism and support for radical groups, in search for a more peaceful world. Nigerian must unite in the purpose to defeat terrorism. I think that the military needs to tighten the noose even the more. During the week, the high command announced a date for the start of withdrawal from the North East. I am not surprised that at the Security Meeting presided over by President Buhari on Monday, the Governors in the hotspots put forward the view that withdrawal was untimely. Indeed Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum demanded reinforcement. The decision to keep or withdraw troops by April is a Military one and it is hoped that it is well informed. I concluded this column last week saying if we do not laugh at ourselves, the world is laughing at us. The insurgency has lasted longer than it should and with unacceptable cost in men and material. It must be brought to an end and quickly too.

The second issue is the North East Development Commission which appears to remain stuck on its drawing boards as the year 2019 came to a close. I am not sure this is owed to inactivity, it may be the insufficiency or lack of publicity to whatever engagements the Commission has kept itself busy on. Against the dreary profile of the Boko Haram devastation of the North East Nigeria, the North East Development Commission appears to be taking too long in revving its engines. The challenges are there in the open - broken down bridges on roads, destroyed educational infrastructure, and far worse, a crisis proportion internally displaced population wasting away in camps across the entire country. The North East Development Commission must roll out.

Letter to the Editor

CARTOON by AKILA JIBRIN

e-mail letters@dailytrust.com text 08131800030

Between a minister and a general manager

In the Federal Capital Territory, much is left to be desired in prosecuting the fight against corruption. Wittingly or unwittingly, the Minister of the FCT has emboldened the spirit of many opportunists who happen to find themselves in positions of authority.

Many such legatees have been reported formally to the minister over and over for breach of trust, misconduct and outright fraud for effective administrative measures to be applied to avert further colossal impairments on the system.

The minister acknowledged receipt of the following, on the water board, by way of example; 1. Notice of picketing on ground of total disregard for codes of ethics in running the organization, 25th of May 2018; 2. Report on excruciating attitudes, breach of extant rules and monumental fraud, 4th July, 2018; and 3. Need to serve a retirement notice on the GM based on rule 020810 of the Public Service Rule (PSR), 10th October, 2018.

All those ancillary efforts at supporting the fight against the corruption monster were instead kept in view by the honourable minister instead of ensuring the application of the service rules. The arrest and arraignment of the GM by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC on corruption charges however

came after 18 months of thorough and professional investigations. He was arraigned on the 9th of December, 2019 before Honourable Justice Charles Agbaza of FCT Federal High Court 11, Jabi District.

Administratively, such situations should be accosted by removal from office either through suspension, removal or interdiction as enshrined in rule 030401 et al of the PSR. In this case however, the GM was supposedly protected against the law. His letter of interdiction staggered for five days to transit from Area 11 to Area 3, (9th/12/2019) date of arraignment to (13th/12/2019) apparently granting him an executive fiat to sue against 'any punitive action.'

The Nation newspaper of 17th September, 2019 reported a similar case against a staff under him, Patience Odumu-Ojobi, who was forced to proceed on interdiction for a similar charge of a lower scale in spite of her filing of motion ex parte before the National Industrial Court (NIC).

In his ruling, Honourable Justice Kiyersohot Damulak stated that interdiction was in order. He set a precedence. Under the purview of the FCT Minister and the GM, the officer was sent on interdiction pending determination of the case.

Today, the GM is in the exact

situation, but the position of the FCT authority has changed to that of 'different strokes for different folks.' Despite the Administrative Board's earlier recommendation for his replacement with a suitable alternative officer, justice administration has become practically impossible under the circumstance.

Anguished by the EFCC's submission for the GM to refund the whopping sum of N175 million from Abaji Comprehensive Water Reticulation Project alone, the minister, instead conceptualized the idea of forming an investigation committee to investigate, not the GM but those officers under him who are determined to expose his dirty deals, and who patriotically resisted all offers placed before them to compromise.

Let me make bold to say that as a responsible union leader, and on the strength of the Nigerian constitutional provisions, PSR, staff, the organization, FCT residents and Nigerians in general and in total commitment to the president's fight against institutional corruption, we will explore all legitimate constitutional provisions to ensure prompt application of justice as well as resist tyranny in its entirety.

Aliyu Maradun is a union leader in the FCT

FCT task force and unemployment

Abuja is one of the cities that accommodate a larger number of the unemployed youths in the country. I have been in Abuja since 2006 and I must confess that the unemployed youths in Abuja are hardworking and ready to do legitimate jobs to earn a living but the FCT Administration and its policies are always set against their efforts thereby thwarting them from succeeding.

I would not talk about the FCT's past administrations where houses were demolished, people were rendered homeless, commercial motorcyclists were banned in many places within the FCT, people were killed and many more.

Even though some people applauded the above stated policies but the truth remains, it was an act of wickedness and oppression of the poor.

Now, the ongoing administration in charge of the FCT has constituted a task force in the name of keeping Abuja clean. The members of the task force go around Abuja, arrest people with provision shops, lock up their shops, arrest people hawking in different places within the FCT, collect their goods and many more.

Those doing the above mentioned businesses and more are the unemployed youth that the government and FCT administration have failed to provide jobs for. If you don't want them to do what is making food available for them, what else do you expect them to do if not to seek for every possible means of surviving? In some cases, the administration in question claimed to have provided shops and other places for such people but failed to let us know that the fees for the shops are exorbitant and these unemployed youths cannot afford any of them.

The government is not providing jobs for the unemployed youth, it is not proving an enabling environment for the youth to excel in their areas of interest, it has been making policies aimed at frustrating the youth, the same government said the youth are lazy, this government is wicked, this government will read this and label it hate speech.

*Awunah Pius Terwase
Mpape, Abuja.
terwaseawunah@gmail.com*

Text us on 08131800030 & 08112661608



Re: Media Trust appointment

Yes, the appointment of Naziru Mikailu Abubakar is a welcome development to Media Trust. Congratulations to the management of Media Trust and the new CEO.

Mamman Ado Kongolam, 08039395951

Re: Media Trust appoints New Editor-in-Chief

Kindly permit me to use your publication to congratulate the newly appointed editor-in-chief of the Daily Trust newspapers whose voice was popular among the BBC's outlets and to wish the outgoing editor-in-chief whose tenure over the years has redefined and transformed the newspapers into becoming the envy of many within and outside the country a happy retirement! We commend the entire staff and management team of the Daily Trust newspapers (the Newspaper you can trust) for leading

the way in providing informative and educative news and programmes on the activities of the federal and state governments in the outgoing year. Wishing all the staff and the board of directors of Media Trust Ltd a prosperous New Year!

Adamu Suleiman, Katsina 09035928900

Re: Why France kidnapped West Africa's Eco currency

The new trade agreement under AFCTA should provide a platform for Nigeria and other blocs in the South and Eastern Africa with more powerful economies to fight this new face of imperialism. Against this background, Ghana would not benefit from its double standards and may even run the risk of losing the headquarters to a more neutral country that is more prosperous and currently drives the economic growth of Africa, such as Rwanda.

Muhammad Zurmi 08065119967

MTN AWUF4U bonus a gimmick?

I don't fancy airtime bonus of any kind promised by telecom operators for undue pressure to use, terminate at a particular time, restrictions of use and conditions. Call or message should be a necessity not merely fun that having time limit or duration for bonus airtime does not seem to present a real value for unnecessary higher number of calls or larger conversation cannot be gainful achievement for a user to cherish but the GSM operators. Despite the above suspicion or doubt, I'm however tempted to try the ongoing awuf4u bonus offer by MTN for this festive period entitled to get four (4x) airtime as bonus for any amount loaded. How can N2500 bonus airtime for N500 be seen short lived in shocking manner unlike the latter under normal circumstance?

Mohammed Bagudu, Minna 0814843725

EDITORIAL

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

Happy New Year

Brilliant fireworks are adorning the skies in many parts of the world today to celebrate the onset of January 1, marking the start of the New Year 2020 in the modern Gregorian and the Julian calendars. It is being marked as a work free day in Nigeria, and it offers the possibility of a new beginning for the nation and the start of a new budget year.

The resilience of Nigerians will be tested again in the New Year as we hope for an improvement in our economic circumstances. At this point the economic indicators are not where we want them to be. Nigeria's inflation rate was at 11.85 per cent in November 2019, the highest since April 2018, from 11.61 percent the previous month. The unemployment rate is estimated to reach 33.5 per cent this year. Power supply remains epileptic while the roads and other infrastructure are not in a good shape. Nigerians hope and pray for quick solutions to these problems in the New Year.

Another area Nigerians want urgent solution is the corruption that has continued to damage every facet of our nation's life. So much has been said by the government on this. But this scourge must not only be seen to be fought, it must reflect in the conduct of every official of the government at all levels. Corruption has damaged every fabric of the society and denied Nigerians the opportunity of a decent life. It should be fought in creative new ways using technological tools as well as the time-tested ways of leadership by example.

The fight against corruption is not a one man's job, so we expect President Muhammadu Buhari to mobilise the members of his party members and his government to key into the fight. At present, there is much dissonance between the sayings and the deeds of key officials. We should go beyond sensational recoveries made by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission [EFCC] and other anti-graft agencies. In addition to vigorous investigations, trials and convictions, measures should be put in place to prevent corruption, rather than just to punish it.

As last year ended, there was a spike in Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province [ISWAP] attacks. Kidnapping, banditry and other criminal activities still make life unbearable in parts of the country. The only security area where there has been noticeable improvement is reduction in herders/farmers clashes. Banditry and killings have also greatly abated in Zamfara State due to proactive measures taken by the state government and security agencies.

In this New Year, we expect the military, in conjunction with other security forces and the Civilian JTF to take decisive steps and end the menace of insecurity in many parts of the country. The federal government should also re-strategise, reorganize, re-equip and, with the help of our neighbours, end the Boko Haram menace once and for all. Nigerians should appreciate the military and other security agencies who are currently overstretched but have been doing their best to quickly restore peace and security to the nation.

All Nigerians are happy that this year's federal budget was passed into law and signed in time to restore the January to December budget circle. That, however, is only the beginning. We expect to see tangible results this year with the quick initiation, proper funding and early completion of social and infrastructural projects that will boost economic activities and help combat poverty in this land.

The New Year offers Nigeria a new opportunity for its challenges to be addressed so that the citizens would live in hope for a happier, safer and more prosperous year. This is also the year Nigerians should shake off all the divisiveness of politics and resolve to live in peace. And as work resumes from tomorrow, there should be renewed dedication by all workers to put in their best to improve productivity and contribute their quota to the needed urgent development of the nation. We wish all Nigerians a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.



MANNIR DAN ALI: Chief Executive Officer/Editor-in-Chief

MAHMUD JEGA: Associate Director/Deputy Editor-in-Chief

HAMZA IDRIS: Editor, Daily Trust

NURA M. DAURA: Ag. Executive Director, Finance, Account & Investment

AHMED SHEKARAU: General Manager, Business & Strategy

GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR: Deputy General Manager (IT)

By Jamila Abubakar

Welcome to a new decade and a new year. I pray that the future will be more peaceful and bountiful. I thought I should undertake the risky endeavour of sharing my ideas on key issues and matters that will be significant to our lives as Nigerians in the new year.

1. President Buhari

President Buhari is now into the first year of his second term, with huge powers to make up for shortfalls in his first term, and opportunities to improve a legacy. He has said he will not escort the ambitions of any politician who has not deserved a popular mandate, and he will fix a badly broken electoral process.

If President Buhari plans to undertake anything of lasting value, he has to make maximum use of the coming year. He will be under tremendous pressure to resist the pull towards endorsing, in whatever form, a successor, or stay out of the fray altogether. He will need to successfully douse the rumour that he has ambitions for a third term, and resist being dragged into titanic battles that will commence in 2020. That will make him effectively a lame duck president after 2020. He could be convinced to play a statesman role and help his party win the 2023 elections, but this will merely deepen the party's polarization.

There is little prospect for a major shift in priorities of the administration or shake-up of key actors in governance, economy or national security.

2. APC, PDP

The two major parties will go through major tremors in 2020, a year that will signal the real commencement of the 2023 elections. It is unlikely that chairmen of both parties will survive major assaults on their positions from forces that see little future for their ambitions if they stay beyond the next year. Ambitious politicians in the APC who want to succeed Buhari will test the grip of Oshiomhole on the party, and it is unlikely that he can avoid being a major source of division in the party. The likelihood of a split in the party will be signaled in 2020.

PDP will be shaken to its foundations by quarrels over the zoning formula and recriminations over strengths of the party under the leadership of Secondus. There are powerful and ambitious politicians from the north who will test the resolve of politicians from the south to uphold a badly-damaged zoning formula. The party will be divided between taking advantage of the looming civil war in the APC and putting out the fires in its own yard. By the end of 2020, the two major parties are likely to look like two gladiators who

2020: A projection

had fought themselves into shreds. This, however, will not necessarily provide the setting for the emergence of a third option. The two major parties are too-deeply rooted in resources and spoils of a corrupt political and electoral system to yield to new comers.

3. The Economy

The basic outlook for the economy is unlikely to improve in 2020. Inflation will remain high; foreign direct investment will remain low, and unemployment and poverty levels are likely to rise. Productive activities will suffer further decline owing to deteriorating quality of basic infrastructure and weak macro policies. Traditional sources of revenue will remain the same, with little difference in performance of major revenue-generating agencies. Budget performance will remain poor largely because the budgeting process is still structured on unrealistic assumptions and projections and managed with weak political will.

The strong determination of the Buhari administration to borrow an additional \$23b will be a major focus of interest, and will be a test of the touted warm relations between President Buhari and a legislature controlled by his party. Substantial grounds have been laid to improve the chances that the request will be granted, including approval for a N37b allocation for renovation of the National Assembly, approval of all constituency projects and a mark-up of the budget by the legislators. The loan issue will generate huge passion in a nation becoming alarmed at the level of borrowing by the administration and the absence of adequate transparency in the management of public resources.

The debates over the utility of the closure of the border and uncertainties over its lifespan will intensify in the early part of the year. Absence of key reforms at the ports and effective measures to extract maximum, long-term benefits from the closures will tilt opinions against it. ECOWAS francophone and a few other members could isolate Nigeria with the floating of a new currency that will truncate long-term plans for a more inclusive one.

4. Security

National security is likely to continue to be a major challenge. In spite of efforts to boost morale and equipment of fighting troops in the northeast, factions of insurgents have remained active, and will continue to attack areas of relative weaknesses of Nigerian troops. ISWAP in particular is raising its profile in the Sahel and Nigeria in the manner

it undertakes eye-catching attacks. Its new tactic of targeting and murdering Christians in particular will re-introduce faith politics in perceptions of the conflict in 2020. There is little prospect that the Nigerian government will embrace political options in resolving this conflict, in spite of its increasing potential to isolate hardline factions from others that are amenable to non-military options. Funding the fight against the insurgency will continue to be a major challenge in the year, and populations living under, or with insurgents may increase. The year 2020 is unlikely to register a major difference in the balance of forces or the damage of the insurgency on Nigerians. UK, EU and the USA will be engrossed in foundational matters of their own to be of greater assistance in the fight against a resurgent threat.

5. Reforms

The year 2020 will be the best period for the administration of President Buhari to push through critical reforms around the electoral process, particularly relating to processes, abuse of state agencies during elections and violence. Other vital areas needing reforms are public procurement and fuel subsidy and the fight against corruption, but it is doubtful if there will be the will to reform all these will be available.

6. Law and Order and Public Safety

Unless he commences a genuine rebuilding of policing which has clearly collapsed, President Buhari will leave a legacy of spreading crimes of kidnapping and banditry that have blossomed under his watch. In spite of the attraction of engaging state governors and a broad spectrum of respected opinion on improving the quality of public safety, the President's conservative instinct is likely to limit him to raising the numbers of federal police as the sole initiative in improving the security of citizens' life and property. The military is likely to continue to be stressed with additional responsibility for maintaining internal security. After the releases of Dasuki and Sowore, achieved under tremendous pressure, the nation is unlikely to see a major shift in the manner the administration deals with persons and groups which it sees as representing threats to national security.

7. The World Cup

Nigeria could qualify for the 2020 World cup in Qatar. Poor preparations and massive internal weakness are likely to consign the nation to participation only.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Abubakar can be reached at jm1bukar@gmail.com

New Year: Nigerians set targets for leaders

By Rasheedah Musa, Tijani Sanni, Umar Shehu Usman (Abuja) Abdullateef Aliyu (Lagos), Haruna Gimba Yaya (Gombe), Eyo Charles (Calabar), Bassey Willie (Yenagoa), Faruk Shuaibu (Kaduna) & Usman A. Bello (Benin)

The year 2019 ended with tales of unfulfilled dreams and lamentations for dashed hopes from citizens across the country. And as the year 2020 sets in, Nigerians have set goals for governments at all levels which they hope will help them achieve their personal and collective aspirations.

Ebo Darlington, a security guard in Abuja, urged governments to look into the plight of Nigerians and alleviate them.

Another resident, Maureen Nwaede, a furniture maker, wants public transportation infrastructure improved upon, just as she expects governments to provide quality and affordable education for all.

Sanusi Olaitan Mohammed, a business man and a poultry farmer, wanted governments to give grants to SMEs, to help boost their businesses.

A graduate of the University of Abuja, Abdullahi Aisha Tanko, urged the Nigerian government to provide job opportunities for the youth and to eradicate the high rate of poverty in the country.

Jibril Ibrahim, an Abuja resident, wanted the government to provide quality education, healthcare and transport infrastructure to citizens in 2020.

In Lagos, some residents who spoke with Daily Trust tasked Nigerian leaders to focus more on providing the required infrastructure.

Israel Abutu, a businessman who lives at Ilesa in Mushin said: "I want to pray that God will touch the hearts of our leaders to do the right thing and govern the nation well."

Mrs. Augustina Samuel, an investment banker and a resident of Mushin, urged the government to focus on health

and education.

"Go to our hospitals, you see people wallowing in pain, people are there unattended to and it is so heartless to know that we have leaders who cannot go to that hospital and they fly abroad to treat just headache.

"Also, we need to address the near dilapidation in our public schools," he said.

Some residents of Gombe metropolis called on government to consider the less privileged and embark on projects that will touch their lives directly.

A fruit seller, Zubairu Abubakar, said he expected things to change for good in the New Year.

"Our expectations are that in 2020, things will change for good and the politicians will fulfill the promises they made during campaigns," he said.

Abubakar also called on governments both at the federal and the state levels to consider the less privileged people by formulating policies that will mainstream and take

care of their needs.

Muhammad Mustapha, a sugarcane seller, called on governments to consider establishing more industries to provide jobs, especially to unskilled people and the less privileged.

"We need qualitative schools, well-functioning hospitals, clean and safe drinking water and above all, more job opportunities for the teeming youths and unskilled people like me," Mustapha said.

Residents of Calabar, Cross River State, asked the governments at the state and the federal levels to provide security and infrastructure to improve the lives of the citizens.

Okon Umo of Jeps community in Calabar South LGA said he expected the government to improve on the economy so that there would be food security for all Nigerians.

A clergy woman, Deaconess Arit Johnson Brown of the Consecrated Believers Assembly, called on the federal

government to listen to the cries and yearnings of the people and open the national borders but should strengthen the security agencies to stop contrabands.

A youth leader in Yakurr LGA, Eteng Obi, said the country has all it takes to make Nigerians comfortable; asking the authorities to fight against corruption seriously.

In Kaduna, a resident, Isiaka Bello, who produces sachet water, urged governments to bring more security personnel to stop kidnappings.

For AddulRahman Yusuf, a tailor in Kaduna, asked governments to take provision of good roads and improvement living conditions serious.

In Edo State, a resident of Benin, John Igbinovia, urged governments to fix electricity for businesses to thrive.

Another resident Osasu Moses, urged the federal government to fix the roads across the country to reduce the hardship faced by the citizenry.



■ Hair stylists attend to their customers ahead of the New Year celebration at Wuse Modern Market in Abuja yesterday

Photo: NAN

2020: NCWS demands transformative agenda for women

By Olayemi John-Mensah

The National Council of Women Societies (NCWS) has called on government at all levels to ensure a transformative agenda for women in 2020 to realise the gains of gender equality.

The president of the council, Mrs Gloria Laraba Shoda, in her New Year message to Nigerian women yesterday, said this would help key stakeholders to push for advancement in areas where progress was lacking.

She said 2020 would be a historic year for women.

"Recent history has shown that transformative change that is important and lasting, takes place only when there is both major investment and attention that rises above partisan concerns.

"As a council, we believe that asserting the centrality of investments in women and girls is critical for the health of the country," she stated.

She said rising above the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 indicators to measure progress calls for a fresh, bold, and straightforward agenda for new investment in six key areas to realize progress for women and girls in the country.

She urged the global community to identify key actions in areas like politics, reproductive health, genders based violence and education to concentrate upon.

EFCC arrests Shehu Sani over alleged extortion of \$20,000

From Andrew Agbese, Mohammed Yaba (Kaduna) & Ronald Mutum, (Abuja)

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has arrested and interrogated Senator Shehu Sani, who represented the Kaduna Central Senatorial District in the 8th Assembly, for allegedly extorting \$20,000 from the owner of ASD Motors, Alhaji Sani Dauda.

Sources said Sani was asked to explain why he collected various sums of money from different individuals promising to assist them to avoid EFCC investigations.

One of the sources said: "He (Sani) was said to have collected the \$20,000 from the owner of ASD Motors on the grounds that he is very close to the EFCC boss.

"He was subsequently arrested and granted administrative bail while he refunded the money to the victim.

"He was asked to report but made himself incommunicado. He must have been scamming a lot of people, dropping the name of the EFCC boss."

The spokesman of the EFCC, Wilson Uwujaren, could not be reached on his mobile telephone lines as of

the time of filing this report.

An aide to Sani, Suleiman Ahmed, confirmed to *Daily Trust* that after receiving the invitation, Sani reported at the EFCC Office in Abuja and was being questioned by operatives.

He said: "We are here with the Senator because he was invited by the EFCC which was why he came to listen to the complaint against him and which is normal.

"All we know is that there was a business transaction that transpired between Senator and him ASD. The senator wanted to buy a Peugeot 508 Executive and

was making part payment.

"An invoice was given to him as well as an account number by ASD to make deposit. So we were all surprised when we heard that ASD filed a complaint at EFCC alleging 7.2 million naira extortion."

He, however, said Sani must have been set up, asking, "How can Senator Shehu Sani extort mere N7.2m from somebody like ASD? The point here is that we are thinking that somebody somewhere instigated ASD to go against senator since he once visited him over his daughter's case."



■ Gombe State Governor, Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya signs the Health Insurance, Hospital Management Board and Public Procurement Bills into law in Gombe yesterday. With him from left are the state House of Assembly's Clerk, Hajiya Rukaiyatu Adamu Jalo, Speaker Abubakar Sadiq Kurba, Secretary to the State Government, Prof. Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, Chief of Staff, Alhaji Abubakar Inuwa Kari and Commissioner of Finance, Muhammad Gambo Magaji

'Imposition of toll fee is for revenue generation'

The National Arts Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos, says the introduction of toll fees at the entrance gates of the complex is part of efforts to generate revenue for its maintenance.

Steve Ogundele, the spokesperson of the Primary Centre for Performing Arts in Nigeria, gave the explanation in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday.

Ogundele said that paucity of fund to maintain the edifice and environment compelled the management to venture into the toll gate fee project of N100 per vehicle at the entrances.

"We need to come up with measures to raise more money in order to maintain the theatre and entire environment.

"So, the collection of N100 toll fee at the entrance is official and tickets are printed to that effect, which is being issued at every payment by our men at the gate," he said.

The theatre spokesperson added that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and the Police were deployed at the toll gates to ensure compliance by motorists.

Ogundele, therefore, solicited for maximum cooperation of the gate users and tasked them on the payment, adding that defaulters would not be allowed to pass through the gates.

"For example, there are normal routes for commercial buses or private cars going to the Island, but should they resolve to use the short route through our gate, they should be willing to pay," he said.

Kano NDLEA secures 107 convictions in 2019

The Kano State Command of the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) said it had secured the conviction of 107 drug peddlers in 2019.

The state NDLEA commander, Dr Ibrahim Abdul made the disclosure at a press briefing on Tuesday in Kano as part of activities to review the activities of agency in the outgoing year (2019).

He said that the command had during the year under review seized a total of 8,031,207 kilogrammes of exhibits.

According to him, a total of 906 suspects were also arrested among which 103 were females, 803 were males while 107 of the number were prosecuted.

He said that only one female was among the prosecuted suspects, while 76

cases were presently pending at a Federal High court in Kano.

"The command had seized 4,525,473 kilogrammes of cannabis, 2,927,669 kilogrammes psychotropic and 3,455 kilogrammes of cocaine.

"The command also seized 167 grams of heroin and 160,900 kilogrammes of other exhibits during the period under review," Abdul said.

He said the statistics represented a sharp decline in the number of arrests and seizures which may not be unconnected with the sustained interdiction, operation and drug demand reduction activities.

"The statistics put the state at number six against the previous ranking where it was highest in drug abuse and trafficking in the country," he said. (NAN)

Group wants FG to suspend \$1bn Ogoni cleanup project

From Eugene Agha Lagos

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) under the auspices of Ogoni Liberation Initiative has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to suspend and review \$1 billion Ogoni oil spill clean-up project, saying the exercise had failed to yield the expected result since its commencement.

The group also appealed to the federal government to investigate the project which had failed to provide social amenities mostly as it affects construction of boreholes and pipe-borne water in the communities.

Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo had in 2017, on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari, set in motion a \$1 billion clean-up and restoration programme of the Ogoniland region in the Niger Delta, announcing that financial and legislative frameworks had been put in place to begin implementing recommendations made by the United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP).

The federal government had in June 2019, commenced remediation exercise in 16 sites impacted by oil pollution, across the four local government areas in Ogoniland.

But speaking at a press briefing on the preparation launch of a book, 'The Issues of Ogoni People, the Crisis and the Solution, Creating Awareness for Public Participation' in Lagos, President of Ogoni Liberation Initiative, Rev. Fabeke Douglas, lamented that the clean-up project of the communities has no human face as the contractors have failed to provide adequate water supply for the people.

Douglas stressed the need for the Buhari-led government to withdraw, suspend and evaluate the project describing it as mere jamboree.

He also described late President Musa Yar' Adua's initiative as the best approach to the people of the kingdom but lamented that "nothing is going on at the moment."

Douglas said people in the communities could not assess the contractors and have no single information centre on ground for dissemination of information.

"The suspension will be a good one for the communities because nothing is going on. There was supposed to be a central office for the Ogoni land to engage the contractors, but they don't know the contractors and don't know if they are professional experts, the kind of equipment they use and that is why we want President Buhari to suspend this exercise and assess what is going on.

"Before this clean-up, there is supposed to be a water project but as we speak there is no drinking water anywhere in our community," he stated.

He said the contractor supplied drinkable water to the people with tankers at their will, adding that a professional body of experts should be constituted to investigate the failed project.

World Chamber Federation appoints Mabogunje as council member

From Christiana T. Alabi, Lagos

The World Chamber Federation (WCF) has appointed the President of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Mrs. Toki Mabogunje to its Governing Council.

WCF is a global network of 12,000 Chambers of Commerce drawn from over 100 countries with headquarters in Paris,

France.

The WCF works to enhance chamber capacity globally to foster private sector development and has developed strong ties with a range of multi-lateral organisations, including the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and regional development banks.

According to the Director

General of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI),

Muda Yusuf, Mabogunje's appointment is in recognition of her immense contributions to the development of the Chamber of Commerce movement in Nigeria and the African continent.

"It is also in appreciation of her pedigree and immense

contributions in business development services, value chain development, project financing, strategic organization and management and the provision of legal and business advisory services to small and medium enterprises.

"Her election will enhance the LCCI's role and profile in the global business arena and deepen our global networks.

This is valuable for the global perception of Nigerian private sector and our dear country Nigeria", he said.

Mrs. Mabogunje has served the Chamber previously in various capacities over the past two decades as Sectoral Group Chairman, Vice President and Deputy President and was recently inaugurated as the 23rd President of LCCI.

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SME in a box

Minimum wage: Be on standby, NLC tells workers in 31 states

By Umar Shehu Usman

Following the expiration of the December 31 deadline for implementation of the N30,000 new minimum wage, the Nigeria Labour Congress yesterday asked its councils in the 31 defaulting states to be on standby to robustly engage the

state governments on its demands.

Only Kebbi, Jigawa, Adamawa, Kaduna and Lagos States have started implementing the new wage.

NLC President Ayuba Wabba, in his New Year's message, reiterated that industrial harmony could not be guaranteed in the defaulting states.

He said: "The ongoing revelations

on the monumental looting perpetrated by former governors prove that only an intent to loot, and deadened conscience, not availability of resources, would be the reason any governor would hesitate to pay workers the N30,000 new national minimum wage and the consequential adjustment in salaries."



■ Gov. Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State chairing a session of the State Executive Council in Damaturu yesterday

Yobe approves multi-billion naira contracts

From Ibrahim Baba Saleh, Damaturu

The Yobe State Executive Council, at its maiden meeting yesterday, approved multi-billion naira contracts across the state.

The Commissioner for Information, Home Affairs and Culture, Abdullahi Bego, listed the contracts as including the construction of 4-km of roads and 8-kilometers of drainages and culverts in Buni-Yadi for N673, 455, 140.80; 2.3-km of roads and 4.6 km of drainages

and culverts in Jaji-Maji, N788, 087, 605.52; 1.6km of roads and 3.2-km of drainages and culverts in Damagum, N530, 362, 211.96 and 1.5-km of roads and 3-km of drainages and culverts in Babbangida, N492, 691, 106.30.

Others were the procurement of 9000 metric tonnes of NPK 15-15 fertilizer for N1, 701, 000, 000.00; 40 units of Mercy Fergusson Tractors, N882m; N2, 837, 697, 550.25 for the construction of the Damaturu Modern Market; and N186, 112,

564.00 as compensation for shop and landowners whose land and property were acquired for the construction of the market.

In the healthcare sector, the council ratified the rehabilitation and upgrade of 53 primary healthcare centres across the state for N4, 142, 941, 454.30 as well as the construction of a one-storey maternal and neo-natal child health complex at the Yobe State University Teaching Hospital, Damaturu, N1, 588, 241, 583.34.

Bego said the state government utilised funds won from the Saving One-Million Lives Programme for Result to finance these projects in the healthcare sector.

He said in the education sector, the council ratified the construction and renovation of various structures at the Yobe State University, Damaturu, for N347, 646, 104.38; while N958, 290, 000.00 was ratified for the payment of tuition fees for 829 Yobe students at the Nigeria-Tulip International Colleges.

Give us college of education, Iwo indigenes beg FG

From Hameed Oyegnade, Osogbo

The Reformed Iwoland Political Movement (RIPM) on Tuesday appealed to the Federal Government to site one of the six proposed Federal Colleges of Education in Iwo Federal Constituency of Osun State.

The Federal Government had approved the founding of new Federal Colleges of Education in six states, including Osun.

The RIPM, in a statement, said Iwo as the headquarter of Osun-west Senatorial district deserved to host the proposed college meant for Osun because it is the only federal constituency in the state without higher institutions of learning.

It noted that Iwoland hosts

an increasing young population yearning for tertiary education.

The movement, in the statement signed by its chairman, Nurudeen Emiloju; Acting General Secretary, Niyi Isamotu and Publicity Secretary, Yusuf Mutalub Ola-Gold, said: "We've suffered enough, crying, wailing and waiting for federal government presence in our community, we beseech you to kindly wipe away our long years of crying by citing this approved Federal College of Education in Iwoland.

"Despite not having considerable government presence in our federal constituency, we've continually belong to the progressive family in the political arena of the country and that relationship still stands

firm till today. We think this is the perfect time to repay our consistent and unflinching support for the progressive political family since time immemorial.

"We appeal to all concern bodies, specifically, President Muhammadu Buhari, Governor Gboyega Oyetola, Hon Minister for Education, Adamu Adamu, and all other bodies that holds the baton of the approved Federal College of Education to please pass it on to Iwo federal constituency," the statement said.

"Citing this institution in Iwo will help to address the problem being faced by admission seekers in the state, create jobs for the unemployed and boost the economic activities of Iwo Federal Constituency."

Malabu oil scam: Adoke's bail application hearing suffers setback

By Clement A. Oloyede

Justice Othman Musa of the FCT High Court in Maitama has given an order to remit to the Chief Judge of the court, the case file of a former Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mohammed Adoke.

The judge's directive followed the request by Adoke's lawyer, Benson Igbanoi, for an adjournment of the hearing of a bail application filed on behalf of the former AGF to enable the applicant's legal team to respond to the counter-affidavit filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in opposition to it.

Igbanoi, holding the brief for Adoke's lead counsel, Chief Mike Ozekhome, had at the Tuesday's proceedings urged Justice Musa, who sits as the court's vacation judge, to adjourn the hearing to January 2.

However, the EFCC's counsel, Bala Sanga, noted that it was better to have the application sent back to the judge handling the pending criminal charges since the vacation of the court's judges would end soon.

The judge thereafter agreed with Sanga, noting that since the 14-day detention order he had issued on December 20 would end on January 2, and other judges of the court would resume from their vacation on January 6, "the appropriate order to make is to remit the case file back to the Chief Judge for reassignment to another judge".

The judge's order meant that the bail application will no longer be heard until after the court resumes from its ongoing vacation on January 6.

Adoke, who had since 2016 been charged with \$1.1bn Malabu Oil scam, returned to the country, ending his over four years self-exile on December 19.

He was subsequently arrested on arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport in Abuja by operatives of the International Police Organisation and handed over to the EFCC, who subsequently applied for and got an order to detain him for 14 days.

Gombe gov signs contributory healthcare bill, 2 others

From Haruna Gimba Yaya, Gombe

Gombe State Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya yesterday signed the Contributory Healthcare Management Bill.

He also assented to the State Hospitals Services Management Board Bill 2019 and the State Council on Public Procurement and Public Procurement Bureau Bill 2019.

Governor Yahaya described the Acts would help in fostering efficiency and effectiveness in healthcare service delivery as well as engendering transparency, accountability and good governance.

He said with the Contributory Healthcare Management Board Law in place, the state would now align with the national health policy and access the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund, "set aside at the Federation Accounts and which can be accessed only with this law in place."

He said it was disheartening that Gombe was the only state in Nigeria without a hospital management board, saying that with the signing of the hospitals services management board law, hospitals in the state would now operate better in providing basic healthcare services to the ordinary people.

He said his administration would double up efforts and set up the board to bridge the gap and cover up the lost grounds in that area.

Governor Yahaya noted the Bureau for Public Procurement had been in existence in the state but without any enabling law.

BUSINESS

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	US DOLLAR	POUND STERLING	EURO	YUAN/RENMINBI	RIVAL	CFA
Buying	306	376.1	334.4	42.9	81.5	0.48
Central NGN	306.5	376.8	335.0	43	81.7	0.49
Selling NGN	306.7	376.3	335.5	43.1	81.8	0.50

December 30, 2019

COMMODITIES PRICE	PRICE
CRUDE OIL BRENT	\$61.99/b
GOLD	\$1,485
GAS	\$2.296

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

	Dollar	Euro	Pound S.
BUYING			
N357	N400	N468	
SELLING			
N360	N404	N471	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

AZMAN AIR
MONDAY - FRIDAY:
Kano-Lagos 7:30 a.m., 3:45pm Abuja-Lagos 1:20 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:00pm Lagos-Abuja 9:45 a.m., 3:30 p.m. Abuja-Kano 2:30 p.m.
Kano-Abuja-Maiduguri 8:15 a.m.
Abuja-Maiduguri 9:30 a.m.
Maiduguri-Abuja-Lagos 11:20 a.m.
Abuja-Yola 11:30 a.m. Yola-Abuja-Kano 1 p.m.
SATURDAY: Kano-Abuja 8:00am
Abuja-Lagos 9:30 a.m.; Lagos-Kano 6 p.m.

DANA AIR
MONDAY - FRIDAY: Lagos-Abuja Departure: 7:02am, 11:07am, 3:30pm, and 5:10pm, Abuja-Lagos 9 a.m., 1:05pm, 5:28pm, 7:08pm
SATURDAY: Lagos-Abuja 7:02, 11:07am, 15:30pm, 5:10pm Lagos-Uyo: 9:17am Daily; Uyo-Abuja 11:07am daily Abuja-Uyo 1:05pm; Uyo-Lagos 3:03pm
Lagos-PHC Mon-Friday: 7:20am; PHC-Abuja 9:18am Abuja-PHC 3:30pm
Daily & Sun, PHC-Lagos 5:28pm

AfDB President wants Africa to invest \$1.8trn on infrastructure

By Muideen Olaniyi

Africa's \$1.8trillion pension and sovereign wealth assets should be used to develop infrastructure in the continent, the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwunmi Adesina, has said.

Dr Adesina, who spoke with State House correspondents yesterday at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, after a meeting with Muhammadu Buhari, added that such investment would bridge the current infrastructure gap.

He said: "Today, Africa has an infrastructure gap of about roughly \$68bn to \$108bn infrastructure financing gap. At the AfDB, we have been working so hard to close that particular gap.

"When it comes to the issue of attracting capital to do that, there are three things that I will say; first, we have to also look at home. Today, in Africa, the size of the sovereign wealth fund and pension fund and insurance pull of fund (mutual funds) is about \$1.8tn.

"If we can just tap a little part of that, we will close very quickly the infrastructure gap that we are talking about. But, you see a lot of sovereign investment funds being

invested in other sovereigns outside the continent.

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

Dr Adesina, who said the AfDB stakeholders had strengthened the bank with \$115bn to further support the development of the continent, described the proposed single currency for the Economic Community of West Africa sub-region, the Eco, as a good development.

He said a unified currency for the sub-region would place the West African countries on a higher pedestal to compete with the rest of Africa in view of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA).

"At the end of the day, the biggest thing to happen to Africa is the AfCFTA. That free trade area itself is worth over \$3.3tn in terms of trade. Obviously, it's not optimum to trade in so many currencies.

"So, it makes common sense to have a unified currency and of course for that to even be achieved, the Eco; I support Eco greatly. I think it's a great idea to do.

"But, obviously, there are a number of



Dr Akinwunmi Adesina

convergence criteria that will have to be met and I am sure that our President is talking with other presidents to be sure that they can meet those criteria and the region can be fully integrated," he said.

Power: DisCos ordered to begin cashless payments for 8m customers

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has mandated the 11 Distribution Companies (DisCos) to migrate their 8 million customers comprising R3 class of residential customers, industrial and commercial customers to cashless settlement platforms from Thursday.

An Order No. 183 signed by the NERC Chairman, Prof. James Momoh, said it was in compliance with the cashless policy directive issued by the Federal Government. "This Order and the obligations imposed herein shall take effect on 2 January 2020," NERC held.

NERC said there is need for the mandatory transition of certain classes of end-use customers of DisCos from direct cash settlement of bills to cashless settlement platforms in order to reduce collection leakages/losses and improve overall revenue assurance.

"All DisCos shall transit to cashless settlement platforms for the billing/collection of industrial and commercial customers by 31 January 2020."

For the R3 class of residential customers, NERC directs that DisCos should migrate them from 31 March 2020.

"All DisCos shall ensure the successful transition of customers to cashless settlement platforms."

Apart from the DisCos providing payment platforms, addresses and other channels, they must deploy standard customer management systems (CMS), vending platforms and other

technology solutions. "All DisCos shall ensure full accountability of energy flow with the installation of appropriate metering infrastructure that is integrated with the CMS of all industrial, commercial and R3 class of residential customers by 31 December 2020," it directed.

Recapitalization: NAICOM extends deadline to December 2020

By Chris Agabi

The National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) has extended the insurance industry recapitalisation deadline from June 2020 to December 31, 2020.

NAICOM announced the extension in a circular signed by its Director, Policy and Regulation Directorate, Pius Agboola, yesterday.

The circular titled; "Minimum Paid Up share Capital Policy for Insurance and Reinsurance Companies in Nigeria"; dated December 30, 2019 was addressed to all insurance companies.

However, the new paid-up capital requirement for all categories of insurance companies still stands, NAICOM said in the circular.

Based on the new recapitalization requirement announced by NAICOM in May 2019, life insurance companies will now have a minimum paid-up capital of N8bn from its previous N2bn, General Insurance companies will now have to recapitalize to N10bn from N3bn, while Composite Insurance companies will now need N18bn to underwrite businesses from the previous N5bn

minimum capital.

The new capital base requirement also affected reinsurance companies who will now have to raise their minimum paid-up capital from N10bn to N20bn if they must remain in business.

In the circular announcing the extension, NAICOM noted that "it has reviewed the recapitalisation plans submitted by operators and various levels of compliance observed, and noted the inputs from the various engagements with relevant stakeholders, therefore, extends the recapitalisation

deadline to December 31, 2020."

NAICOM indicated that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has obliged it with the recapitalisation escrow accounts (T24) for the deposit of fresh funds raised for the recapitalization.

It maintained that as parts of the measures to ease the recapitalisation, some of the relevant agencies have set up help desk to fast track processing of applications for 'No Objection' and for approvals, stressing that engagements with these agencies on other palliatives are ongoing.

NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION ABUJA – KADUNA TRAIN SERVICE (AKTS) TIME TABLE

SUNDAYS – TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS - SATURDAYS										WEDNESDAYS (ONLY)																	
From ABUJA	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL				From KADUNA	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL													
	AK 1	AK 3	AK 5	AK 7	AK 1	AK 3	AK 5	AK 7		KA 2	KA 4	KA 6	KA 8	KA 2	KA 4	KA 6	KA 8										
IDU	07:00	09:50	14:20	18:00	-	-	-	-	RIGASA	06:40	10:35	14:00	18:00	-	-	-	-	IDU	07:00	18:00	-	-	RIGASA	06:40	18:00	-	-
KUBUWA	07:17	10:07	14:41	18:15	07:14	10:02	14:36	18:16	KUBUWA	08:31	13:04	16:03	20:07	08:28	12:59	15:58	20:04	KUBUWA	07:17	18:15	07:14	18:12	KUBUWA	18:31	20:07	08:28	20:00
RIGASA	-	-	-	-	09:15	12:01	17:00	20:02	IDU	-	-	-	-	08:43	13:20	16:16	20:20	RIGASA	-	-	09:15	20:20	IDU	-	-	08:34	20:20

NEWS

Buhari appoints Salihijo, PTF consultant's son as REA MD

By Simon Echewofun Sunday & Kabiru R. Anwar, Yola

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the appointment of Ahmad Salihijo Ahmad as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA).

Daily Trust reports that the new MD of REA is the first son of late Ahmad Salihijo, Buhari's foremost consultant when he was the Chairman of the Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF).

A statement by the Ministry of Power which announced this on Tuesday morning, said Mr Salihijo from Adamawa State is a renewable energy expert who holds two masters degrees in development studies and project planning.

He has also acquired vast knowledge and experience in power sector development. Salihijo who is in his mid-30s was a technical assistant to former Minister of Environment, Amina J Mohammed. He had been at the helm of climate finance initiatives that include the development of the Green Bond by the ministry for reducing green-house gasses and promoting renewable energy in Nigeria.

In Mayo Belwa, his hometown of Adamawa State, those who know him told Daily Trust that although Salihijo lives in Abuja, he frequents his village where he interacts with friends and family.

His father's time with Buhari at PTF

A close confidant of Buhari at PTF, the new REA MD's father was described as a workaholic and a major force behind the success of the Fund.

"If Salihijo was alive he could have been the chief



■ Late Ahmad Salihijo



■ REA MD, Ahmad Salihijo Ahmad

of staff because Buhari trusted him and he had proven his competence; very active, intelligent and focused. He could have shaped Buhari government," a source close to late Salihijo said.

According to reports, Salihijo was the brain behind Afri Projects Consortium (APC). He worked for PTF along with four professionals: Murtala Aliyu, a former Minister of State, Power; Hajiya Amina Az-Zubair, who at a time became an SSA on MDGs to the President; Nuruddeen Rafinadadi, a former president of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), and Abdulrahman Dahiru, the Managing Consultant of APC.

Salihijo, who was at the helm of management consultancy for the fund, played a very significant role in this success story. At a particular time APC was managing over 500 projects. The Fund operated and executed projects with a N2 differential pump price after Abacha hiked the fuel price to N11 per litre from N9.

Born on November 23, 1957 in Ganye, Adamawa State, late Salihijo Ahmad

emerged the overall best student of his set when he obtained an upper second-class degree in Quantity Surveying from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1981. Late Salihijo died of cardiac arrest in Abuja on Monday, July 5, 1999, coincidentally at a time when PTF was wound up, reports said.

Meanwhile reactions have trailed the appointment of Mr Salihijo (jnr) aside his competence and being qualified for the role. While some people view the appointment of the junior Salihijo by Buhari as a way of keeping the memory and the legacies of the late Salihijo alive, others have expressed contrary view about that.

More appointments at REA

Meanwhile, President Buhari has also appointed are Olaniyi Alaba Netufo as the Executive Director, South West and Eddi Mietuade Julius as a non-Executive Director for the South-south.

Last Tuesday, the Minister of Power, Engr. Sale Mamman directed the immediate suspension of the former Managing Director, Mrs Ogunbiyi.

The minister also directed an immediate investigation into the activities of the Agency towards repositioning it for better service delivery.

The suspension was said to have followed some apparent infractions in the Agency which prompted the indefinite suspension. Ogunbiyi had handed over to the next most senior officer in the Agency.

KEDCO customers to have enough power in 2020 – MD

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Managing Director of Kano Electricity Distribution Company (KEDCO), Dr. Jamil Isyaku Gwamna has said customers will have enough to enjoy in terms of power supply in the New Year.

In a statement by the spokesman, Ibrahim Sani Shawai, Gwamna restated KEDCO's commitment to ensuring that all customers get innovative packages in service delivery in the New Year.

"One thing about KEDCO is that we believe in improvement and innovative approach to doing things. In 2020, we will not be the same; that I can assure all our customers.

"We have mapped out our plans and we intend to hit the ground running as soon as we roll out these plans in 2020. Our customers will have enough to enjoy in terms of power supply and the mode of delivery. In business, customer is the king and in 2020, we will make that statement count in every of our franchise areas," he said.

The Kano DisCo boss, however, called on all customers to assist KEDCO in its noble cause to ensure innovative package in service delivery by paying all outstanding bills and on time and without any delay.

"In the year 2020, we pledge to serve you better and our doors will always be open as we wish everyone the best of the year 2020", he said.

The Board and Management of KEDCO also commended the patronage and partnership of all its customers and stakeholders through the year 2019. "We want to also thank them for their continuous faith and trust in our services."

KEDCO said the year 2019 came with a lot of challenges but with the support and partnership of our numerous customers, the company was able to surmount the challenges and stood out stronger and poised for greater achievement as we mount 2020.

2020: We guarantee our customers uninterrupted power supply – Kaduna Electric

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Management of Kaduna Electric has said it is committed to providing uninterrupted power supply to its customers in 2020.

It however said for that to be possible, customers must also live up to their obligations.

The obligations, it said, include prompt and full payment of electricity bills, avoidance of all forms of energy

theft including illegal connections, meter bypass and tampering and vandalism.

In a statement issued in Kaduna by the company's Head of Corporate Communication, Abdulazeez Abdullah, Kaduna Electric added that the task of ensuring qualitative power supply is the responsibility of all stakeholders and that once any stakeholder fails in discharging his role, the entire value chain suffers.



STUDY

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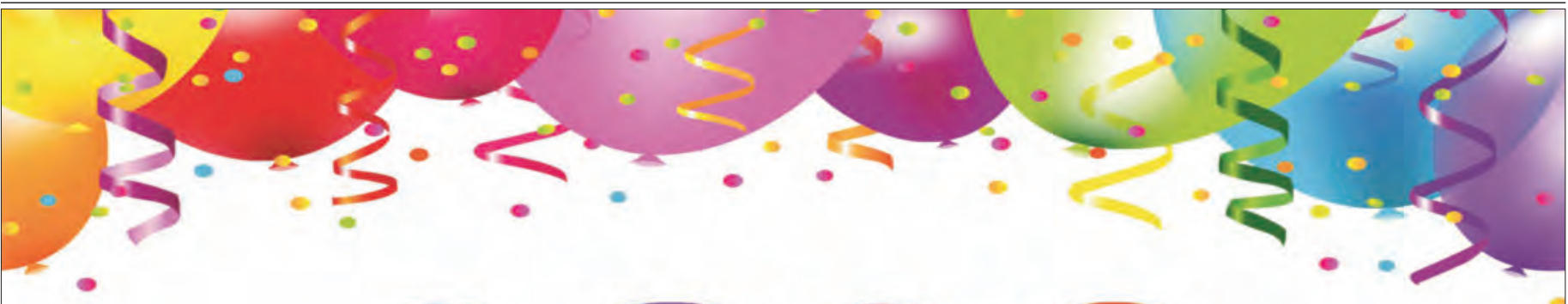
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2020

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

The management and the entire staff of Aspira Nigeria Limited wishes to felicitate with Kano state and its good people, the Federal Government and the entire Nigerian people on this 2020 New Year Celebrations.

We pray for all the good things the new year entails and also pray for God's guidance and protections as we enter this New Year.

Aspira Nigeria Limited is indeed committed to serving its customers demand in quality of products and it will continue on that as it has been its trade mark.

Once again Happy New Year and God bless us all.

Signed
Management



We make your choice better...



TRANSPORTATION

From Abdulateef Aliyu, Lagos

2020: Year of boom for transportation sector

The transportation sector in 2020 is undoubtedly going to record a boom as the nation looks forward to the completion of several railway projects and commencement of new ones by the federal government.

The most promising is the Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge project which is nearing completion with a test-run already ongoing.

Over the years, the Nigerian railway system, a strategic component of any nation's transportation sector, had remained moribund. The former administration of President Goodluck Jonathan however revived the old narrow gauge from Lagos to Kano as well as the Lagos-Ogun mass transit which conveys millions of passengers on a yearly basis.

But the construction of the Abuja-Kaduna standard gauge train was a turning point in the railway modernization drive. Though then Jonathan government initiated the project, it was inherited by the Muhammadu Buhari administration and commissioned in 2016.

It was the first modern fast rail train in Nigeria. It started on a low key with few passenger turnout but today it is over patronised and people hardly get on the

train unless they arrive the train station hours before departure.

Government has also responded by deploying more coaches. More than 20 coaches are currently deployed for the service at the moment while more coaches are expected to be deployed between January and February.

All over the world, rail service has been taken for granted. For instance countries in Asia and other parts of Europe are gradually transiting from standard gauge to bullet train.

This is a result of years of massive investment and sustained research on railway operations. But the development of railway was stagnant in Nigeria for decades until recently.

However, Managing Director of Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) Engr. Fidat Okhiria said it is better late than never. "What is important is that we have started and the generation coming after us will continue to build on this. It is no longer the case of buying coaches every 10, 10 years; it is going

to be continuous." he said.

In April 2017, Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, who was then acting president, performed the groundbreaking of the 157km Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge train which is expected to extend to the nation's premier ports in Apapa.

Minister of Transportation Mr. Rotimi Amaechi has since the commencement of work committed to timely delivery of the project through his sustained monthly inspection which has put the contractor on its toes. The China Civil Engineering and Construction Corporation (CCECC) has also been up and doing to deliver the project on schedule.

The aggressive construction work has culminated in the ongoing test-run being conducted from Iju in Lagos to Ibadan, the final destination of the project. The contractor has successfully laid the tracks up to the end of the project while focus has been shifted to the Lagos and Apapa ends.

There has been excitement among Nigerians as the federal government declared free service for the next four

months while construction works, especially on the train stations, continue.

In 2019, the federal government resuscitated the Itakpe-Warri train which is also being put to use.

Observers believe the ongoing railway modernisation would revolutionise the transportation architecture in Nigeria through the promotion of inter-modal transportation system which effectively combines all modes of transportation and particularly eases pressure on Nigerian roads.

Amidst the ongoing modernisation, there is the need however for a transportation masterplan which experts say has been missing for years. This will provide the direction for operators in the system.

A transportation analyst and former spokesman of the NRC, Prince Abduraouf Akinwoye, believes Nigerians should expect "economic boom" with the commitment of the federal government to drive railway modernisation.

He said: "With the planned completion of the Lagos-

Ibadan standard gauge, Nigeria will witness economic boom. Aside from massive movement of passengers, there would be movement of petroleum products and this would reduce the influx of articulated trucks. Our life expectancy will improve and there would be no fear of traffic.

"If the Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge train is completed and finally opened, Lagos will be decongested. The decongestion I am talking about is not that people would cease to work in Lagos, they can relocate to Ibadan and come to work in Lagos by train.

"The traffic chaos will no longer be there. People will live with little stress. You can imagine spending 4, 5 hours from Lagos to Ibadan. Life will change for the better; it will affect every aspect of our lives positively. Also the prices of foodstuff will reduce because the transportation cost would also come down."

With sustained commitment to railway modernization, it is expected that the year 2020 is a year of transportation revolution.

Separate regulatory functions from NCAA, expert urges FG

An Aviation expert has advised the Federal Government to initiate a bill that would separate the safety and economic regulatory functions of air business to ensure robust industry.

Retired Group Capt. John Ojikutu, Secretary-General, Aviation Safety Round Table Initiative (ASRTI), gave the advice in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday in Lagos.

Ojikutu said that the economic regulatory functions should be kept away from the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

He said that the NCAA should not be further entrusted with overseeing economic regulations, because the body had not performed well in regulating air business.

Ojikutu said that a Civil Aviation Commerce Board (CACB) should be established to regulate air trade, while NCAA retained its regulatory functions for air safety.

"The CACB should be tasked to promote and regulate civil aviation

commerce within and between Nigeria and foreign countries in the interest of the air business.

"As such, the approval of scheduled commercial air routes BASA and Commercial Agreements should be considered air commerce function and accordingly the responsibilities of the CACB.

"The bills to amend the CAA Part 12 (1), (2), (3) a-e and the establishment of a NCACB with an enabling power and provisions to make regulations, prescribe the manners of exercise and carry out duties and functions.

"These are under the Civil Aviation Act, 2006 and the standards that the board needs to achieve compliance to BASAs, commercial agreements and the necessary amendments on Nig. CARs Part 18 on Economic Regulation," he said.

Ojikutu, however, noted that the only authority on civil aviation regulations, oversight and

enforcement for safety, security and economic on all operators, was NCAA and not the

ministry. He said it was regrettable that the immediate past

leadership of NCAA had been slacked on safety enforcement regulations on the

public operators and the economic regulations on the private operators. (NAN)

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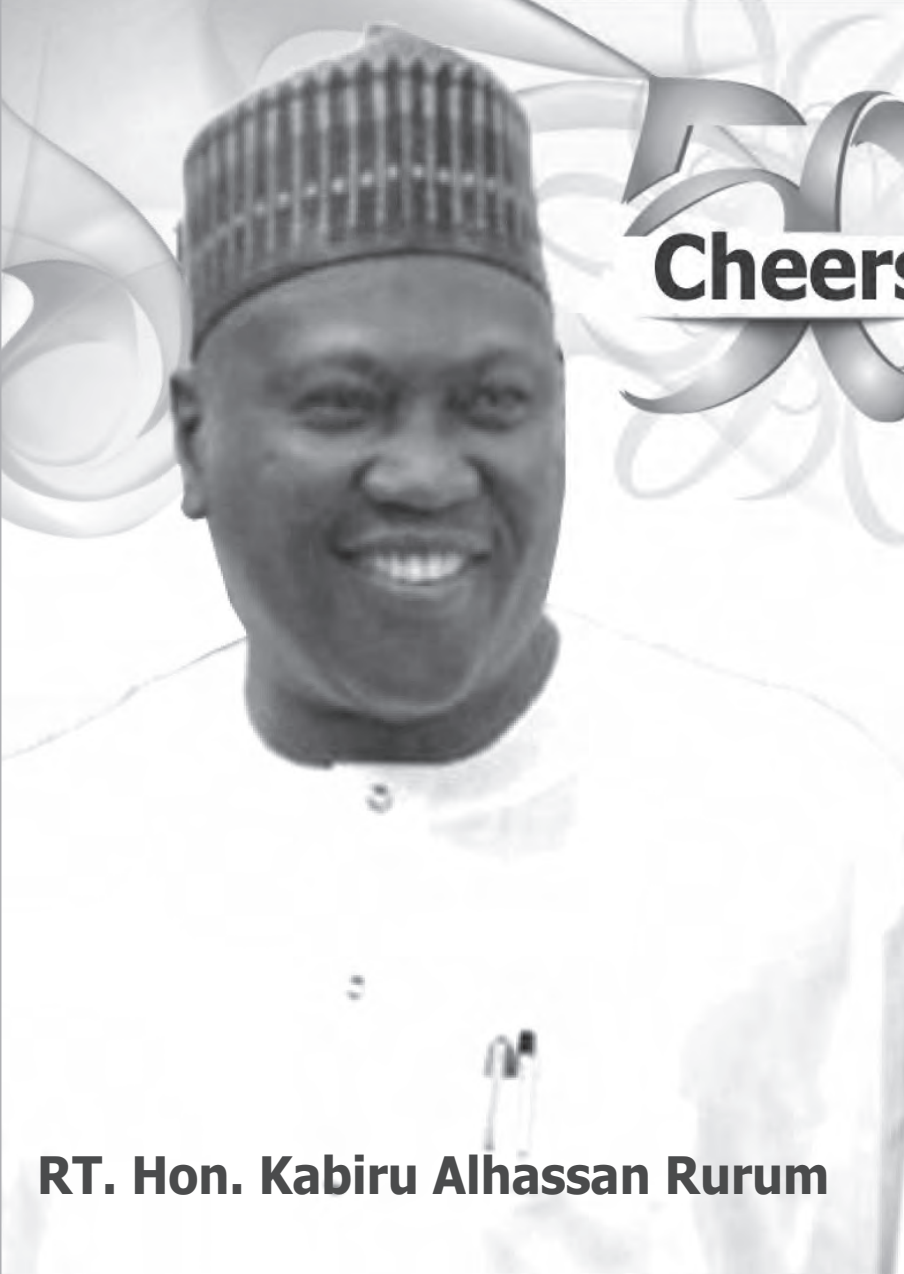
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RT. Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum

The Hon Chairman, Members of the Executive Council and entire staff of **Rano Local Government**, wish to felicitate with **RT. Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum**, former Speaker of the Kano State House of Assembly, now Member Representing Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency and Chairman House Committee on Pension on his 50th birthday.


It is in recognition of your undaunted doggedness, zeal and gust to transform the 8th Assembly in Kano state that we join family, friends and well-wishers to congratulate and celebrate you as our visionary leader on this auspicious occasion of your 50 anniversary.

The history of political leadership in the Kano State House of Assembly will not be completed without copious reference to the developmental strides you brought during your regime.

Once again, Congratulations Turaki Addini Kosofe Land Lagos State

Signed

Alhaji Ya'u Abdullahi Gidan Zangi
Executive Chairman,
Rano Local Government



Felicitation

It is with appreciation, joy and gratitude to Allah, that the management and the entire staff of TRIACTA wish to felicitate with the good people of Nigeria and its government as we witness yet another year.

Indeed, the development achieved in the last few years is unprecedented and has set the pace for better things to come in subsequent years.

We pray that Allah continue to shower His blessings on Nigeria and its citizens as we celebrate this new year.

Happy new year once again and long live all the 36 states, long live Nigeria and best wishes to all from the management of TRIACTA.

Kano in a new Horizon



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ANALYSIS >>

Aviation in 2019: So far, just fair

From Abdulateef Aliyu, Lagos

Aviation in 2019 could be described as a mixed bag of successes and achievements not only in terms of maintaining safety and sustaining the accident-free status, but in the area of deepening domestic flight operations and connectivity for air travelers.

While some can argue that there are still quite a number of unserved and underserved states and cities across the country, year 2019 witnessed the expansion of operations by domestic operators.

However due to the pending 2019 general elections, the industry started with a lull as the election was scheduled to hold in the second month of the year with a lot of anxieties and expectations on its outcomes.

Despite that, it was early that year, in January, that airlines like Air Peace expanded their operations by adding another direct flight to Banjul, the Gambian capital, as well as commencing flight operations to Port Harcourt NAF Base in Rivers State.

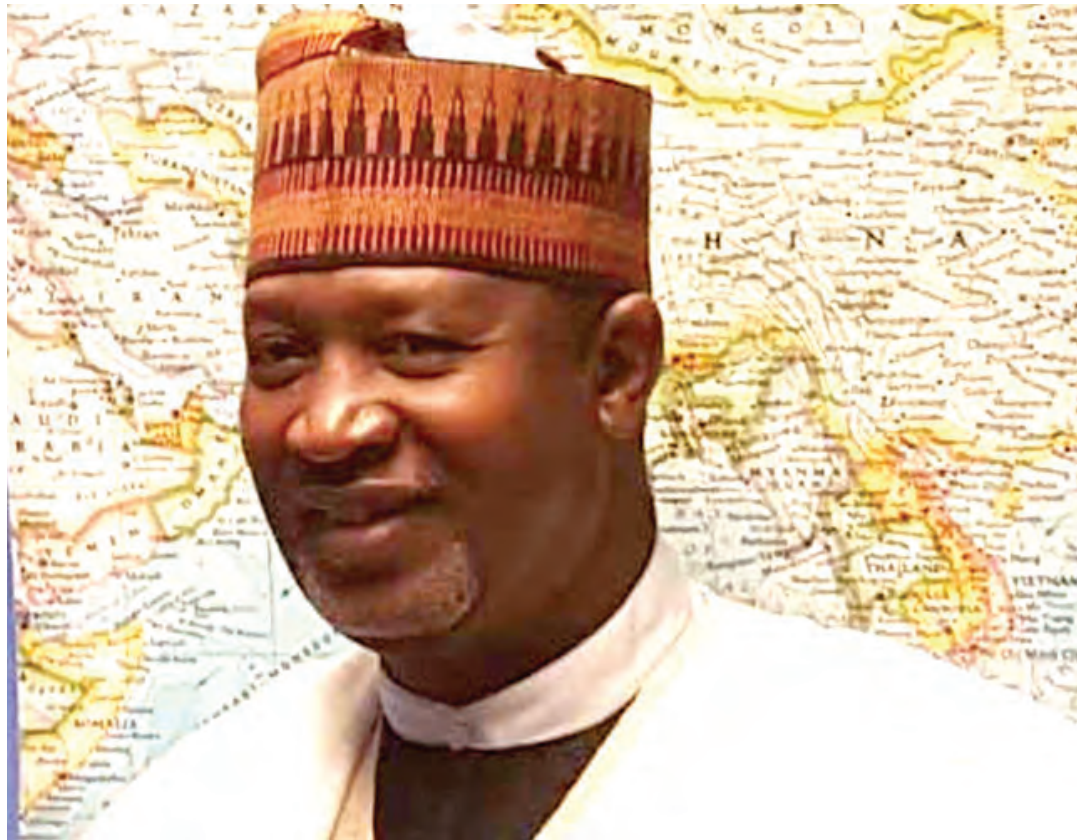
Med-View Airline, another domestic carrier, also in the year expanded its operations by increasing its Lagos-Abuja turnarounds and reopening Yola-Adamawa route until the middle of the year when its operations were temporarily suspended for want of aircraft as most of its planes went out for maintenance.

Aero Contractors similarly launched flight operations to Yola, Adamawa State, via Abuja. In addition, many African civil aviation authorities audited the airline's maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility as more African airlines sent their aircraft to Aero facility for C-check.

Also, a new airline, Ibom Air in the middle of 2019 commenced flight operation as the first state government owned airline joined the domestic market.

But the most cheering news in the domestic airline segment was the commencement of international operations by Air Peace with the launch of Sharjar-Dubai operation. And as at today, Air Peace is the only Nigerian carrier in the international market.

In the area of airports operation, Nigerian airports witnessed some facility upgrades across the country as many projects were commissioned before May 2019 by the then Minister of State for Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, who is now a substantive minister in the second coming of the president.



■ Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika.

Among the projects commissioned were the upgraded Ibadan Airport terminal, the Aviation Security (AVSEC) Training School; the new General Aviation Terminal at Malam Aminu Kano International Airport and the Instrument Landing System at Benin Airport, among others.

Also, the Nigeria Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) witnessed several facility upgrades with projects such as the Installed High Powered Jotron VHF radios for Lagos East and West and Kano East and West; the NAMA warehouse converted into a comfortable office accommodation for staff; the CAT II Instrument Landing System (ILS/Distance Measuring Equipment (DME), among others were commissioned.

NAMA also installed prefabricated pilot joint briefing offices across airports nationwide to provide a one-stop shop at the airside where crew members can obtain AIS briefing, meteorological information and make necessary payments at a single point.

The agency similarly installed a very small aperture terminal (VSAT) station at the Jos airport in Plateau State which covers the North East sector.

With the installation, which was done in October, the agency has successfully integrated the VHF radio into the network in that sector.

Despite maintaining an accident-free year, several incidents in the outgoing year created fears in the minds of the travelling public. The first major incident was the

crash of an Agusta Westland 139 chopper with registration number 5N-CML managed by Caverton Helicopters which occurred in Kogi State stadium on Saturday February 2 at about 3pm with Vice-President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo and 11 others, including the crew members. All the occupants escaped unhurt in the crash which shook the entire nation. The Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) will soon release final report on the cause of the crash.

Apart from the helicopter crash, the airline industry witnessed several major incidents involving airlines such as Air Peace, Med-View, Dana, Azman, Bristow, among others prompting the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to strengthen its oversight of the sector. In fact the NCAA conducted an audit of Air Peace fleet but at the end, it was found that all the aircraft in the fleet were not only serviceable but airworthy. And as the incidents happened, the AIB immediately commenced investigations and they are expected to release final reports in no distant time.

Precisely on May 29, there was another incident involving an Ethiopian Airline, an Ethiopian Airline Boeing 777-300 Flight ET 901 carrying former President Olusegun Obasanjo as it aborted landing at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA).

It was learnt that the plane carrying 393 passengers from Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa, the airline hub, could not land on approach at the airport. The incident

was reportedly caused by bad weather.

Also, in the year, the premier Murtala Muhammed Airport (MMA) Lagos witnessed security breaches following a runway incursion by a suspected intruder.

On July 19, an unidentified man carrying a bag walked towards an Azman aircraft that was holding for taking off. The aircraft with Registration Number 5N-HAI was heading to Port Harcourt and while taxiing slowly in preparation for takeoff at the domestic wing of the MMA, the Pilot-in-Command reportedly saw a man walking towards the aircraft.

The intruder was later identified as Usman Adamu from Niger who was later found to be mentally deranged and was deported after the conclusion of investigation. The incident embarrassed the federal government as a video of the man climbing the aircraft trended on the social media prompting FAAN to suspend the airport security manager and three other senior officers.

As the year winds down, another intruder was apprehended at the airport on Friday December 27 as he attempted to climb an Air Peace flight that was positioned for takeoff. FAAN Aviation Security personnel were however swift in apprehending the intruder who is currently in the custody of the Nigeria Police Force, MMIA Command.

Former Commandant of the MMIA, Group Capt. John Ojikutu (rtd), said a lot still needs to be done about the perimeter/security fences and access control at the

airport, noting that "The airport's perimeter/security fences are not sufficiently compliant with the standards recommended for global practices for airports that are built within complicated urban development areas."

As part of deepening safety, AIB, the only body empowered to investigate air accidents and incidents churned out several reports in the year under review. Early in April, the agency released six reports including the report of an accident involving a Cessna 208B Caravan aircraft piloted by the late Governor of Taraba State, Danbaba Suntai which went down on October 25, 2012 near Yola Airport.

Commissioner of AIB Engr. Akin Olateru at a briefing on the final reports said investigation into the accident showed that the late governor was not certified, qualified and competent to fly the aircraft.

In the area of training, Aero Contractors Company of Nigeria, the oldest airline in the country, on December 6, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria. The historic signing ceremony was performed in Zaria, Kaduna State by the managements of the two organisations.

According to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Aero, Capt. Ado Sanusi, the MoU with NCAT, a regional centre of excellence of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), would facilitate On the Job Training (OJT) for NCAT student engineers. With the MoU, the student engineers with NCAT would be trained at the Aero MRO.

Experts, however say while the aviation industry in Nigeria records steady growth, a lot still needs to be done in aspect of ease of doing business as more airlines suffer untold hardships and challenges over multiple charges and fuel scarcity, among others.

The federal government on its part also failed to actualize most of its proposed projects to fast-track aviation development like the national carrier, establishment of MRO, Aviation Leasing Company, airport concession, among others.

To many, the aviation industry which should be providing direction for airlines and other aviation service providers has to be up and doing in addressing the multifarious challenges confronting the sector, especially the airline sub-sector.



RT. HON.

KABIRU ALHASSAN**RURUM****MEMBER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE RANO/BUNKURE/
KIBIYA FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY KANO STATE**

The entire members of the 8th Kano State House of Assembly wish to congratulate our leader, **Rt. Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum (Turakin Rano & Turaki Addini Kosofe Land, Lagos State)**, former Speaker, Kano State House of Assembly, now Member, House of Representatives Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency, Kano State and Chairman, House Committee on Pension on his **50th** birthday.

Once in a thousand years, a few great people walk the face of the earth and leave their mark forever. They make such an impact on humanity which is almost immeasurable by human standard.

Happy Birthday to a man with a heart of gold! Celebrating you is such an easy and honourable task because you are always there for others. Indeed, you are an exemplary leader, blessed with remarkable wisdom, foresight, dedication and zeal for service to humanity.

As you celebrate your 50th Birthday Anniversary today, we wish you Allah's unending favour and peace now and forever.

Happy Birthday our Leader

Signed:

Hon Baffa Babba Dan Agundi

Majority Leader, 8th Assembly and MD, Kano Road Traffic Agency (KAROTA)

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Education: OND/HND in Food Technology or other Science related courses. MBA will be an added advantage.

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Requirements:

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OND/HND/B.Sc in any Science Based courses with relevant experience or MBA in marketing will be an added advantage.

Experience: Minimum of 3 - 5 years in FMCG.

Professional Certification: Added Advantage.

(4) Job Title: SALES OFFICERS (Ref.004)

Requirements:

Education: OND/HND/B.Sc. in Marketing, Sales Administration, Business Management or related courses.

OND/HND/B.Sc in any Science Based courses with relevant experience or M.BA in Marketing will be an added advantage.

Experience: Minimum of 2 years in FMCG.

Professional Certification: Added Advantage.

(5) Job Title: ADMIN./ACCOUNTING OFFICER. (Ref.005)

Requirements:

Education: OND/HND/B.Sc. in Business Administration, Accounting or related courses with relevant experience or ACA/MBA (Financil Mgt.) will be an added advantage.

Experience: Minimum of 3 - 5 years in FMCG.

Professional Certification: Added Advantage.

(6) Job Title: R/M & FINISHED PRODUCTS CLERK. (Ref.006)

Requirements:

Education: OND/WAEC.

Experience: Minimum of 1 - 5 years in FMCG.

Professional Certification: Added Advantage.

(7) Job Title: SHIFT ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR (Ref.007)

Requirements:

Education: O.ND or equivalent/HND/B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering/ Electrical and Electronics/ Automation or School Certificate holder with relevant engineering experience in Pure Water Bottling and Sachet Water Plant.

Experience: Minimum of 3 - 5 years.

Professional Certification: Added Advantages.

(8) Job Title: FACTORY OPERATIVES (Ref.008)

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Education: Technical Certificate or School Certificate with Science background or others subjects with relevant experience.

Experience: Works in Pure Water Bottling and Sachet Water Plant.

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VOL. 1, NO 61

Meet 22-year-old mini tractor, excavator fabricator

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Surajo Ismaila, 22, is a native of Rubochi community in Kuje Area Council of the FCT. He attended Government Science Technical College, Garki, Abuja, from where he graduated in 2016.

Surajo, who spoke with Aso Chronicle, said he participated and earned several awards for the college at the different competitions and exhibitions, one at far away Brazil in 2011.

He said he started fabricating tractors, excavator, pay loader, bulldozer, lorries and tippers as well farm inputs using discarded cartons right from his primary school days.

He said his desire and zeal to embark on fabricating such machines have also earned for him recognition through the recent exhibition he participated in at the just concluded Abuja International Trade Fair, through the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Surajo said his desire, right from his primary school days, was to become a mechanical engineer, adding that he is trying hard to have the technical experience in locally fabricating moving equipment.

The young fabrication enthusiast, however said lack of government support, including from the private sector to deepen his knowledge, are the major challenges he faced.

He said despite his participation at the Abuja International Trade Fair exhibition, where he showcased some of his locally fabricated tractors, no assistance from either

government or private organisations has come his way.

"If I can get support from either the government or private organizations to enable me acquire some requisite tools to continue with the fabrication of the equipment, it will go a long way in impacting on the government's economic policies one way or the other but no assistance whatsoever has come my way," he said.

Surajo explained that it took him about two years to fabricate the locally made tractor which he displayed at

the Abuja International Trade Fair exhibition.

He said since he started fabricating the locally made equipment over the years using aluminum zinc, he raised money through some good Samaritans who stopped over where he displayed the fabricated machines and give him token of between N100 and N50.

"Although I do get financial support from some organizations especially during exhibition, but the major challenge I am facing is how government or any organization will come to my

aid to support me with funds to buy some equipment so that I can also stand on my own," he added.

Surajo revealed that he now uses the locally made tractor to fetch water in jerry can to sell every morning to enable him raise money with which to purchase welding tools for the fabrication of other moving equipment.

He said he was currently trying to see how he could fabricate a robot, which he hoped, could be used to convey luggage at the airport to waiting cabs.

"In fact, as I speak,

I am currently making arrangement to see how I will fabricate a robot that will be moving luggage especially at the airport to waiting cabs," he said.

Surajo said he will be happy if the federal government grants him scholarship to enable him study advance in technology abroad.

He called on the authorities of Kuje Area Council, FCT administration and the federal government as well as private sector organisations to come to his aid by supporting him to achieve his dream.



■ The 22-year-old Surajo Ismaila, display some of the tractors, pay loader, bulldozer he fabricated locally.

FCT minister charges residents to support gov't programmes, policies

By Malikatu Umar Shuaibu

Minister of the FCT Malam Muhammad Musa Bello, has asked residents of the territory to support all government programmes and policies which he said are designed for the benefit and wellbeing of the people.

He made the statement in his New Year message to the residents of the capital city, explaining that no government policy was ever designed to inflict hardship on the populace but were formulated and implemented for the benefit of the greater populace.

He said support for government policies will ensure the success of such policies which ultimately will be enjoyed by majority of the citizenry.

Describing the outgoing year as very important and significant in the socio-political development of Nigeria because of the general elections and its accompanying events, Malam Bello thanked residents for their cooperation and peaceful conduct during the elections and accompanying events.

In his words: "2019 was a very important year in the

socio-political development of Nigeria because of the 2019 general elections which culminated into an unforgettable Democracy Day celebration.

"I wish to thank residents for their peaceful conduct and for being exemplary hosts to the foreign dignitaries who were in the FCT for this event."

The minister stressed that that form of benevolence should be maintained if the FCT is to consolidate on its rising profile as the conference tourism hub of the continent.

He also reminded residents

that the FCT would play host to several international events in the year 2020 and the residents and businesses stand to gain a lot if they maintained the warm and friendly attitude for which they have become known.

Malam Bello also reiterated the need for residents to obey all extant rules and regulations guiding living and doing business in the FCT.

He recalled the unfortunate incidences of flooding in some parts of the city in 2019 which were caused by developers who illegally erected structures on flood plains and river courses

despite repeated warnings not to do so.

He therefore urged residents especially developers to follow all development control and land use regulations to avoid unpleasant consequences.

The minister also said that the administration in 2020 will intensify efforts alongside relevant security agencies to ensure that lives and property in the FCT are secured.

He however said that security was the responsibility of all and that residents should imbibe the habit of reporting suspicious events or individuals to the relevant security authorities.

3,000 residents get free HIV test, counselling

By Ojoma Akor

About 3,000 residents of Obi Constituency of Nasarawa State have been provided free HIV test and counselling.

The exercise was organised by a member of the House of Representatives, Abubakar Sarki Dahiru, with support from the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) toward ensuring that every Nigerian knows his or her HIV status, and ending AIDS by 2030.

The residents were also provided free malaria, high blood pressure, and diabetes tests as well as drugs, condoms and HIV prevention tools and educational materials.

Speaking at the ceremony, Abubakar Sarki Dahiru said the exercise was organised as part of the 2019 constituency project to empower residents of the area with information on how to prevent HIV transmission, and to provide other medical services such as malaria tests, high blood

pressure check, blood sugar level check and also avail residents the opportunity to test for HIV.

Dahiru, who was represented by the Executive Secretary to Obi Local Government Area, Abdulmalik Abdullahi, added that HIV testing was a very important part of the outreach being carried out within Obi constituency.

Representative of Niphemy Solutions Limited, who coordinated the outreach on behalf of Abubakar Sarki

Dahiru, said the organisers were excited about the large turnout of residents of Obi community.

He said the outreach also included a visit to the Paramount Chief of Obi Local Government Area Osuko Obi, Aliyu Dangwa Ogiri Orume, and roadshows across Oleye, Oriso, Ope, Oyara, Oloso, Angwan Dankali, brothels, and motorcycle parks within Obi constituency area, as well as placement of radio and television jingles in the state broadcasting services.

A beneficiary of the exercise, Hajiya Hauwa Abdulmalik, who came with her husband and three-year-old daughter, thanked Dahiru for the medical outreach saying it gave her the opportunity to do a health check and receive malaria drugs for her sick daughter.

Another beneficiary who simply identified himself as Danny Boy said the HIV education provided him courage to test for HIV for the first time in his life.

Karu provides 6 villages with boreholes

From Ibraheem Hamza Muhammad, Lafia

Six communities in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State have been provided with boreholes.

Chairman of Karu Local Government, Samuel Gajere Akala, stated this in Panda while commissioning the projects.

He said the projects would improve the standard of living of commuters.

The villages are: Kondoro Koro, Unguwan Jaba, Panugbe, Odyong Nyankpa Palace (Panda), Kare and Rugan Fulani (Gitata).

He said, the "welfare of my people is my top priority," and vowed to deliver more projects that would have direct bearing on the lives of the people.



Speaker of Nasarawa state house of assembly, Alhaji Ibrahim Balarabe Abdullahi (m) during the flag-off of empowerment programme for his constituency in Umaisha, Toto local government of the state on Sunday.

Nasarawa speaker empowers constituents with N16m

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The speaker of Nasarawa State House of Assembly, Alhaji Ibrahim Balarabe Abdullahi, has empowered his constituents with cash and material items worth about N16 million for the overall development of the constituency and the state at large.

Abdullahi, who is representing Umaisha-Ugya-Toto constituency of the state, distributed the items at his Umaisha home town yesterday.

The speaker also doled out N30,000 cash each to 100 students studying at various tertiary institutions across the country, which he said was part his scholarship scheme to support indigent students.

He also gave out N30,000 cash each to 100 women, 70 sewing machines, 70 grinding machines and 800 pieces of wrappers to women in his constituency.

The lawmaker also distributed 40 water pump

machines, 50 cartoons of herbicides and 40 sprayers which, he said, were to boost food production in his constituency, the state and Nigeria at large.

The speaker said that scholarship was a yearly scheme which he tagged "Balarabe Education Support Programme".

He also said the N30,000 given to each woman was to enable them start small businesses under the yearly "Balarabe Women Empowerment Programme."

"It was during my first election in 2015 that I initiated these programmes aimed at reducing hardship among my people which by God's grace I hope to sustain," he said.

He added: "My people are of the riverine, who are mainly farmers and fishermen and I deem it necessary to procure agricultural inputs for them," the speaker added.

The speaker then called for prayers and support for the APC-led administration

of President Muhammadu Buhari, Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State and other leaders at all levels to enable them to succeed.

In his address at the occasion, Nasarawa State Governor Abdullahi Sule, represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Ahmad Aliyu Tijjani, said the speaker has been able to change the narrative in grassroots politics in the state, and described him as an asset to the APC and called on others to emulate him.

On his part, the national vice chairman of APC, North Central, Ahmed Suleiman Wambai, commended the speaker for his giant stride toward uplifting the people of his constituency, and called on people of the area to continue to support him.

The deputy speaker of the state house of assembly, Nahemiah Tsentse Dandaura, described the speaker as a leader worthy of emulation while praying for God to lift higher.

Nasarawa NURTW returns over N380,000, passengers missing money

The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Nasarawa State chapter, has returned N389,250 being missing money to passengers that patronised vehicles driven by its members.

Mr Salihu Adamu, state chairman of the union, disclosed this on Monday in Lafia at an occasion organised to handover the money to the owners.

According to Adamu, one of the passengers boarded a vehicle that was going to Lafia from Nassarawa-Eggon Local Government Area.

"When Zuberu Hussaini, the driver of the vehicle arrived in Lafia, he discovered that one of his passengers left his money in his car. The driver took the money back to the chairman of the union in Nassarawa-Eggon who then reported the matter to us at the state headquarters.

"We immediately sent announcements to media organisations for the owners to come forward with proof of ownership," he said.

He said the owners were asked

to prove ownership through stating the denominations and when and where they boarded the vehicles.

"From our investigations, they proved beyond reasonable doubt that they were the owners and we gave them back their money," the chairman said.

He, therefore, advised passengers to always board vehicles from motor parks to enable them to enjoy such benefits. He said the driver had since been rewarded with an appointment in the union to encourage him and other drivers to do better.

Expressing his gratitude to the union, one of the owners, Eli Joseph, thanked them for returning missing money.

Joseph said they were shocked when they heard the announcement on radio about missing money, because they had already lost hope.

He, therefore, prayed to God to continue to protect the members of the union, especially the drivers that returned the money. (NAN)

AREWATRUST

WEEKLY

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Youths march against rape in Katsina

From Habibu Umar Aminu, Katsina

Thousands of youths match around Katsina metropolis yesterday to create awareness against rising cases of sexual abuses of women and children.

The event was organized by a non-governmental organisation, Queen Dajah Women and Children Awareness Initiative.

The marchers, mostly women and youths, took off from Kofar Soro, passed through Nagogo Road before terminating at the Old Government House.

They carried placards with various inscriptions condemning rising cases of sexual harassment and rape of children and women.

Addressing the rally, the Special Adviser on Girl Child, Amina Lawal Mani, said she was disturbed by the rising cases of rapes in the state.

She called on judges to



■ A cross-section of the youths on the march

rise against the situation by ensuring such cases are given speedy trial.

"I assure you we will support you hundred percent and will deliver this message to the state governor. We are ready to collaborate with associations like this to address such challenges,"

she said.

In his remarks, the District Head of Katsina Municipal, Alhaji Aminu Abdulmumin Kabir, said the emirate was solidly behind the renewed drive to create awareness on ills against women and vulnerable children.

While commending the

associations for their efforts Aminu assured them of his support towards advancing the cause of the initiative.

Chairperson of the initiative, Khadijat Saulawa said the rally was meant to draw attention of all those concerned to work towards addressing issues of child abuses and rape in the society.

She commended the governor for signing a law which stipulated life imprisonment for persons convicted of rape.

"We applaud the bold step taken by the state government and call for the quick implementation of the law in order to address the ugly trend in the state.

"We equally urged parents and guardians of rape victims to take advantage of the law to get justice for the victims. The era of saying we are leaving everything to God is over, let the law catch up with whoever violates it," she said.

Muslims urged to support Islamic organisations

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

Muslims have been urged to use their wealth to support Islamic institutions and religious activities in order to uplift Islam.

The Chairman, Board of Trustees (BOT), Madarasatul Isl, Kaduna, Alhaji Garba Abubakar Ibrahim made the plea in his welcome address at the graduation ceremony of the school.

He said it was incumbent upon wealthy Muslims to support Islamic institutions in whatever way possible, to make them functional especially with the current economic situation the country is facing.

He said the school was battling with inadequate funds for essential services such as payment of the teachers' salary.

He said many parents of pupils in the school were reluctant to settle their children's school fees and appealed for a change of attitude.

In his remarks, Alhaji Abdul-Mutallab Dauda the Vice Chairman Parents Teachers Association (PTA) reminded parents that it is their responsibility to give their children moral upbringing and sound education.

The Chief Imam of Yahaya Road Mosque, Sheikh Muhammad Khalil, tasked Muslim's on the need to give their children good moral upbringing and sound education so that they become good people in the future.

Bajju Community urges to uphold the virtue of peace, tolerance

From Ahmed Ali, Kafanchan

Bajju community in Madakiya, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area in Kaduna state has been urged to uphold the virtue of peace and tolerance to fast track development of the area.

The Executive Chairman of the local government council, Elias Manza, made the call at the Batadon Cultural Festival held at Madakiya.

The chairman who commended the community for organizing the event, also urged the youth to be law abiding.

In his address, the chairman of the occasion, Yohanna Allahmagani, who commended Batadon Development Association for organizing the cultural festival, said it reminded the community of where it was coming from.

While describing the theme of this year's celebration "Re-Awakening the Cultural Values of Batadon" as timely, Allahmagani, who was a former Commissioner of



■ Young performers at the festival

Culture and Tourism Kaduna state, also challenged the people to allow their cultural heritage reflect and shape their beliefs, aspirations, values and define their identity.

In his speech, the District Head of Madakiya, Dr David Kantiyok, said his community

was now enjoying relative peace and called on his people to embrace one another irrespective of their social, ethnic or religious affiliation.

The traditional ruler appealed to the government for the rehabilitation of M a d a u c h i - M a d a k i y a -

Kafanchan road.

Earlier in his address, the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mr. Anthony Yashim said this year's Batadon Cultural Festival was celebrated after eight years of its suspension as a result of the 2011 post presidential election violence.

Woman asks Kaduna court to annul marriage

From Fatimah Binta Idris, Kaduna

A housewife, Zainab Zubairu has asked a Sharia Court sitting in Magajin Gari, Kaduna to annul her marriage with her husband, Hudu Musa, over his

inability to provide evidence as to whether he divorced her or not.

When the case came up for hearing yesterday, Zainab Zubairu said she has been divorced for a month without

any evidence from her husband.

In his defence, Hud Musa said, "There was a fire accident in my house at that time where we lost our two children so I told her to stay in her father's

house for the time being."

He said he has no intention to divorce his wife and pleaded with the court to reconcile them.

But Zainab said she was tired and could not continue

with the marriage.

The Judge, Murtala Nasiru, adjourned the case till January 12 for presentation of witnesses and also to give time to the husband to reconcile with his wife.

CALIPHATE TRUST



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Emir decries deplorable Yauri-Koko road

From Ismail Adebayo

The Emir of Yauri, Alhaji Muhammad Zayyanu Abdullahi has decried the deplorable state of Yauri - Koko road and called on the federal government to repair it.

He said the bad state of the road has been hampering economic activities in the area.

Speaking at a town hall meeting organised by Yauri Emirate Council, the royal father observed that the emirate had suffered because of the poor state of roads.

He commended President Muhammad Buhari for the take - off of Hydro Power Producing Area Development Commission (HYPPADEC) as it would ease

the development challenges confronting the emirate.

He said: "I call on the federal government to appoint an indigene of the emirate as the chief executive of HYPPADEC because Yauri emirate has made the greatest contribution to the development of the hydro-electric power generation by losing over 70 percent of its farm lands and is yet

to realise the promises that were made to it."

The emir commended some of the indigenes who contributed immensely to the development of the emirate and urged his subjects to unite and love one another.

The emir thanked Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu for the siting of two agro- allied industries

located in the emirate.

In his remarks, the first civilian governor of Kebbi state, Alhaji Abubakar Musa, thanked the Emir for convening the town hall meeting.

He implored the people of the emirate to stand firm and put a stop to the smuggling of rice along the borders which affects the farmers negatively.



■ A performance at 1 Brigade Nigerian Army combined West African Social Activities (WASA)

Sokoto govt urged to sign WASH policy to improve water supply, others

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

Sokoto State Government has been urged to sign the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) policy to improve the services in the state.

Programme Manager e-WASH project/Head of Programmes Save The Child Initiative (STCI), Muhammad Garba made the call at the establishment of the Urban WASH Community of Practice (COP) in Sokoto.

He added that if signed, the WASH policy would enhance the quality of water supply and promote efficient management in the use of water.

"It would also make the Water Board able to mobilize resources and supply quality water to the people of the state," he stated.

The Programme Manager said STCI has signed a sub-agreement with the e-WASH project to implement the project in three zones of Sokoto, adding that two other CSOs were also working in four additional zones.

According to him, STCI was mandated to form the COP to carry out high level advocacy visits and engage other community stakeholders to address WASH issues in the state.

92 champions to help tackle GBV at grassroots in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

Ninety-two champions against gender-based violence are to help in tackling the menace at the grassroots in Binji and Sokoto North local government areas of Sokoto State.

The GBV activists include traditional/community leaders, members of faith-based organisations and community health development volunteers, among others.

Speaking at a one-day orientation programme organised for them, the wife of Sokoto State Governor, Hajiya Mariya Aminu Tambuwal, harped on the need to mitigate the problems of gender-based violence and child abuse in the state.

The Governor's wife, who is also founder Mariya Tambuwal Development Initiative (MTDI), said the programme was organised by the initiative to create awareness on the protection of children and report any violation of their rights.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Human Rights and Donor

Agencies, Ubaida Bello, said efforts were being enhanced towards improving the well-being of the orphan, and vulnerable people, as well as the protection of human rights, among others.

Sole Administrator, Sokoto North Local Government, Aminu Ibrahim urged district and village heads to be committed to fighting girl-child abuse and gender-based violence.

He warned that anyone caught involved in gender violence would be brought to book to serve as a deterrent to others.

"We are ensuring that whoever is caught is punished," he stated.

District Head of Gagi Sarkin Yakin Gagi, Sani Umar Jabbi described gender-based violence as evil and barbaric.

The traditional leader urged parents to ensure the education of their girl-child for a better future.

Integrated Health Project Coordinator Aisha Ahmad noted: "A whole lot of key players and actors would be involved in ensuring that we curb the menace of gender-based violence."

Commission distributes LED bulbs to 1,000 households in Zamfara

From Shehu Umar, Gusau

The Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) has distributed LED bulbs to 1,000 households in Zamfara state as part of its sensitization campaign on the need to conserve energy.

The Principal Scientific Officer of the commission Mr Tijjani Ahmad told Caliphate Trust that Nigerians have a duty to conserve the available energy we use.

He said the commission, in partnership with other stakeholders, had organized the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation program at Federal Government Girls' College Gusau and its host community to enlighten them on the need to conserve and save energy.

"In doing so we provided educational material for the students and we also provided free 1,000 LED bulbs to replace the incandescent lamps that are being used.

We hope this will generate awareness to the people to effectively use energy in their houses and also to encourage others to do so.

"We have targeted up to 5,000 people within the school and its host community. Even though the students are on vacation but we met with the staff of the college and sensitized them and we handed over the educational material to the staff and when the students resume the staff will pass the message to them and the programme was very successful," he said.

Mr Tijjani said in the host community over 1,000 people benefited from the project adding that no households was left untouched.

He said apart from the sensitization campaign the commission also was promoting new and alternative means of energy, such as solar energy, wind small hydro power and other renewable forms of energy.

KANO/JIGAWA CHRONICLE

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Abba Sarki Sharada: A true definition of ability in disability

By Tijjani Ibrahim and Lubabatu I. Garba

Born in January, 1987, late Abba Sarki Sharada, spent 22 out of the 32 years he lived in this world in a wheelchair.

As a physically challenged person, who by mere looking one would conclude that he could hardly do anything for himself, late Abba was the true embodiment of the popular parlance "there is ability in disability".

Abba's elder brother, Malam Auwalu Mustapha, told Chronicle that in 1996, at the age of 10, while he was in Primary 4, Abba was struck by Cerebrospinal Meningitis and was taken to the infectious diseases hospital (*Asibitin Zana*) where he was to become a victim of the heinous Pfizer experimental injection which rendered him, and many other Kano children, as a Person With Disability (PWD) for the rest of his life.

Abba was never to go back to the classroom but saw no reason to sit at home at the mercy of others but chose to struggle for a living and see how he could help others in similar condition to depend on themselves, an effort which culminated into the establishment of the Kanawa Educational Foundation for the Disabled.

Abba single handedly incubated and nurtured the Foundation for the disabled, a charity organization that caters for the educational, social and even the political needs of the PWDs in Kano.

Hajiya Asma'u Usman, the mother of late Abba Sarki Sharada, described him as a man of peace as he didn't use to fight with anybody even when he was small.

She said she really lost a very caring son who always did his best to make her and his siblings comfortable.

"Even though he was crippled, he was always trying his very best to make me happy and comfortable, I can say that since he got a car he made sure I was taken anywhere I am going to," she said.

A colleague to the deceased at Kanawa Educational Foundation, Malama Nafisa Ibrahim Abdullahi, described the loss of Abba as a vacuum which cannot be filled in a short time. He died with the hope of Kanawa foundation which was founded by him to support the disabled children to get enrolled into private schools.

"Abba was hardworking person he never got tired of anything that has to do with people with disability. He was always on his toes to stand and cater for the people with disability. On his mission of Kanawa, he used to say that he did not get the opportunity to further his education as a result of his condition so he will do everything



■ Late Abba Sarki Sharada

possible for other disabled children to be educated"

Muhammad Inuwa Shuaibu from British government-owned DFID, who worked with the deceased during the Mobilization for Development (M4D), described late Abba as a workaholic and religious.

"I used to wonder the kind a person he was. Whenever we had a meeting Abba was the first to be present and he will stay till the end of it.

Even when we had a series of meetings on a day Abba has never failed to attend. During meetings Abba would draw our attention and go for prayers. He struggled so hard for the actualization of disabled bill until when the state House of Assembly passed it into law. The disabled have really lost their defender," he said.

Saifullahi Mukhtar Sadiq, a visually impaired person, was a friend and close associate of late Abba Sarki Sharada. He summarized the deceased as a "religious, humanistic, generous, brave, and kindhearted, a

person who always put other people's needs ahead of his."

He narrated their last meeting at Mumbayya House for a function organized by Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) on Saturday, December 28, 2019, that was a day before his demise.

"While the event was going on, late Abba realized that it was time for prayer and nobody seemed to have noticed that, so he silently went to the mosque and observed his prayer after which he called me out and told me that it was time for prayer I should observe mine as people were carried away by the event.

"He told me that there were other things he would want to talk to me and when I asked what were those issues he told me about the empowerment programme which he said he would not include my name among the candidates eventhough I requested him to do that. He said we should allow the less privileged among us to benefit.

"The other issue he told me something that I did not understand its meaning until now that he passed away. He said to me 'Saifullahi, for all these struggles that we are into I will not be part of it any longer. I am tired and I want to go and rest' and I said to him what sort of rest when you are helping humanity. I tried to convince him to forget about his thought and he jokingly said I just want to go and make money, and we both laughed," he narrated.

"Despite his condition and as a physically weak person, he always tried to be sympathetic and empathetic to other categories of people living with disabilities. His efforts were always to see that we make our own progress by ourselves, no matter what.

"He was the first person who I usually call whenever I see our rights about to be trampled upon and he would quickly respond to it by doing the needful," he said.

One of the greatest contributions

Continued on page 26

Kano Hisbah makes u-turn on tricycle operation

By Ibrahim Musa Giginyu

Kano state Hisbah board has explained why the implementation of the ban of opposite sex boarding same tricycle in the state's metropolis was suspended.

Addressing newsmen in the state's Hisbah headquarters during a press conference, Commander General Kano Hisbah Board, Sheikh Harun Ibn-Sina

said that, the policy was not a new as it has been in existence since 2005.

He said what was suspended was its implementation but not the policy itself.

Represented by the board's Director General, Dr Aliyu Musa Aliyu, stated that, the present leadership of the board had only wanted to implement the policy and in the process a

discussion session was conducted with various unions of the tricycle operators in the state, which he gave rise to the unions' demand to be given sometime to communicate to their members.

"The leadership of the tricycle unions that we have engaged in discussion on the issue have forwarded to us their request demanding that time should be given to them to

communicate to their members what the policy entails as there are three major penalties attached to its violation. It is in the light of fairness, equity and justice that, the board obliged their request and halted the implementation of the ban scheduled to commence today to give them room for proper information dissemination," he said.

Jigawa records 15,000 pneumonia cases annually

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Dutse

Pneumonia is one of the major child killer disease in Jigawa state with the state recording about 15,000 cases annually, a report has shown.

This was contained in an 'Inspiring Situation Analysis Report' published by an international donor organisation, Save the Children.

Though, the report did not indicate the number of children who died owing to the disease but added that the increase was due to high-level of ignorance of the disease and absence of a policy framework by the government.

It also revealed that only about 31.4 per cent of caregivers in the state have knowledge of the symptoms of the disease.

Speaking on the scourge, the State Program Manager of Save the Children, Abdullahi Magama, said the report informed the donor agency's decision to collaborate with the state government, communities and civil organisations with a view to tackling the challenge.

He maintained that training and retraining of partners, particularly medical workers, on the disease would constitute part of the intervention.

Tchadia Airlines resumes operation in Kano

By Lubabatu I. Garba

The Tchadia Airline has resumed operation from N'Djamena to Kano, the Chief Executive Officer of the airlines, Mr. Wasihun Asres Tiruneh has said.

Speaking at the inaugural flight at Malam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA), the airline suspended its operation in Kano 10 years ago.

He said the airline would operate once in a week, promising to increase the number of flights to three commencing from January 2020.

"We also have plan to connect Kano with Niger as flight from N'Djamena-Kano-Niamey will commence next month," he added. The Regional Manager of the MAKIA, Alhaji Bello Muhammad Sabo commended Tchadia Airline for resuming its operation to Kano.



■ Commissioner of information Malam Mohammed Garba receives award of excellence with support of Isma'il Afakallah executives Secretary censorship and Alhassan Kwalle from Kannywood Film Makers during the graduation of 450 Kannywood beneficiaries from the Kano State Censorship Board workshop at government house.

Photo Sani Maikatanga

Jigawa local govt bans night courtship

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Dutse

Kirikasamma Local Government Council in Jigawa state, has enacted a law prohibiting night courtship amongst opposite sex with a view to restoring moral value in the council.

The Chairman of the council, Salisu Garba Kubayo, announced the new edict yesterday in Kirikasamma, saying it became necessary owing to the rampant cases of adultery which most time resulted into unwanted pregnancies in the area.

According to him, the law stipulated that from now opposite sex on courtship could not be seen together beyond 10 pm, adding that anybody found contravening the law would be arraigned for appropriate punishment.

"The bye-law enacted banning

meeting of opposite sex at night was ratified by the council. Defaulters are liable to be sentence to six months imprisonment or a fine of N50,000.

"The new law is necessary in order to restore the moral value amongst our people, particularly the youth in the area. The law was enacted with a view to check the rising level of fornication that most often resulted to unwanted pregnancies in our communities," he said.

Commenting on the new law, the youth leader of Kirikasamma, Yahaya Kaura, told Chronicle that the youths had commended the council leadership for enacting law.

He said the law would reduce social vices in the area, urging the council to come up with another law that would make marriage affordable by reducing the cost to N60,000 as

against the current N160,000.

"I must commend the council for the new law. The youths were carried along as we were consulted while preparing for the law. But for the youths, the law is not complete if the cost of marriage is not reduced to an affordable rate.

"For one to marry a girl in our locality at present, you need not less than N160,000. If we are to look at the economic condition of the country, the cost is too high for a marriage. We hope the council will look at this issue and bring the cost lower to N60,000."

Also speaking, a spinster, Miss Hafsa Ahmed, commended the council for the new law, but prayed that it would not scare away their suitors especially, those that were not originally from the area.

Abba Sarki Sharada...

Continued from page 25

of PWDs, as agreed by all his associates, was the role he played in ensuring that the Disability Bill was signed into law in Kano. Other achievements included his Kanawa Foundation through which a lot of PWDs and their children were empowered educationally and otherwise.

Engr. Musa Muhammad Shaga is the Chairman, Joint National Association for People with Disability (JONAPWD). He described the loss as a great one to all the PWDs, adding they were greatly shocked by the death.

"We cannot quantify his contributions within a short time, but

all I can say is that Abba has done all to the PWDs in Kano, because what he has done will continue touching our lives forever, especially the Bill which was now signed by the governor and we are waiting to see the establishment of the commission that will take over the affairs of the PWDs, and I have every assurance that the governor will do that.

"As for the Kanawa Foundation, we will do our best to see that his good work continues so that he will continue to milk from his good deeds even after death," he said.

The Legal Adviser of the foundation, Zahraddeen Muhammad Bello, said Abba was the main source

through which help was coming for the running of the foundation which caters for the educational and health needs of PWDs as well as their empowerment.

He said not less than 50 children of PWDs were enrolled in private schools by the foundation in addition to numerous others who were supported in public schools.

Abba passed away on Sunday 29th December, 2019 after a brief illness and was buried on Monday 30th December, 2019. It is hoped that well-meaning individuals would continue to support the foundation so that the good works and the legacies of Abba Sarki Sharada will live on.

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I love tending vehicles as mothers tend babies - Female mechanic

From Christiana T. Alabi, Lagos

To 24-year-old Salome Ifeoluwa Odusoro, only few things can be more fulfilling than working on a faulty automobile. As Odusoro said, she developed an unquenchable interest in the auto industry from childhood and has been pursuing a career in that direction.

Odusoro has also always cherished education as she wanted to be an automobile mechanic. To eat her cake and have it, the young lady wouldn't just start as an uneducated apprentice in a local automobile mechanic workshop, as many would want to do. Instead, she headed to the University of Lagos, where is now a 500-level Mechanical Engineering student.

Currently, she is doing her industrial training with Metropolitan Motors Ltd, Akilo Road, off Oba Akran Road, Lagos. Metropolitan Motors specializes mainly on Toyota and Kia cars, on which Odusoro has been honing her skills to be a repair and maintenance expert. She, however, noted that she also does Honda, Hyundai, Mitsubishi and even Ford cars.

Odusoro told EKO TRUST that she regards herself as a doctor attending to cars the



■ Salome Ifeoluwa Odusoro in a workshop

way a medical doctor works to save human lives and mothers tenderly attend to babies. She said she always finds it great fun when she is on a car working to put it in a healthy condition.

She disclosed that well before she chose Mechanical Engineering as her course of study in the university, she had, because of her natural interest in vehicles, been reading literatures in that area.

"So because I'd always known what I wanted to become, I was ready to face whatever risks would be involved in it.



During my secondary school days, when almost everyone was running away from Further Mathematics, I knew I just had to do it because of my passionate desire to become an engineer," she said.

When asked how she has been coping in school as a female Mechanical Engineering student, she responded, "It hasn't been rosy. There are the assignments, group projects, preparing for exams and lots more. But because of the keen interest I have in the course, classes have been mostly exciting."

Unlike many young girls who consider such a career as automobile repairs difficult and odd for a female, Odusoro expressed pride at what she is doing. "I love what I am doing. At the company where I am

working we don't usually lie under vehicles; we lift a vehicle high to work under it. Lying under vehicles to effect repairs only becomes necessary when we do jobs outside our workshop, away from the company.

"But it's actually fun working under vehicles. In fact, these days, I have started seeing vehicles technically as patients while I'm the doctor. When a vehicle is faulty, we listen to the noise it makes and which part of the vehicle it's coming from and I actually love that," she said.

Odusoro is not without her challenges, though, as she forges ahead in her cherished career.

"The major challenge is the issue of strength. There are some things that require strength that I can't really do, such as having to loosen big tyres. There are some I feel can do, but sometimes when I want to do something that requires a lot of strength, my bosses ask me not to do them because I am a woman," she said.

The female mechanic appreciates the admiration and encouragement she has been getting from some people. "Some men even asked me to come and work on their expensive cars, an offer I gracefully declined because I am still learning," she said.

For now, she can, without

supervision, diagnose a car, change brake pads, change spark plugs and service injector nozzle, as well as work with her bosses on extensive engine jobs like correcting the steering knuckle, changing of steering rack, removing the entire engine, changing shock absorbers and loosening the engine seat.

Odusoro is looking beyond merely repairing vehicles. "My dream is beyond working as a mechanic. My dream extends to producing car parts. I prefer to be on the manufacturing side of automobile. I want to produce car parts myself," she said.

The engineering intern didn't see why anybody should appear dirty because he or she is an automobile mechanic. She advised all mechanics to endeavour to maintain some level of cleanliness, especially when they are moving out of their workshops.

She also advised Nigerian youths not to allow the obstacles of life overwhelm them.

Particularly, she urged girls to engage in productive activities that would give them some level of financial independence

"No one likes a parasitic relationship and a liability. For me, no work is meant for a particular gender. As long as you love it and passionate about it, go for it," she advised.

Ojota: Pedestrians risk death crossing highway despite two pedestrian bridges

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

Despite the presence of two pedestrian bridges at Ojota, a busy area on the Ikorodu expressway, pedestrians still cross the highway. EKO TRUST reports that this has been the trend in recent times in the wake of waning enforcement.

The construction of a new, ultra-modern pedestrian bridge at Ojota by the immediate past administration of Governor Akinwunmi Ambode was in response to observations on the chaos and commotion that was always attending usage of the old pedestrian bridge at the bus stop.

It was always a sight then how scores of pedestrians queued to use the bridge, especially at peak morning and evening periods. Pedestrian usage of the bridge was compelled by the fact that enforcement by men of the Lagos State Environmental Sanitation and Special Offences Unit (Task Force) was effective. Many people then dreaded operatives of the Sanitation Corps (LAGESC).

Besides, the government had constructed barricades on the road that made it difficult for people to cross the highway.

Owing to the huge traffic on the only

pedestrian bridge, Ambode, on March 2017, commissioned a second pedestrian bridge near the old one.

The former governor said the new pedestrian bridge became imperative in view of the construction of the road median barricades which put residents and pedestrians at no option than to use to the bridge.

But, today, the pedestrian bridges virtually lie fallow as few people now make use of the bridges. Many hitherto users of the bridges have practically abandoned them and now cross the expressway at will and unhindered, especially as the wire barricade has been torn apart.

Our correspondent spent many hours on separate days to observe the compliance level at the ever-busy Ojota bus stop and saw pedestrians crossing the eight-lane highway freely without the slightest bother about using the two pedestrian bridges. People crossed from the service lane, across the expressway itself and to the next service lane.

EKO TRUST watched how some pedestrians were almost hit by speeding vehicles as they dashed across, while motorists had to slow down in order not to hit the pedestrians.

At the Kosofe end of the bridge where

there is a filling station, our correspondent saw a parked LAGESC (Black Maria) bus where offenders were usually kept. However, these days, the bus was always virtually empty. The LAGESC officers were seemingly no longer interested in arresting pedestrians dashing across the expressway.

Checks by our correspondent revealed that a woman was hit one morning in July this year near the Ojota bus stop as she was crossing the expressway.

Also sometime in 2016, a woman and her four kids were crossing the highway when one of the kids slipped off her hand, was hit by a vehicle and died immediately.

A report also stated that a bus recently crushed a woman and her child in the Ojota area while they were crossing the expressway.

Our reporter observed that the barricades which prevented people from crossing whether there was enforcement officer on ground or not, have been vandalised. The barricades in the road median have been destroyed up to the Lagos-Ibadan expressway interchange and Ketu stretch of the Ikorodu road.

Motorists said the bad portions of the Ikorodu road, from Total up to the BRT terminal, which usually slowed down vehicles, have been making it easier for

pedestrians to cross the expressway.

When our correspondent accosted one of the pedestrians on why he decided to cross the expressway, his response was, "Am I the only person to cross the expressway?"

The Lagos State Traffic Management Agency (LASTMA) officers were seen on duty controlling vehicular traffic, but they appeared not bothered about stopping people from crossing the highway.

One of the LASTMA officials who spoke with our correspondent blamed the development on what he called Nigerians' penchant for indiscipline.

"I know they used to arrest pedestrians crossing the expressway, but as you can see yourself, many people don't use the bridges anymore and nobody is enforcing it. Our job is to control vehicular traffic and arrest motorists who flout traffic laws and this is what we are doing," he said.

The spokesman of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) Mr Nosa Okunbor, confirmed the trend, saying the agency was liaising with the relevant agency to enforce compliance.

Our correspondent also sent an enquiry to LAGESC, which the agency had not responded to by the time of filing this report.

Traders lament huge losses in Ekiti market fire, appeal for govt assistance

From Raphael Ogbonnaiye, Ado-Ekiti

There will be no new year felicitations for about 16 traders at the Bisi market, Ado Ekiti, whose shops and goods were gutted by fire on Tuesday.

The traders lost materials, including household appliances, clothing materials, beverages, foodstuffs, educational materials and personal effects worth millions of naira to the disaster.

Most of the traders were understood to have recently stocked their shops with goods for sale in the New Year period with loans obtained from cooperative bodies.

It was also gathered that besides goods, some of the traders lost cash to the fire.

EKO TRUST learnt that the fire was caused by a trader attempting to refill his generating set with petrol. As the petrol-containing jerry can in his hand caught fire, our correspondent gathered, the trader threw it away to the other side, which resulted in the spread of the fire to neighbouring shops and houses.

The affected traders have appealed to the state and relevant local governments to assist them bounce back to their businesses.

Mrs Olunmi Ilugbusi, who is in her 50s, listed what she lost to the fire as including three grinding machines, three big stabilizers, a sewing machine, big wardrobes fully loaded with clothing materials and big coolers.

Ilugbusi stated that she also lost N85,000 cash to the fire.

The trader's first son, Pastor Adeleye Oluwaniyi, begging the state government to assist her get back on her feet, said the only clothe her mother possessed was the one on her.

Another trader, Mrs Rali Jimoh, said she lost about N150,000 cash to the fire, as well as a grinding machine and about 12 mortars.

A dealer in ladies wears and clothing materials, Mrs Bello Sherifat, also said she lost goods and cash worth N2.5 million.

Other traders included Adebite Aina, who claimed to have lost items worth about N150,000, which she said were just brought to her shop for sale, and about N100,000 cash; Adedayo Ogunmola, a dealer in clothing materials, who claimed to have lost about N3m; Mr Taiwo Adelere, dealer in fairly used clothes, bags and boxes, who said he lost goods worth N7m; Ayuba Sherifat, dealer in turbans and necklaces, who claimed to



■ Bisi Market accident

have lost N700,000; 25-year-old Olorunshomo Tosin, dealer in sugar and groundnut oil, who claimed to have lost about N43,500; and Mrs Olisa Omowumi, dealer in shoes and English dresses, who claimed to have lost about N200,000.

Others were Alhaja Amudat Jinadu, dealer in Ankara materials, who claimed to have lost N450,000; Alhaja Sakinat Jimoh, dealer in tomatoes and pepper, who claimed to have lost her new consignments of

five bags of pepper and four bags of tomatoes worth about N150,000; and Mrs Bimbo Adeolu, dealer in wines and spirits, who claimed to have lost about N120,000 worth of goods.

Some residents of nearby buildings affected by the fire also lost cash, items and documents.

Among those who lost their documents are Adelere Oluwafemi, who EKO TRUST learnt just got admission into the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti; and Adelere Deji,

a student of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti.

Victims of the fire incident were understood to have submitted pictures/evidence to the State Emergency Management Agency, Ado-Ekiti, to press their claims for government assistance.

The Bisi Market was established in 1992 when the incumbent deputy governor of Ekiti State, Otunba Bisi Egbeyemi, was the chairman of the Ado-Ekiti local government in the old Ondo State.

When poverty hit me hard, keke Marwa became my last option - Lady tricyclist

From Raphael Ogbonnaiye, Ado-Ekiti

Tosin Adetola Adewunmi is a 30-year-old mother of two children from the Okeyinmi area of Ado-Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital, who has thrust herself into a male-dominated business.

Actually, it was poverty, as Adewunmi herself put it, that thrust her into the commercial tricycle business many years after she finished her secondary school education and her life still appeared blank.

She told our correspondent that she had learnt a trade after her secondary education but things just did not go well with her. She then took to selling clothes. It was while she was hawking clothes round town and she came to the keke Marwa park in Ado-Ekiti that something suddenly struck her she can do the commercial tricycle business.

She narrated, "I asked them to teach me how to ride the tricycle, that I needed some money to further my education. They said no problem. They taught me how to ride the tricycle and that was how I began."

"I had applied to join the Peace Corps. But because of the controversy over its legality, I dropped that idea and came down here to join them in the



■ Mrs. Adewunmi Adetola

commercial tricycle business. I had hawked wares for about seven years before I came here about two months ago to start this keke Marwa business. Now, I can ride the keke Marwa perfectly to anywhere, including Lagos and Ilorin. I have ridden it to Omuo-Ekiti and back. I took my boss there. He just sat in the tricycle and I took him there and brought him back."

Though Adewunmi expressed happiness doing the job, her marital status is posing some "minor" challenges.

She said, "I am married with two children. Taking care of the home and doing this job isn't exactly easy for me. I have to wake up early and prepare

meals for the family before I come to work. I close late in the night about 8pm. Before then, my first child, a 15-year-old boy, would have made the evening meal for the family.

"My husband now loves what I do, although he didn't initially want me to do the job, complaining it's male-dominated. But I assured him everything would be okay. He later agreed and, since then, I have been here doing the keke Marwa business.

"In the morning I take my daughter to school and bring her back home in the evening. My mother assists me, which makes taking care of the home a lot easier for me while I work."

Adewunmi spoke of how some passengers can be difficult, as part of the challenges of the commercial tricycle business. On one occasion, she recalled, she picked a particular passenger from the Prison area in Ado-Ekiti to the Soldiers Junction along Afao road.

However, after the trip, the passenger simply alighted and, instead of paying his fare, he simply uttered a 'thank you'. When Adewunmi asked him what that meant, he replied he thought she was offering him a ride free of charge.

She said she declared to him there would be nothing like a free ride since he didn't discuss anything like that with her before he boarded her tricycle. After some minutes of argument and as she wouldn't allow him go and the scene was becoming embarrassing to him, he had to give her her money.

Adewunmi is yet to have her own tricycle; it's the Chairman of the unit from where she operates who owns the one she has been using for her business. Of course, she makes daily returns to him.

That arrangement she still finds more rewarding than the hawking she was hitherto engaged in. She disclosed that she supports her husband from her commercial tricycle

operation, as she is also doing so many things for the family. She said she earns an average of N2,000 from the job on a daily basis.

Adewunmi couldn't forget a nasty experience she had in her first week of riding 'keke Marwa'.

She said, "The first week I started, it was raining and I attempted to ride the keke through a flooded road. But I bumped into a pothole and fell. The situation was not funny. But rather than that to discourage me from continuing with the job, it gave me strength."

Adewunmi called on well-meaning Nigerians, especially the Ekiti people, to assist commercial tricycle operators by providing them with tricycles.

"We need more tricycles to meet the demands of our passengers. Government should also help us to reconstruct roads so that we can always have a smooth ride. The roads are very bad and they damage our tricycles," she said.

Adewunmi encouraged women going through hard times to try their hand on the 'keke Marwa' business, saying, "What men can do, women can do and even better. This business is noble and a lot better than stealing or engaging in prostitution."



KANO STATE GOVERNMENT

CONGRATULATIONS

to an ERUDITE POLITICIAN @ **50!**



I, **Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR**, Executive Governor of Kano State, on behalf of the government and good people of the state, heartily felicitate with former Speaker of Kano State House of Assembly and Member, House of Representatives, Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency, **Rt Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum** (Turakin Rano & Turaki Addini Kosofe of Lagos State) on his 50th Birthday Anniversary.

Indeed, your immense contributions to Kano State and democracy when you served twice as Speaker and your decades of selfless service at various levels and capacities would continue to manifest and be appreciated.

As you clock 50 years today, I pray to Almighty Allah to continue to give you the wisdom, good health and courage to render services for the progress of our dear state, the country and humanity in general.

Once again, Congratulations!

RT. Hon.
Kabiru Alhassan Rurum

Signed

DR. ABDULLAHI UMAR GANDUJE, OFR
Executive Governor
Kano State





APC ASPIRANTS FORUM



The All Progressives Congress Aspirants Forum (APCAF) comprises Governorship, Senatorial, House of Representatives, State House of Assembly, Chairmanship and Councillorship aspirants that contested elections under the platform of the APC. The Forum was structured after the 2019 APC primaries to ensure that aspirants that lost the APC primaries across the nation are retained within the fold of the party and to assist deliver the party at state and federal levels respectively. The Forum therefore, has a mandate to strengthen and complement the effort of our great party ahead of 2023 general elections as well as enlighten the general public about the programs and achievements of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration.

Consequent upon the restructuring of the Forum by the National Working Committee (NWC) on 8 June 2019, Lt Col Abdulaziz Musa Yar'adua (rtd) was confirmed as the National Coordinator and subsequently endorsed by the National Patron, Alhaji Sani Zangon Daura (Dan Masanin Daura). Similarly, a holistic review of the structure was carried out at both the National, Zonal and State levels. A Board of Trustees (BOT) to be headed by the former National Coordinator, Alhaji Bashir Mohammed Yusuf was also formed. The full list of the new NWC, BOT, Zonal and State structures are as follows:

THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

S/N	NAMES	POST	STATE	PHONE NOS
1	Col. Abdulaziz Yar'adua Rtd	National Coordinator	Katsina	08030851223
2	Hon. Paddy Etete Inemeh	Deputy National Coordinator	Akwa Ibom	08037006758
3	Hon. Yusuf Sheriff Banki	Sec General	Borno	08099299288
4	Hon. Mansur Isah	Treasurer	Kebbi	08035043330
5	Hon. Lateef Olawumi	National Welfare	Oyo	08066731036
6	Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada	Deputy Coordinator North	Nasarawa	08033254856
7	Hon. Enyinna Micheal Kasarachi	Deputy National Coordinator South	Abia	08023818964
8	Hon. Mohammed Jamil	Deputy National Welfare	Kogi	08039731111
9	Hon. Tayo Tola Akibaje	National Youth Leader	Lagos	08065621975
10	Hon. Zainab Buba Marwa	National Woman Leader	FCT	08034032727
11	Hon. Gabriel Oyiobode	National Organizing Secretary	Delta	08036778458
12	Hon. Zainab Ibrahim	Deputy National Organizing Secretary	Taraba	08035291180
13	Hon. Umar Kumo	Financial Secretary	Gombe	08036943741
14	Hon. Col. Geoff Onyesejebu rtd	Auditor General	Anambra	08061397979
15	Hon. Saidu Abdullahi Adamu	National Public Secretary	Kaduna	08099999830
16	Hon. Leonard Anozie Eke	Deputy National Public Secretary	Imo	08033467534
17	Bar. Hussaini Umar Majikira	National Legal Adviser 1	Bauchi	08063244124
18	Hon. Dayo Isreal	National Legal Adviser 2	Lagos	08166765045
19	Hon. Mathew Omegara	National Political Adviser 1	Imo	07067975602
20	Hon. Abubakar Sadiq Fakai	National Political Adviser 2	Kebbi	08062355074
21	Hon. Samuel Ogbuku	Ass. Secretary General	Bayelsa	08034422671
22	Dr. Hajara Salim	National Ex. Officials I	Gombe	08033022671
23	Hon. Tajudeen A. Mustapha	National Ex. Officials I	Kwara	08034473218
24	Hon. Abubakar Wada Nas	Political Adviser 3	Katsina	08037031493
25	Hon. Bashir S. Yamma	Deputy National Auditor	Zamfara	08037036339

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

S/N	NAMES	POST	ZONE	STATE	PHONE NOS
1	Hon. Bashir Mohammed Yusuf	Chairman	North West	Kano	08099999109
2	Hon. Gbenga Elegbeleye	Member	South West	Ondo	08035785757
3	Hon. Gali Mohammed	Member	North East	Bauchi	08033285938
4	Hon. Nasiru Babale Ila	Member	North West	Kano	08090855910
5	Hon. Indutimi Komonibo	Member	South-South	Bayelsa	08037176149
6	Hon. Haruna Yusuf	Member	North Central	Kogi	08033586496
7	Hon. Umar Farouk Ayawa	Member	North Central	Niger	08033154782
8	Hon. Princess Ann Nwanyibuife Agom-Eze	Member	South-East	Ebonyi	08033074003
9	Hon. Paddy Etete Wemeh	Member	South-South	Akwa-Ibom	08037006758
10	Hon. Mansur Isah	Member	North West	Kebbi	08035043330
11	Hon. Ibrahim A. Abubakar	Member	North West	Kaduna	09099880665
12	Hon. Bar. F.N Nwosu	Member	South East	Abia	08033232288
13	Hon. Yusuf Sheriff Banki	Member	North East	Borno	08099299288
14	Hon. Mathew Omegara	Member	South-East	Imo	07067975602
15	Hon. Zainab Ibrahim	Member	North-East	Taraba	08035291180
16	Hon. Akinrisola Oduneye O.	Member	South West	Ondo	08025868280
17	Hon. Bilikisu Abubakar Girei	Member	North-East	Adamawa	08064056715
18	Hon. Mrs. Mayen Iyanya Mbuk	Secretary	South-South	Cross River	08034151827

NORTHERN ZONES EXCO

NORTH EAST				
NAME	POSITION	STATE	PHONE	
1	H.E. Aji Kolo	Zonal Co-ordinator	Yobe	8033821720
2	Hon. Adamu Shehu Sulaiman Ningi	Deputy Zonal Co-ordinator	Bauchi	8033926011
3	Hon. Abdulhamid A. Dnkryarko	Zonal Secretary	Gombe	7037779935
4	Dr. Alkasim Njidda	Zonal Organizing Secretary	Taraba	8022239336
5	Hon. Saadatu Madawaki	Zonal Treasurer	Adamawa	7034008998
6	Hon. Hauwa S. Magaji	Zonal Welfare Secretary	Borno	8035040311
7	Hon. Umar Bodeje	Zonal Youth Leader	Gombe	8033999158
8	Hon. Lubabatu Abdulkarim	Zonal Women Leader	Borno	8035302115
9	Hon. Umar A. Umar	Zonal Publicity Secretary	Taraba	7067747171
10	Hon. Kabir Mohammed Baba	Zonal Political Adviser	Bauchi	8033498667
NORTH WEST				
1	Hon. Masud Musa Bashar	Zonal Co-ordinator	Sokoto	8033334403
2	Hon. Dr. Nura Ibrahim Kazaure	Deputy Zonal Co-ordinator	Jigawa	8033611311
3	Hon. Salisu Usman Zuru	Zonal Secretary	kebbi	8033352433
4	Hon. Mansur Musa Jega	Zonal Organizing Secretary	Kebbi	8037214421
5	Hon. Sani Ahmad Turaki	Zonal Treasurer	Kano	80380228
6	Hon. Abubakar Muhaammed Kwaire	Zonal Welfare Secretary	Sokoto	8039271048
7	Hon. Jamilu A. Sadauki	Zonal Youth Leader	Katsina	8099126900
8	Hon. Rabi Salihu Ibrahim	Zonal Women Leader	Kaduna	7034372027
9	Hon. Ibrahim Tudu Tukur	Zonal Publicity Secretary	Zamfara	8034908091
10	Hon. Abdulaziz Mohammed Sani	Zonal Political Adviser	Katsina	8037018058
NORTH CENTRAL				
1	Hon. Umar Farouk Ayawa	Zonal Co-ordinator	Niger	8022326039
2	Hon. Joe Bukar	Deputy Zonal Co-ordinator	Plateau	8033143476
3	Hon. Titus T. Zam	Zonal Secretary	Benue	8036153269
4	Hon. Olufemi James Urrah	Zonal Publicity Secretary	Fct Abuja	8170566583
5	Hon. Femi Babalola	Zonal Organizing Secretary	Kogi	7039112911
6	Hon. Muhammad Kabir	Zonal Treasurer	Kwara	8037035544
7	Hon. Isah Ambaka	Zonal Welfare Secretary	Nasarawa	7033333304
8	Hon. Attahiru Abubakar	Zonal Youth Leader	Niger	8069333672
9	Hon. Marian Oziomo Ahmad Abedo	Zonal Women Leader	Kogi	8035897630
10	Hon. Micheal Unogwu	Zonal Political Adviser	Benue	8033421403

SOUTHERN ZONES EXCO

SOUTH-EAST				
NAME	POSITION	STATE	PHONE NO	
1	Princess Ann Nwanyibuife Agom Eze	Zonal Coordinator	Ebonyi	8033074003
2	Hon. Ike Chidolue	Zonal Deputy Coordinator	Anambra	8165344981
3	Hon. Tony A. Mba	Zonal Secretary	Enugu	7060572720
4	Hon. Engr. Chukwuma Nwandlugo	Zonal Treasurer	Ebonyi	8037113711
5	Hon. Milicent Duru	Zonal Organizing Secretary	Imo	8069683185
6	Bar. Dandy Chinyere Onyesejoku	Zonal Welfare Secretary	Abia	8038800644
7	Hon. Chibuisi Godson B.	Zonal Youth Leader	Abia	9020159536
8	Princess Nkem Igwe	Zonal Woman Leader	Ebonyi	9099991620
9	Hon. Chijoke Obi	Zonal Publicity Secretary	Anambra	8063574685
10	Engr. Martin Okwor	Zonal Political Adviser	Enugu	8060072280
SOUTH -WEST				
1	Otunba (Engr) Adewale Adenaike	Zonal Coordinator	Ogun	8100091835
2	Hon. Akintokun Lawson Esq	Zonal Deputy Coordinator	Ondo	8060625444
3	Hon. Isiaka Kosamotu	Zonal Secretary	Osun	8030748480
4	Hon. Akinwande Babatunde	Zonal Treasurer	Lagos	8033363335
5	Hon. Omolaja Adelaja Seidu	Zonal Organizing Secretary	Lagos	8099144444
6	Hon. Mrs. Rasak Idowu Abidemi	Zonal Welfare Secretary	Oyo	8033637924
7	Hon. Bar. Biji Otegbeye	Zonal Woman Leader	Ogun	8023145987
8	Hon. Adebisi Tiamiyu Oladejo	Zonal Youth Leader	Oyo	8033049644
9	Hon. Adeyemo Adeoye David	Zonal Publicity Secretary	Oyo	8033049644
10	Hon. Adeyemo Adeoye David	Zonal Political Adviser	Ekiti	8060704600
SOUTH -SOUTH				
1	Otunba James Udoma	Zonal Coordinator	Akwa Ibom	8028345327
2	Prof. Eyo Nyong	Deputy Zonal Coordinator	Cross Rivers	8033098598
3	Hon. Victoria E. Diejomaoh	Zonal Secretary	Edo	812117344
4	Chief Gbinigie Obukwo Napoleon	Zonal Treasurer	Delta	8023338969
5	Hon. Erhabor Emokpae	Zonal Youth Leader	Edo	8034024402
6	Hon. Dr. Mike Nwielaghi	Zonal Organizing Secretary	Rivers	8033099065
7	Hon. Noble Nwosu	Zonal Welfare Officer	Rivers	7063588406
8	Hon. Caroline Jack	Zonal Woman Leader	Bayelsa	8063501940
9	Hon. Cletus Obun	Zonal Political Adviser	Cross Rivers	8050886449
10	Hon. Samuel Mel Ikpa	Zonal Publicity	Akwa Ibom	8023168516

NORTH-WEST STATES EXCO

KEBBI STATE CHAPTER EXCO			
SN	NAME	POSITION	PHONE No
1	Prof. Sahabi Danladi Mahuta	State Co-ordinator	7032507692
2	Hon. Farouk Baura Bagudu	State Deputy Co-ordinator	8033040448
3	Hon. Ahmed Abu Bawa	State Secretary	8064882966
4	Hon. Aminu Sulaiman	State Welfare Secretary	8033111750
5	Hon. Abdussalam Jibril Kamba	State Organizing Secretary	7066687777
6	Hon. Aliyu Haruna Bunza	Publicity Secretary	8039665353
7	Hon. Aminu Bello Zagga	State Treasurer	9038256324
8	Hon. Zahrau Wali	Women Leader	7062701425
9	Hon. Faruk Abubakar	Youth Leader	8032540630
10	Hon. Barr. Bello Hamzat	Legal Adviser	7034611200
11	Hon. Murtala Jega	State Political Adviser	8035897158

NORTH-WEST STATES EXCO (CONT.)

JIGAWA STATE CHAPTER			
SN	NAME	POSITION	PHONE No
1	Hon. Sunusi Ahmed Adamu	State Co-ordinator	8096562241
2	Hon. Baba Nasara	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8131816503
3	Hon. Kamilu Nasir	State Secretary	8032529153
4	Hon. Samaila Dawaki	State Welfare Secretary	8039259503
5	Hon. Isah Shehu	State Organising Secretary	8060607790
6	Hon. Mudassir Musa	State Treasurer	8035143871
7	Hon. Yusuf Abdullahi Akeel Harbo	Publicity Secretary	8036443080
8	Hon. Isah Yunusa Mahammad	Youth leader	9036665383
9	Hon. Muhammad Alasan	Political Adviser	8034321724
10	Hon. Yasa a Wada Abubakar	Legal Adviser	8037862880
KATSINA STATE CHAPTER			
1	Hon. Murtala Hassan Muhammad	State Co-ordinator	8166666860
2	Hon. Usman Nalado	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8065872078
3	Hon. Ahmed Nasir Sada	State Secretary	8037200035
4	Hon. Kabir Ado	State Treasurer	8065408308
5	Hon. Kabir Tanimu	State Organizing Secretary	7038621907
6	Hon. Sharif Lawal	Welfare Secretary	8067476477
7	Hon. Isah Lawal	State Youth Leader	8035373992
8	Hon. Zainab Abdu Gana	State Women Leader	8030582843
9	Hon. Usman Dachatu	Legal Adviser	8033047957
10	Hon. Lawal Mukhtar Ala	State Political Adviser	8035620709
11	Hon. Kbir Abubakar	State Publicity Secretary	8033857978
KANO STATE CHAPTER			
1	Hon. Musa Umar Kibiya	State Co-ordinator	81424226161
2	Hon. Nuhu Abubakar M.Dala	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8035908400
3	Hon. Engr. Ahmed M. Masanawa	State Secretary	8065671787
4	Hon. Abba Suleiman Gazo	State Treasurer	8066251464
5	Hon. Ali Lawan Gwarzo	Organizing Secretary	7032888282
6	Hon. Dr. Fauziyya Buba Idris	Welfare Secretary	8037652574
7	Hon. Aminu Idi Shuwaki	State Youth Leader	8069121245
8	Hon. Hama Kur	State Women Leader	8037871632
9	Hon. Barr. Abubakar A.A. Karaye	State Legal Adviser	8065418118
10	Hon. Auwalu Sabiu Nafada	State Political Adviser	8036999338
11	Hon. Shehu Isah Direba	State Publicity Secretary	8031126602
ZAMFARA STATE CHAPTER			
1	Hon. Hambali Shi Iitu	State Co-ordinator	8065595013
2	Hon. Haruna Abdullahi Dansadatu	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8053930032
3	Hon. Aliyu Moyi Shinkafi	State Secretary	7032716707
4	Hon. Musa Muhammed Kwatakwashi	State Treasurer	8152275455
5	Hon. Yusuf Muhammed Zudu	State Legal Adviser	7037372425
6	Hon. Asmau Abba Gusau	State Women Leader	8093619495
7	Hon. Sirajo Madugu Maradun	Welfare Secretary	7036691189
8	Hon. Lawali Umar Gummi	Organizing Secretary	8033604491
9	Hon. Zayyanu Hamza Tsafe	State Publicity Secretary	8066414305
10	Hon. Rilwan Nagamba Anka	State Political Adviser	8063731199
11	Hon. Yakubu Dan Bello	State Youth Leader	8069080164
SOKOTO STATE CHAPTER			
1	Hon. Barr. Sa adatu Yunusa Muhaamed	State Co-ordinator	7062748423
2	Hon. Aliyu Tureta	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8069716077
3	Hon. Aminu G. Gidado	State Secretary	8030537050
4	Hon. Hussaini Tukur Faru	State Treasurer	8034533698
5	Hon. Sani Yakubu	State Legal Adviser	8100000531
6	Nil	State Women Leader	Nil
7	Hon. Tambari Dikko Goshe	State Welfare Secretary	8100000531
8	Hon. Bashir Ahmed Dahiru	State Organizing Secretary	7030310000
9	Hon. Malami Ahmed Galadanci	State Publicity Secretary	8032510910
10	Hon. Kabiru Kwara	Political Adviser	7068333999
11	Hon. Kasimu Abubakar Silame	State Youth Leader	8037447716
KADUNA STATE CHAPTER			
1	Hon. Shu aibu Abubakar Haske	State Co-ordinator	8069166107
2	Hon. Sani Abdul (Sardana Shaba)	Deputy State Co-ordinator	7013829999
3	Hon. Peter Tanko Dogara	State Secretary	8030862776
4	Hon. Yusuf Balarabe Kubau	State Treasurer	7030171495
5	Hon. Barr. Habila Umaru Gayya	State Legal Adviser	8065398711
6	Hon. Hafsat Yahaya Musa	State Women Leader	8032721411
7	Hon. Ahmed Bello Ikara	State Welfare Secretary	8036284060
8	Hon. Dr. Aliyu Muhammed Doffanni	State Organizing Secretary	8178182823
9	Hon. Suleiman Bello Yarima	State Publicity Secretary	8032644732
10	Hon. Daniel Hassan Nok	State Youth Leader	8034755550
11	Hon. Abduljadir Isah Birnin Gwari	State Political Adviser	8028814362
SOUTH EAST STATES EXCO			
ABIA STATE			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
ENGR. CHINEDU ONYEIZU	State Coordinator	9020159536	
HON. OBASI ASOH	State Deputy Coordinator	7035280785	
HON. LUCKY N. BENJAMIN	State Secretary	8036655861	
HON. OKEREKE COLUMBUS U	Treasurer	8034889285	
NKEM, ELDER NWACHUKWU			
NKEMAKOLAM	Organising Secretary	8085746145	
HON. CHINEDU ONYEMAIFE FELIX	Welfare Secretary	8062127207	
HON. NWACHUKWU KELECHI PRECIOS	Youth Leader	8036655854	
HON. CHIOOMA OJIUGO IWUJEZE	Women Leader	7069216441	
HON. WISDOM NDUKA SILAS	Publicity Secretary	8065643929	
HON. CHIEF EMEKA NWOGU	Political Adviser	8033119191	
HON. BAR. EMEKA I.U KALU	Legal Adviser	8033062081	
ENUGU STATE			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
HON. MRS. JULIET EGBO???	State Coordinator	7064806283	
HON. ROBERT NGWU	State Deputy Coordinator	8137755341	
HON. UCHENNA NNAMANI	State Secretary	8037717771	
HON. CHIEF AJODO SUNDAY CHRISTOPHER	Treasurer	8034076359	
HON. EMMA AGAMA	Organising Secretary	8055881055	
HON. OGUEJICFOR NSUDE	Welfare Secretary	8036053465	
HON. AJA CELESTIN	Youth Leader	8035406263	
HON. JULIET EGBO???	Women Leader	7064806283	
HON. ANI CHIOKE CORNELIUS	Publicity Secretary	8031116060	
HON. CHINEDU ENEH	Political Adviser	8036435266	
HON. CHUKWUDI IGWE	Legal Adviser	8035624557	
ANAMBRA STATE			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
HON. JOHN BOSCO I. ANIRACHA	State Coordinator	8064767035	
HON. PRINCE KENETH NNABUIFE	State Deputy Coordinator	7088215074	

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SOUTH SOUTH STATES EXCO			
AKWA IBOM			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
1 DR. CHRIS ENOCH	State Coordinator	703228380	
2 HON. PRECIOUS EFFIONG	State Deputy Coordinator	8034348354	
3 HON. TONY NSONGURUA	State Secretary	8148049855	
4 HON. EDU ATTAH	Treasurer		
5 HON. EMMANUEL ASANGA	Organising Secretary	8106895243	
6 HON. ENGR. INUA EYEN INUA EYEN	Welfare Secretary	8037759153	
7 HON. KOKO ABIA	Youth Leader	8037996664	
8 HON. MRS. GLORIA EKPO	Women Leader	8037224302	
9 HON. JOE INYANG	Publicity Secretary	8036776992	
10 HON. CHIEF EDDIE ABANG	Political Adviser	8032962738	
11 HON. (BARR.) INI EKPO	Legal Adviser	8022243108	
BAYELSA			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
1 HON. TORIOMO YERINDIKE EXCEL	State Coordinator	7036787649	
2 HON. KAKANDAR EPAMOWEI	State Deputy Coordinator	8032935444	
3 HON. ABULE TUAMO BETHEL	State Secretary	8038825048	
4 HON. (MRS.) MERCY DANIEL	Treasurer	8033550996	
5 HON. LUCKY AGBALAJE	Organising Secretary	8037700395	
6 HON. ADAMINEGBET. MEREMUBIO	Welfare Secretary	8035983802	
7 HON. ANGALAPELE INEMOTIMI	Youth Leader	8034322144	
8 HON. GABRIEL EBITIMI	Women Leader	8136583758	
9 HON. CAROLINE JACK	Publicity Secretary	8063501940	
10 HON. HON. OGUGUBENI J. P.	Political Adviser	8036776032	
11 HON. IKEMIKE O. IDISEYE	Legal Adviser	7032699228	
CROSS RIVERS			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
1 HON. ESSISSIEN EDEM	State Coordinator	8185441475	
2 HON. (BARR.) BERNARD ISHIE ODEY	State Deputy Coordinator	8033156411	
3 HON. DAVID IREK	State Secretary	8060122713	
4 HON. ELDER EYO OUT	Treasurer	8032709062	
5 HON. MIKE NSAN	Organising Secretary	8055637790	
6 HON. GODWIN EBA	Welfare Secretary	8038949238	
7 HON. RAYMOND MAYIM KUSHUM	Youth Leader	8168627016	
8 HON. (BARR.) PAULINE KAKA NYIAM	Women Leader	8121798072	
9 HON. PATRICK ASIKPO OKON	Publicity Secretary	8035507551	
10 HON. ENGR. STANLEY AFUFU	Political Adviser	8022236702	
11 HON. (BARR.) OKIMASI OJONG	Legal Adviser	8037254014	
RIVERS			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
1 HON. (DR.) MIKE NWIELAGHI (KSM)	State Coordinator	8033099065	
2 HON. CHIEF JERRY JOHNSON	State Deputy Coordinator	8086669103	
3 HON. CHIEF EMMA ICHENDU	State Secretary	8033417540	
4 HON. PASTOR (MRS) SAYA BRAIDE	Treasurer	8033136906	
5 HON. LETAM ALFRED	Organising Secretary	8037417540	
6 HON. (MRS) ESTHER SAMPSON	Welfare Secretary	8033418495	
7 HON. COMRADE WILLIAM OROK	Youth Leader	8064004787	
8 HON. (MS) ANITA JUMBO	Women Leader	7067434711	
9 HON. PRINCE ABALUBU	Publicity Secretary	8099471662	
10 ALHAJI NAIM ALIYU	Political Adviser	8035533124	
11 HON. (BARR.) SOLOMON EBENU	Legal Adviser	8036746199	
DELTA			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
1 HON. FRANK OSSAI	State Coordinator	9036526222	
2 HON. GOVERNMENT ENETIMI	State Deputy Coordinator	8037156559	
3 HON. PRINCE ASOBI OYEMIKE	State Secretary	8139377294	
4 HON. PETER IRREBO	Treasurer	8064250576	
5 HON. ALIKA MONDAY	Organising Secretary	8033919457	
6 HON. NNABUNDO CHINYE	Welfare Secretary	8064041611	
7 HON. COMRADE DONALD IGUDIA	Youth Leader	8030917600	
8 HON. HELEN OBIRE	Women Leader	8105277662	
9 HON. EGBENUOLISE CHINEDU	Publicity Secretary	9030375299	
10 HON. ODE WILLIAMS	Political Adviser	8131288225	
11 HON. (BARR.) DENNIS OJARIKE	Legal Adviser	8039304976	
EDO			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO	
1 HON. (DR.) CHRIS EBARE	State Coordinator	8033090819	
2 HON. PATRICK IKHARALE	State Deputy Coordinator	8033091732	
3 HON. (MRS) OMOREDE OSIFOH	State Secretary	8037873193	
4 HON. (MRS) ANENA JEMITOLA OJO	Treasurer	8067574998	
5 HON. OSARO OBAZE	Organising Secretary	8023445265	
6 HON. B (BARR) EBVU IGBINEDION	Welfare Secretary	8118118818	
7 HON. HENRY ODDY OKOJIE	Youth Leader	8130244065	
8 HON. (MRS) INUMIDUN EREKU	Women Leader	8130244065	
9 HON. (MRS) MAUREEN EKHORAGHON	Publicity Secretary	8038411293	
10 HON. (MRS) ABIBAT YAKUBU	Political Adviser	8038977026	
11 HON. PATRICK IDIAKE	Legal Adviser	7061987780	

NORTH-EAST STATES EXCO			
GOMBE STATE			
SN	CHAPTER NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO.
1	Hon. Ishaq Gambo Magaji	State Co-ordinator	8035748771
2	Hon. Dr. Habu Dahiru	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8038435806
3	Hon. Babir Hassan	State Secretary	8033423271
4	Hon. Mohammed Adamu	State Organizing Secretary	8039355649
5	Hon. Jamilu Shabawa	Welfare Secretary	7038473770
6	Hon. Muhammed Lamido	Treasurer	8037751097
7	Hon. Muhaamed T. Alhaji	Youth Leader	8022025076
8	Hon. Naomi Joel Awak	Women Leader	8065371226
9	Hon. Kandilan Nuhu Abdu	Publicity Secretary	8032884111
10	Hon. Yusuf Musa Danbawa	Political Adviser	8061573109
11	Hon. Umar Abdullahi Gombe	State Legal Adviser	8067006804
BAUCHI STATE CHAPTER			
SN	NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO.
1	Hon. Mohammed Tukur Adamu	State Co-ordinator	8034468220
2	Hon. Ahmed Saleh Jarmajo	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8036083626
3	Hon. Mohammed Sanusi Ibrahim	State Secretary	8032627863
4	Hon. Ahmed Maigari Misua	Publicity Secretary	8034423550
5	Hon. Musa Babangida Maijima a	Organising Secretary	8066059888
6	Hon. Sanusi Hamisu Abdullahi	State Youth Leader	803375526
7	Hon. Rabiu Shehu Gamawa	State Political Adviser	8038214676
8	Hon. Yakubu Baba Shehu	State Legal Adviser	8032979701
9	Hon. Abubakar Shehu	State treasurer	8032080872
10	Hon. Godfrey Manasseh Marti	State Welfare Secretary	7036757575
11	Hon. Maryam Haruna	Women Leader	8036032880
12	Hon. Hashim Yakubu	Administrative Secretary	8023742501
BORNO STATE CHAPTER			
SN	NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO.
1	Hon. Grema Kyari	State Co-ordinator	8034758672
2	Hon. Juliana Bitrus	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8066929339
3	Hon. Baba Gana A.A. Mai Ghana	State Secretary	8029126909
4	Hon. Yusuf Kwaribe	Organizing Secretary	8033975724
5	Hon. Comr. Baba Gana Isah	Welfare Secretary	8037980617
6	Hon. Mary Abdulkarim	Treasurer	8039213434
7	Hon. Abubakar Jamus	Youth Leader	8033736092
8	Hon. Lami Alhaji Kaumi	Women Leader	8101169999
9	Hon. Ahmodu Bello	Publicity Secretary	8030643835
10	Hon. Sadiq Abubakar Kida	Political Adviser	8027610622
11	Hon. Barr. Musa Abdullahi M.	State Legal Adviser	8065068908
ADAMAWA STATE CHAPTER			
SN	NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO.
1	Hon. Alh. Bappa Waziri	State Co-ordinator	8036124977
2	Hon. Oladi Beme Zakari	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8060099224
3	Hon. Machiel Zira	State Secretary	9032252588
4	Hon. Delu James	State Treasurer	8036578941
5	Hon. Hassan Ahmadu Maiha	Organizing Secretary	7065787575
6	Hon. Comfort Ibrahim	State Welfare Secretary	8098591918
7	Hon. Abdurrahman Njidda Yebi	Legal Adviser	8055915553
8	Hon. Abubakar Umar Jarengol	Political Adviser	7037174939
9	Hon. Fatima Yawale	State Women Leader	7034914143
10	Hon. Abdul rauf Moddibbo	State Youth Leader	7036198229
11	Hon. Martins Dickson	Publicity Secretary	8032154453
YOBE STATE CHAPTER			
SN	NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO.
1	Hon. Abubakar Sadiq Tagili	State Co-ordinator	8036265061
2	Hon. Musa Yusuf Gadaka	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8026844542
3	Mr. Ahmed Kabir Kolo	State Secretary	8036047365
4	Hon. Dr. Muhi Goje	State Treasurer	8036067345
5	Hon. Dr. Umar Yusufari	State Legal Adviser	7014239425
6	Hon. Fatima Jawi Paga	State women leader	8032789705
7	Hon. Modu Kawu Goniri	Welfare Secretary	8065122220
8	Hon. Garba Isa Adamu	Organizing Secretary	8065703942
9	Hon. Saliyu Bakabe	Publicity Secretary	9033371777
10	Hon. Mk Jakusko	political Adviser	8065030086
11	Hon. Garba Bello	State Youth Leader	8030678828
TARABA STATE CHAPTER			
SN	NAME	POSITION	PHONE NO.
1	Hon. Dr. Boniface Haziell Jawo	State Co-ordinator	8167837347
2	Hon. Alh Admsu Tibanso	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8065344095
3	Hon. Barr. Wakil Sale Muhammed	State Secretary	8039526428
4	Hon. Bulus Gago Didango	State Welfare Secretary	8068845913
5	Hon. Rabiu Ibrahim	State Youth Leader	8031327412
6	Hon. Bamanga Ibrahim Bappa	State Organizing Secretary	8068798774
7	Hon. Abubakar Abdu Liman	State Treasurer	8035264131
8	Hon. Evelyn Elisha Mazadu	State Women Leader	8038506715
9	Hon. Abner Shitu	State Publicity Secretary	9069930698
10	Hon. Ahmadu Zakari	State Legal Adviser	8069098959
11	Hon. Zakari Yau Abwage	State Political Adviser	8144561185

NORTH-CENTRAL STATES EXCO			
NIGER STATE CHAPTER			
S/N	NAME	POSITION	PHONE
1	Hon. Ladidi Bawa Bosso	Co-ordinator	8140011111
2	Hon. Ahmad Bashir Auna	Deputy Co-ordinator	8037020213
3	Hon. Mohammed Alhassan Tswako	Secretary General	7030650289
4	Hon. Ramatu Mohammed Doko	Welfare	8035889133
5	Hajiji Karima Ndatsu	Treasurer	7051971244
6	Hon. Fatima Usman	Women Leader	8033146721
7	Hon. Isah Mohammed Etsuagaie	Political Adviser	7063005285
8	Hon. Nura Garba	Organizing Secretary	8069647443
9	Hon. Mohammed Buhari	Publicity Secretary	8144444431
10	Hon. Mohammed Hussaini Garba	Legal Adviser	8130283349
11	Hon. Hussaini Ndayako	State Youth Leader	8037876247
KOGI STATE			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE	
1 Hon. Umar Yahaya	State Co-ordinator	8065100400	
2 Hon. Alonge Olaniyi	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8133413112	
3 Hon. Nasir Usman Bello	State Secretary	8033442146	
4 Hon. Alenge Comfort	State Treasurer	8131113116	
5 Hon. Usman Mohd Sheriff	State Organizing Secretary	8037441188	
6 Hon. Ben Adaji	State Welfare Secretary	8034385091	
7 Hon. Prophet Ekele Abimaje	State Youth Leader	8032108282	
8 Hon. Princess Joy Oguche	State Women Leader	8065266732	
9 Hon. Adamu J. Idris	State Publicity Secretary	8037041851	
10 Hon. John Isa	Political Adviser	8059557575	
11 Hon. Barr. Anthony Ola	Legal Adviser	8033181876	
NASARAWA STATE EXECUTIVE			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE	
1 Hon. Murtala Sodangi	State Co-ordinator	8039669993	
2 Hon. Makpa Mala	Deputy State Co-ordinator	7051310002	
3 Hon. Ibrahim Bala Mosko	State Secretary	8033239205	
4 Hon. Dodo Usman	State Treasurer	8032526509	
5 Safiya Agwai	State Women Leader	8033343544	
6 Hon. Barr. Abubakar Obere	Legal Adviser	8036234113	
7 Hon. Tambaya	Welfare Secretary	8036152571	
8 Hon. Isah Sani	State Youth Leader	8032513234	
9 Hon. Adamu Obagu	State Political Adviser	8025784898	
10 Hon. Isaac Karu	Organizing Secretary	8035844999	
11 Hon. Shuibu Sani	State Publicity Secretary	7038415335	
BENUE STATE			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE	
1 Hon. Ben I. Garba	State Co-ordinator	9025443535	
2 Hon. Bbab Agida	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8038012126	
3 Hon. Kelvins Dzeremo	State Secretary	8097944446	
4 Hon. Mrs Theresa O. Ikwue	State Treasurer	8033802514	
5 Hon. Barr. Mike Ityoh	State Legal Adviser	8095941972	
6 Hon. Mrs Sarah Kegnhen	Women Leader	8061626500	
7 Hon. Hitler T. Akyaa	Welfare Secretary	7069031397	
8 Hon. Barr. John Ali	Organizing Secretary	7031209496	
9 Hon. Mrs Devaan H. MOM	State Publicity Secretary	8037280024	
10 Hon. Dr. Ochim Obeka L	State Political Adviser	8036136284	
11 Hon. Dr. Ezekiel Dondo	Youth Leader	7031168034	
PLATEAU STATE			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE	
1 Hon. Comr. Jibrin Kamga Ban chir	State Co-ordinator	8037009528	
2 Hon. Prof. David Pam	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8035740448	
3 Hon. Anas Usman Danmaliki	Secretary General	8064600106	
4 Hon. Samuel Maren	Welfare Secretary	8034529172	
5 Hon. Magdalene Dakogol	Treasurer	8033671137	
6 Hon. Theriza D. Azi	Women Leader	8134671830	
7 Hon. Sunday Kaswe	Political Adviser	7036910566	
8 Hon. Kefas Biye	Organizing Secretary	8033119554	
9 Hon. Ado Katyen	Publicity Secretary	8068702386	
10 Hon. Gabriel T. Nkup	Legal Adviser	8033018122	
11 Hon. Ezekiel Dinfa	State Youth Leader	8036185893	
KWARA STATE			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE	
1 Hon. Engr. Uthman Ola Bayero	State Co-ordinator	8065651269	
2 Hon. Abdulgany Olushola Alabi	Deputy State Co-ordinator	8038448693	
3 Hon. Kazeem Bolanta	State Secretary	8161311643	
4 Hon. Abdulgani Erubu	State Welfare Secretary	8062799230	
5 Hon. Abdulgani Omotosho	State Youth Leader	8084636163	
6 Hon. Babatunde Fatoye	State Organizing Secretary	8030774572	
7 Hon. Isiak Toyin Agaka	State Treasurer	8038487723	
8 Hon. Mariam Joy Adeniran	State Women Leader	8032390793	
9 Hon. Teslim Yusuf	State Publicity Secretary	9066795546	
10 Hon. Barr. Alhassan Mohammed	State Legal Adviser	9037000096	
11 Hon. Abdulwahab Adigun Okaka	State Political Adviser	8039702690	
FCT			
NAME	POSITION	PHONE	
1 Hon. Dr. Okey Amaechi	Coordinator	816076 3333	
2 Hon. Andrew Abah	Secretary General	806945 2922	
3 Hon. Jimmy Sunday Jimmy	Youth Leader	813111 0519	
4 Hon. Mercy Nelson	Woman Leader	703986 3626	
5 Hon. Opeyemi Adebeyemi	Treasurer	8068266677	
6 Hon. Abel Dogo Zakwoyi	Political Adviser	8101054476	
7 Hon. Joel Musa	Publicity Secretary	8036264581	

(13)

EASY CROSSWORD >>



ACROSS

- 1. Only
- 5. Dress
- 9. Vats
- 13. Beseech
- 14. A part of the small intestine
- 16. Brother of Jacob
- 17. Unit of land
- 18. Style
- 19. Transmit
- 20. Perhaps
- 22. Prophetesses
- 24. Central area of a church
- 26. Do without
- 27. Ovular
- 30. Womb
- 33. Warblers
- 35. Rates
- 37. Small portable bed
- 38. Darlings
- 41. Twosome
- 42. Whiskers
- 45. Offspring unlike either parent
- 48. Sleeping sickness carrier
- 51. Kayak
- 52. Thin
- 54. Flippant
- 55. Not often
- 59. Closes violently
- 62. Portent
- 63. Adult male singing voice
- 65. Related

DOWN

- 1. Unwanted email
- 2. Killer whale
- 3. Sore throat
- 4. Examine
- 5. Band booking
- 6. Beers
- 7. Regenerate
- 8. Agency
- 9. Mosaic tile
- 10. Applications
- 11. Curse
- 12. Lather
- 15. Excellence
- 21. Wicked
- 23. Always
- 25. Barely managed
- 27. Carve in stone
- 28. Fourpence
- 29. Before, poetically
- 31. Mortician
- 32. Stinky black and white mammal
- 34. A single-reed woodwind
- 36. Kind of bean
- 39. Confederate soldier
- 40. Trim
- 43. Rule of a substitute king
- 44. Immediately

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD (12)

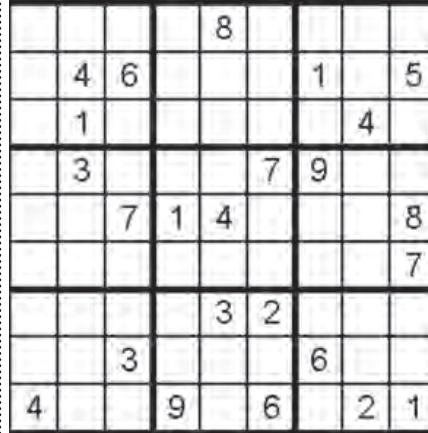


SUDOKU >>

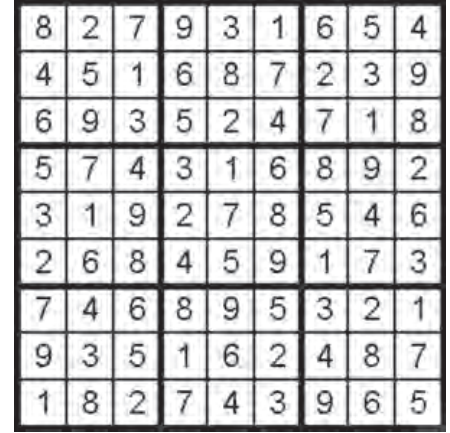
How to play: The number 1 through 9 will appear once only in each row, column, and 3 x 3 zone. There are 9 such zones in each sudoku grid. There is only one correct Solution to each sudoku.

Good luck!

13



Solution to Sudoku 12



SNAPSHOT >>

SWEET JUSTICE: Thieves stopped in a car park after taking tubs of chocolates



A vigilante mum confronted two suspected thieves by standing in front of their getaway car as they revved the engine - forcing the red-faced men to hand over 10 tubs of chocolates. Trainee driving instructor Hayley Burton had a few minutes to spare between lessons and popped to a Tesco Express yesterday in Southampton, Hants. The 41-year-old says she noticed two "really scruffy-looking men" walk into the store and got suspicious when only two minutes later one walked out clutching about 10 tubs of chocolates. Hayley claims she asked Tesco staff if they'd seen what happened only to be told 'if we call the police nothing gets done' and 'there's not much we can do'. The mum-of-three claims she decided to take matters into her own hands by bravely standing in front of their car and holding out her hand out to say 'stop'. Footage shows the red-faced suspected thieves forced to hand over the tubs of chocolates to a Tesco staff member (ABOVE), who patiently collected the tubs.

Photo: Kennedy News and Media

SIGN LANGUAGE >>



It's New Year today so don't let them catch you! They'll certainly do you RIGHT! Photo location: Grand Cayman, Caribbean. Spotted by P. W. Page

Source: telegraph.co.uk

KANO CONCERNED YOUTH FOR DEVELOPMENT



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

**ASIWAJU BOLA AHMED
TINUBU**
APC NATIONAL LEADER

The National Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC), **Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu** has joined league of family, friends and well-wishers in congratulating **Governor Abdullahi Ganduje of Kano State on his 70th birthday.**

Tinubu, in his special congratulatory message contained in a letter he personally signed and addressed to the governor, described Ganduje as a highly de-tribalised Nigerian.

In the letter which was released at the weekend in Lagos by his Media Office, the former Lagos State governor said: "Your Excellency, I heartily congratulate you on your 70th birthday. Attaining 70 is an important milestone. We must all join you in expressing gratitude to Almighty Allah who has made it possible for you to attain this age and still counting.

"You are a statesman and a politician who has come a long way. As a statesman and highly de-

tribalised Nigerian, you see our various people as one. You have continued to work tirelessly for the unity and indivisibility of this country and to build bridges across the various divides. It's a testament to your national outlook that today you are a respectable in-law in Yorubaland.

"As an astute politician with political dexterity, strong administrative acumen and good team spirit, you are successfully governing a highly cosmopolitan and political state like Kano. You are committed to the development of your state of Kano and Nigeria, just as you are devoted to the growth and development of our party, APC. No wonder you are often called upon in matters of building peace and reconciliation in our party.

My prayer is for Allah to continue to grant you the grace of more years, good health and vigour to continue to serve your state and country with the best of your abilities as you do."



**PUBLICITY
SECRETARY**

SMES >>

How border closure policy turned me to an entrepreneur - Alifa

From Ibrahim Musa Giginyu & Pebang Danladi, Kano

What was growing up like for you?

I was born and bred in Kogi state. My parents are teachers and growing up was exciting, I spent my early childhood reading books and playing. I play a lot. Sometimes my parents wondered how I performed well in school. I had my first degree on food science and technology at Kogi state University and currently Pursuing my master's degree at the University of Ibadan.

How did you form the Ajaoko venture?

I was part of the 2016 innovation competition known as Aso Villa Demo Day award where over 4,000 contestants submitted a business proposal across various sectors. We were shortlisted to 30 finalists. In 2017, Growth and Empowerment Project of the federal government awarded a grant to us.

Ajaoko started as an online platform that connects different stakeholders in Food and agricultural related issues. It later metamorphosed into an end to end solution for agriculture in Nigeria. The system provide farmers with easy and fast access to farm inputs, technical support, near and profitable market as well as funding to enhance efficiency.

We are working through our agribusiness model with a cluster of farmers in the rice sector thereby helping them gain access to the latest technology in rice farming and processing as well as providing technical support for them.

What inspired you to

Nicholas Alifa is a 26 year old entrepreneur and a fellow of the Borlaug-Adesina Fellowship. He is also the CEO of Ajaoko Agritech Limited, a platform that provides smart solutions to farmers on complex challenges. It also connects farmers with stakeholders in the food and agricultural education sphere. In this interview, Alifa talked about getting over key challenges in the agriculture business, among other issues

become an entrepreneur?

The policy of the federal government on importation of rice in the country is no longer new. According to National Bureau of Statistics, the amount of money spent on importation of food and drink as at 2015-2017 has increased from \$2.1bn to \$4.1bn. It is apparent that, when we produce what we eat and drink in our locality, we have high chances of eating healthy.

Moreover we have little or no idea of the fertilizers and other chemicals applied on such crops, it may be harmful to our body or even the money used in importation will be diversified into other sectors of the economy.

I thought of the benefit attached to it and how it will boost our GDP, this is why I decided to initiate #Ajaokorice, a rice brand produced in the market.

I could recall that, I wanted to study biochemistry in the university but my course was changed to Food Science and Technology. I never knew such course existed as at that time.

During my third year, I realized that there was little or no citation of African indigenous foods in most International food science textbooks. It became a big concern to me that African indigenous food products couldn't compete with others on a global scale.

Over time that concern



■ Nicholas Alifa

translated into passion that led me to start up Afrifood Initiative to promote the African indigenous food products, through awareness and grass-root mobilization for youth involvement in value addition.

You are a fellow of the Borlaug-Adesina Fellowship. Can you tell us more about the programme?

I was selected among the top 10 youths from Africa into the prestigious Borlaug-Adesina Fellowship by the World Hunger Foundation

during the World Food Prize event in the United State. The Foundation was founded by the president of the African Development Bank, and 2017 winner of the World Food Prize, Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina. He saw the passion in us to fight hunger in our various countries.

However, the aim of inaugurating us into the foundation is to proffer lasting solutions hence bridging the gaps between farmers with stakeholder to alleviate hunger and wastage of food

produce especially in Africa.

How has technology helped in improving farmers' performance?

In the course of running this project, I discovered that one of the major challenges in the Nigerian Food System is as a result of the gap between the major players' that is, farmers and consumers as well as the value chain. The model focuses on producer networking instead of the conventional product buying from the market. We collect the produce from the farmers, connect to the buyers and deliver at ease to the customer. In that way, we are able to monitor the farmers' performance and help them to improve yield and maximize profit.

Through our agribusiness cluster, we have been able to provide inputs, technical services, funds and an accessible market to our network of farmers. This has improved their yield by up to 45% and profit by 37% over the past four years.

How has it been competing with other brands in the industry?

Like every other solution, we have a unique market segment, value proportion, and business model. For example, our solution is value chain specific, and as we grow, we move into more value chains. Competitions are constant and God is helping us scale through.

Where do you see yourself and Ajaoko in few years?

I see Ajaoko becoming one of the top household names in the food and agriculture business in Nigeria. Likewise I see myself becoming a globally recognized authority in Agribusiness, Especially from the African Perspective.

Expert urges CBN on more loans to promote SMEs

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

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

According to him, no nation can achieve meaningful and sustainable development without creating an enabling environment for SMEs to thrive as catalysts of economic growth.

"The cost of borrowing for SMEs and others in the productive sector has been very high as banks do not have sufficient funds to give to

investors.

"The CBN needs to create more attractive loans for SMEs and the productive sector to contribute immensely to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)," he said.

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

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

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

Women rush used warm clothes in Kaduna market

As the harmattan weather bites harder, some women on Tuesday at the Kasuwan Barci market, Kaduna were buying warm second hand clothing for themselves and their families.

The women said they preferred to buy second hand sweaters and other wears due to their durability and affordability.

Malama Aisha Aliyu, a housewife said she came all the way from Hayin Dan-Bushiya to buy sweaters for her children to protect them from the cold weather. She said that the prices of the clothes were fair as there were not much difference from that of last year. Mrs Yammade

Alpha, a resident of Jaji said that she came to the market to buy warm clothes for herself and her husband.

"As you can see, the market is full with people who are buying warm clothes, caps and even stockings due to the cold weather," she said.

Another consumer, Fatima Idris said she normally bought children sweaters, socks and caps at wholesale prices and resell at home. Meanwhile, some second hand clothes dealers in the market expressed happiness over the high patronage.

Mallam Abubakar Iliyasu said the market was moving well

even with the current economic situation of the country due to its affordability.

"With the recent closure of borders by the Federal Government, it is hard to get the goods but when it gets to the market, people rush it.

"An adult jacket ranges from N1,000 to N1,500 and we sell about 500 pieces per day which is equivalent to N500,000 because we sell in both wholesale and retail," he said. Another dealer, Yasir Abubakar said he sold second hand children clothes at the rate of N300 to N500 each, adding that he sold at least 50 pieces every day. (NAN)

500 restaurants closed in Lebanon amid economic slowdown

Tony Ramy, Head of Lebanon's Syndicate of Restaurant Owners, announced on Tuesday that 500 restaurant were closed in the country in 2019 due to the economic deterioration.

"What is even more serious is that 2020 could witness more closures due to the economic deterioration," Ramy said.

Lebanon has been witnessing instability over the past two months due to nationwide

protests against the ruling class.

Pierre Ashkar, President of the Syndicate of Hotel Owners in Lebanon, earlier said that most of the hotels in Lebanon partially closed their floors to save costs. (Xinhua/NAN)

BRAND EQUITY

... telling brands' stories

Winners emerge in Keystone Bank's 'Growbiz Account Save and Win' Promo

From Sunday Michael Ogwu, Lagos

Keystone Bank Limited has rewarded 34 winners in its 'Growbiz Account Save and Win' promo with cash and consolation prizes in different parts of the country.

The winners, who were selected through a computerised and random process, were picked from the bank's branches across the six geo-political zones, with members of National and Lagos Lottery Regulatory Commission in Nigeria in attendance, to ensure transparency and accountability.

The lender had on August 5, 2019 launched the promo as part of its efforts aimed at expressing appreciation to its loyal customers whilst engendering a good savings culture in the country.

The promo which was open to both new and existing customers of the bank and scheduled to run till November 30, 2019 requires customers to grow their Keystone Growbiz Account balance by N50, 000 and maintain it for 90 days to qualify for the raffle draw.

In all, 9 customers won N100, 000 each, another 9 customers went home with N50, 000 each, while other consolation prizes of refrigerators, generators, standing fans and microwave ovens were given to other winners.

Speaking at the event, Helen Nwelle, Head, MSME & Value Chain Management of Keystone Bank Limited said: "MSMEs are significant contributors to the nation's economy, hence they consistently require intermittent support to scale up their business, thrive and also continue to create jobs which would impact the nation's GDP."

WASCO sensitises media on safety of Ajinomoto

From Risikat Ramoni, Lagos

In its renewed awareness drive, West African Seasoning Company Limited (WASCO), makers of AJI-NO-MOTO food seasoning product, has continued to use various platforms including engagement with key stakeholders in the medical profession, food science and technology, women groups, traditional rulers among others, to raise awareness about the safety of the Japanese Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) food seasoning.

According to the company, based on its safety, AJI-NO-MOTO which has been in existence for over 100 years is consumed in over 130 countries by enhancing taste and increasing deliciousness of food.

Speaking at the 10th Annual Symposium/Award Ceremony of the Health Writers Association of Nigeria (HEWAN) held in Lagos recently, WASCO's Head of Marketing, Mr. Isah Hassan Shallahwa, in his presentation said, "The benefits of the seasoning include enhancing and promoting the deliciousness of our meals; it is economical; it reduces salt intake and it is rich in glutamate one of the free amino acids. Almost all seasoning contains MSG." He added that AJI-NO-MOTO is simply made from sugarcane through the natural process of fermentation.

Finchglow Travels urges partners, stakeholders to embrace change

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

Finchglow Travels at the weekend held its 4th trade partners' forum where it stressed the need to embrace change and technologies to serve members of the travelling public. "The key subject matter in the travel industry right now is 'change', with travelers leading a big push to move away from the norm, embracing new technologies and new types of travel."

"The ability to adapt, deliver excellent services and remain open to new technologies is crucial to being the best," said the Group Chief Operating Officer, Finchglow Group (GCOO), Mr. Ezekiel Ikotun. With 'Global Mindset' as theme, the forum was organized to help trade partners improve their processes, familiarize themselves with incoming technologies

and new information in the travel industry ahead of 2020. Representatives from Virgin Atlantic, Lufthansa Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Amadeus and Finchglow Holidays were in attendance.

The GCOO noted that figures released by the World Maritime News (2019) revealed that one of the biggest growing niche markets is the cruise business, which had over 28.5 million passengers in 2018, with a year-on-year growth of 9%.

He added that, according to Deloitte's 2019 Travel and Hospitality Outlook, from 2009 to 2018, the number of open positions in the leisure, hospitality and travel sector grew tremendously, from 353,000 to 1,139,000, which harped on the need to diversify. He said: "The essence of this forum is to birth newness and action in our businesses. We believe in collective

growth and that is why we have remained committed to this forum."

Having been in the industry for over 13 years, we have experienced the best and the worst, hence we have decided as an organisation to change the narrative by consciously working with others and adding value to the industry in order to drive sustainability."

To celebrate the event, Finchglow Travels rewarded its top 10 trade partners with tickets to Turkey, courtesy of Turkish Airlines. While presenting the recognition awards to the company's top 10 trade partners, the Managing Director Finchglow Travels, who is also president of the National Association of Nigerian Travel Agencies (NANTA), Mr. Bankole Bernard, urged them to continue to deliver quality and excellence in their businesses.



■ From left: Mrs. Comfort Alli Babalola, President/ Project Manager, Street Child Care and Welfare Initiative; Mr. Ore Bajomo, Investor Relations & Corporate Planning Manager, LEKOIL; Ms. Christabel Bomi-Dore, Co-founder and Trustee, the Gamesville Foundation; Ms. Chidinma Obi, Co-founder and Trustee, Gamesville Foundation and Mr. Segun Odukoya, Senior Project Engineer, LEKOIL during Gamesville Foundation's Street Child Care and Welfare Initiative fundraising in Lagos, recently.

Onu challenges PRODA on economic diversification

By Zakariyya Adaramola

The Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, has challenged Project Development Institute (PRODA) in Enugu, Enugu State, to assist in diversifying Nigeria's economy through intensive research outputs.

Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu made the call when he commissioned the induction furnace and school pencil projects at the institute recently.

Dr Onu said: "I want PRODA to be a center of excellence in many areas and contribute its quota to the economic diversification drive of the Federal Government."

He expressed satisfaction with the progress made by PRODA on induction furnace, adding that it would be useful in production of non-ferrous aluminum and stainless steel which are of multiple benefits to the Industrial sector.

The minister also commended the Institute for the progress made in graphite which he described as a new material that can be used in many industries, including the petroleum sector.

On the commercialization of research findings, Dr. Onu said a committee had already been set up on it, adding that research institutes cannot carry out research and commercialize same.

The private sector, he added, would be

encouraged to commercialize research endeavors and turn them into products and services.

Dr. Onu further said the yearly Science and Technology EXPO was instituted to bring together researchers, innovators and investors for the purpose of commercialization. The minister said he was satisfied with the progress in the number of patents in the country, adding that from mere 6 in 2015, the number has now jumped to 57 today.

In his speech, the Director General of PRODA, Dr. Charles Agulana praised the minister for heralding innovative and impactful research and development to the institutes and the Ministry in general.

EBO celebrates one year anniversary

From Risikat Ramoni, Lagos

The European Business Organization (EBO), Nigeria has gathered leaders in the government and private sectors at an end of year event held at the Alliance Francaise/Mike Adenuga Centre in Ikoyi, Lagos.

EBO Nigeria was launched on October 4, 2018 at the annual European Union- Nigeria Business forum to actively promote trade, investments and exchanges between the European and Nigerian business, advocating European quality standards, best practices and corporate social responsibility.

It is a member of the EBO worldwide

network and has a growing network that connects European business associations and chambers of commerce from more than 35 countries globally.

Speaking at the event, the Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria & ECOWAS, Ambassador Ketil Karlsen in his opening remarks said: "The EBO provides an opportunity to speak with one voice on issues that are of interest to all of us and Nigeria. We stand as a partner with an integrated approach of promoting mutual opportunity between Nigeria and Europe. European businesses in Nigeria must support Nigeria led visions & interests and we have a Joint interest in making Nigeria's economy thrive more, a joint

interest in providing more opportunities for the youth as well as promote trade and investment."

In encouraging more European companies in Nigeria to join the EBO and also providing key highlights of what the organization plans to achieve in Nigeria, the President of EBO Nigeria, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem in her speech said: "With the Nigerian economy evolving, the political space, business opportunities and challenges continue to transform as new policies and measures emerge. 2020 will be the year of action for the EBO. We discussed intensively with our member companies and stakeholders to filter the pain points."



YOBE STATE MINISTRY OF WORKS

Season's Greetings

To A Determined Democrat!



HIS EXCELLENCY
Hon. Mai Mala Buni
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR YOBE STATE

On behalf of myself and entire Staff of Yobe Ministry of Works, I heartily rejoice and extend our best wishes to His Excellency the Executive Governor of Yobe State Hon Mai Mala Buni (Chiroman Gujba), His Excellency the deputy Governor Hon. Idi Barde Gubana (Wazirin Fune), Hon Speaker of Yobe State House of Assembly Rt Hon Ahmed Lawan Mirwa, Secretary to the State Government Alh. Baba Mallam Wali Mni.

Your Excellency, we remain ever committed to support your administration's objectives of continuity and consolidation, as laid down in your laudable projects towards improving

the lives and wellbeing of the good people of our State.

We immensely appreciate His Excellency's recognition and honor to two worthy sons of Yobe, His Excellency the President of the Senate, Senator Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Lawan and Hon Minister of State for works and Housing, Engr Abubakar D. Aliyu, FNSE.

While wishing you a prosperous new year, we seek for Allah's guidance and support to His Excellency in piloting the affairs of our dear State.



HON ENGR UMARU WAKILI
Hon Commissioner Ministry of Works, Yobe State

**YOBE STATE
MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORT
AND ENERGY**



**TO A WORTHY
ACHIEVER!**

HIS EXCELLENCY

Hon. Mai Mala Buni
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR YOBE STATE

Hon **Abdullahi Usman Kukuwa**, the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Transport and Energy, on behalf of myself and entire staff, felicitates with **His Excellency Hon Mai Mala Buni (Chiroman Gujba) the Executive Governor of Yobe State, His Excellency the deputy Governor Hon. Idi Barde Gubana (Wazirin Fune), Hon Speaker of Yobe State House of Assembly Rt Hon Ahmed Lawan Mirwa, Secretary to the State Government Alh. Baba Mallam Wali Mni**, on the occasion of New Year celebration.

As we mark another year of progress in the history of our State especially on the many developmental projects our Governor initiated in the last few months.

We assure His Excellency of our determination to work in line with the good policies and programmes of your administration.

We also commend His Excellency for awarding outstanding performance honor to the two illustrious sons of Yobe; His Excellency the President of the Senate, Senator Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Lawan and the Hon Minister of State for Works and Housing, Engr Abubakar D. Aliyu, FNSE.

SIGNED:

HON ABDULLAHI USMAN KUKUWA
COMMISSIONER MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
AND ENERGY YOBE STATE





ENVIRONMENT

Africa to tackle illegal rosewood trade with harmonised policy

By Chidimma C. Okeke

Rosewood is noted to be the most lucrative illegal operation in wild fauna and flora especially across the West African region.

The high demand from China has led to illegal logging across the continent thereby increasing the exploitation and exportation of rosewood.

It is no news that the continent is losing huge sums of money due to unsustainable means of harvesting its natural resources as well as through illegal trading which in turn have devastating effects on the environment.

While these resources are dwindling with some going into extinction, the Africa Union (AU) has continuously expressed concern that if the trends of unsustainable exploitation of the resources are not put to a halt, the continent may face more severe implications in the near future.

The AU is bringing governments and other relevant stakeholders together to see the need to preserve and conserve their resources; both plant and animals.

Recently, at a national dialogue on Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Rosewood in Conakry, Guinea, participants observed that the West African region is the worst hit on illegal rosewood trade with Nigeria, Ghana and Gambia being the highest countries with 85 per cent exportation. Such illegal exploitation leaves in its trail massive environmental degradation.

However, Nigeria and Guinea are currently banned from exporting rosewood by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) due to the excessive illegal export of the wood from the countries.

The dialogue on illegal exploitation and trade in rosewood, which was organised by the AU in partnership with Forest Trend and the Guinea government, sought to put an end to the trend and the need to develop harmonised policies for the continent to tackle the unlawful business.

Huge loss of revenue to Africa

The Senior Policy Officer at the African Union, Almami Dampha, in his remarks said the economic impact of illicit trading in natural resources is put at \$120 billion per annum, which is 5% of Africa's GDP.

He said Africa loses annually an estimated \$17 billion to illegal logging activities, 24 million jobs, which is about 6 per cent of overall employment in Africa and tax revenue of \$3.6 billion.

Also, \$13 billion is lost in illicit trade in the forestry sector, \$7 billion to \$23



■ Rosewood cut down for exportation in Guinea Bissau

billion on illicit trading in wildlife globally and cost the African tourist industry \$25 million annually.

Risk of rosewood extinction

The Guinea Minister of Environment and Forest, represented by his adviser, Colonel Aboubacar Oulare, said the exploitation of rosewood was a big concern and "our environment ministry has since 1984 noticed the rise of many people involved in the exploitation of rosewood as the only means of making money."

He said: "It was in 1980 that the Asian market was opened to us and we had participated in building the market, but if necessary measures are not taken we risk the disappearance of rosewood."

"We are assisting climate change factors with our activities of putting pressure on the resources."

A threat to economic right

According to the AU Policy officer, Dampha, increasing level of illegal exploitation and trade in Africa's natural resources over the last decades have contributed to slow economic development and depriving Africans the basic fundamental human, social and economic rights to live decent and peaceful lives.

Nowhere is corruption more pervasive, transcontinental, systemic, ruthless and done on an industrial scale than in the natural resources sector including our forests, fisheries and wildlife, he said.

"Illegal trade is having a serious impact on the livelihood of the people. We cannot

continue to allow the trend to continue; cutting a tree that has taken 70 years to grow and getting \$100 for it is not value oriented as the environment is affected," Dampha said.

Daily Trust's check shows that illegal logging of rosewood in the continent was at its peak in 2014. Even though it's now declining "efforts need to be sustained in order for it not to go up because the Chinese are still on ground," the AU officer emphasized.

Africa's most prized resources are its people

"What we have are our people and resources. We need them to develop. We have a lot of resources but we are mismanaging them," lamented Dampha.

"That is why we are losing our youths who are trying to go to Europe. People are leaving Africa because of poverty, lack of jobs but we have what it take to address those problem but we are mismanaging them."

"We cannot continue to allow the external powers to come and be taking our resources and be giving us peanuts; we must address that by managing our resources, everyone has a role to play and it is not just the government."

Key challenges

Joseph Ranto Musa, Executive Director of National Parks Authority of Sierra Leone laid bare the challenge in his country. "We are losing a lot of money on illegal trade," he said.

The country which was covered with natural resources now has less than five per cent of the resources, in the past few months, leading to spike in temperature.

He said "the weather is so hot that people cannot sleep. This is due to climate change."

Sierra Leone placed a ban on exportation of rosewood in 2014 which is being enforced by the military and the police but was later lifted due to protest.

However, it was noted that some

indicative challenges that face the African continent in the fight against illegal logging include absence or weak regulation, poor financial resources, porous borders, inadequate and unarmed guards.

Way forward is in a united voice

The Guinean Director of Forestry, Colonel Layaly Camara has succinct words of advice to governments in Africa.

He said as in music symphony, African leaders and governments must develop the same policy and implementation plan to avoid illegal loggers beating the system through a loophole in member countries.

"We must not build a structure that will cause confusion; you achieve result of sustainable management of resources by harmonising at the regional level by implementing the same policies."

To emphasize the dire consequence of poaching and illegal logging, he said once a census of elephant was taken in Guinea, and the result was 214. Another one conducted revealed only 14, he lamented.

What experts said

Leaders, governments, civil societies and communities have important role to play to ensure there is harmonised legal framework to regulate logging and other environment related challenges in Africa.

Participants at the workshop called for the establishment of National Forestry Fund by governments to help finance the forestry sector and help to take national inventory of forest for data development.

"There is need to review the issue of licensing. Key in the review is to outlaw syndication of a license which sees one licensee transferring same to third parties," they said.

While noting that community ownership should be promoted in the management of forest resources, they said once the community is involved, they would protect the resources as their own.

Other recommendations include, the leaders should set good examples and have defaulters face justice.

Nowhere is corruption more pervasive, transcontinental, systemic, ruthless and done on an industrial scale than in the natural resources sector including our forests, fisheries and wildlife, he said

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I formerly known as NAOMI KUNE MOTOMBONI now wish to be known and addressed as NAOMI GIDEON KAMAKAM. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

JIBRIN: I, formerly known as AYUBA IBN IBRAHIM now wish to be known and addressed as IBN JIBRIN IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I formerly known as FATIMA MANNIR now wish to be known and addressed as FATIMA MARWAN YUSUF. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

MAIUMAR: I, formerly known and addressed as YAKUBU UMAR now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU MAIUMAR. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

BINTA: I Formerly known as BINTU BULAMA, now wish to be known and addressed as BINTA ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ABDULKARIM: I, formerly known as ABDULKARIM RABIU MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULKARIM MOHAMMED. All former documents remain valid. NIMC and general public to take note.

I formerly known as ISA BABA now wish to be known and addressed as ISAH M. BABA dob22/1/1996 not 9/12/1991. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

FELICIA: I, formerly known as ADETUNJI ABIMBOLA FELICIA now wish to be known and addressed as JOHNSON ABIMBOLA FELICIA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I formerly known as SADIKU ABDULLAHI History now wish to be known and addressed as SADIKU ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

GONI: I Formerly known as GONI BUKAR KAWU, now wish to be known and addressed as GONI BUKAR. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

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

MUHAMMED: I, formerly known as MUHAMMADU UMARU/MUHAMMAD MUSTAPHA UMAR, now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMED UMAR. All former documents remain valid. NIMC, FIRST BANK and general public to take note.

I formerly known as YUSUFA ABUBAKAR ISUBU and YUSUFA ABUBAKAR now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF ABUBAKAR HASSAN. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

DANIEL: I, formerly known as MAINA DANIEL MICHEAL now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL MICHEAL. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I formerly known and addressed as SADI MUSA. Now wish to be known and addressed as HABIBU ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and general public should please take note.

Before then I used to be called ABUBAKAR ADAMU AND ABBA YARO Now wish to be known and addressed as ABBA A. ADAMU with my date of birth DOB.01/01/1980 all former documents remain valid general public and authority concern should take note.

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

TAKIYU: I, formerly known as TAKIYU LAWAN MUHAMMAD/TAKIYU LAWAN MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as TAKIYU MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. GTB, UBA Banks, NIMC and general public to take note.

I formerly known as DAUDA ENOCH DANDIJA now wish to be known and addressed as DAUDA ENOCH. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

MRS NASIRU: I, formerly known as UMAR ZAINAB now wish to be known and addressed as MRS NASIRU FAITH. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MUHAMMED: I Formerly known and addressed as ABDUSALAM NURADEEN. Now Wish to be known and addressed as NURADEEN MUHAMMED. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

HAMID: I Formerly known as AHMED ABDURRAHMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as HAMID ABDURRAHMAN. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

YA-SHUWA: I Formerly known as YA-SHUWA DAUDA, now wish to be known and addressed as YA-SHUWA KANGO. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ALIYU: I formerly known as ONUMOKO SALIHU now wish to be known and addressed as SALIHU ALIYU. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as GABDO UMAR MALAM now wish to be known and addressed as GADO UMAR M. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

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

ABDULWAHAB: I Formerly known and addressed as NAMA KALLA. Now Wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD ABDULWAHAB, With new date of birth 5/10/1994. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

ABBA: I Formerly known as MUSTAPHA MUHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as ABBA MUSA BUKAR. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ALI: I Formerly known as TAMARBE MUSTAPHA, now wish to be known and addressed as ALI MUSTAPHA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

NUHU: I Formerly known as NUHU MUHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as NUHU MUHAMMED IMAM. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

OJOGWU: I, formerly known as OSAKA CHINELO ONYEKACHUKWU, now wish to be known and addressed as OJOGWU CHINELO ONYEKACHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

USSA: I was formerly known as CHRISTOPHER DIO. now I wish to be known and addressed as TENYANG USSA. All former documents remain valid and general public should please take note.

JIRGA: I Formerly known and addressed as SHEHU MUH'D. Now Wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD JIRGA SHEHU. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

SOLOMON: I, formerly known as SOLOMON LAUDEN MAILABARI now wish to be known and addressed as SOLOMON LAUDEN TIMOTHY. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

ADEWALE: I, formerly known as TAIWO TITLOPE SARAH, now wish to be known and addressed as ADEWALE TITLOPE SARAH. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

BINTU: I Formerly known as BINTU IBRAHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as YA BINTU ALH IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

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

I Formerly known as UBA MAIGARI . now I wish to be known and addressed as KAMILU .U. MAIGARI. All former documents remain valid and general public should please take note.

KUDU: I Formerly known and addressed as ABUBAKAR SARKI KUDU. Now Wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR S. KUDU. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

AISHATU: I formerly known as AISHATU KALLA MAINA, now wish to be known and addressed as AISHATU ALHAJI KALLA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ELIJAH: I, formerly known as ELIJAH ADEKUNLE OLOGE with date of birth 26/11/1996, now wish to be known and addressed as ELIJAH DAVID OLOGE with date of birth 27/11/1997. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

AISA: I Formerly known as AISA AWA HASSAN, now wish to be known and addressed as AISA HASSAN. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

JEREMIAH: I, formerly known as MISS AKINDIPE FEYISAYO MARY, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS JEREMIAH FEYISAYO MERCY. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

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

GODWIN: I Formerly known and addressed as SAMSON SUNDAY EIGEGE. Now Wish to be known and addressed as GODWIN SAMSON EIGEGE. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

ZAINAB: I formerly known as SHUGABA M. IDI, now wish to be known and addressed as ZAINAB IDI. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS NDAMAN MOHAMMED NDAMAN NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MOHAMMED KOLO AND MY REAL D O B IS 05 - 03 - 1994 NOT 01 - 01 - 1990 ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

JAFAR: I formerly known as JAFAR IBRAHIM IDRIS, now wish to be known and addressed as JAFAR BAKURA ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

OKOROAFOR: I, formerly known as MISS OKORONKWO LOVELINE N., now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OKOROAFOR LOVELINE N.. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SAEED: I Formerly known and addressed as ALIYU HAKEEMAT IZE. Now Wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU SAEED HAKEEMAT IZE. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I formerly known as ADAMU ABDUSSALAM now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU MUHAMMAD ABDUSSALAM. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

KHADIJA: I Formerly known as KHADIJA ZANNA KASHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as KHADIJA ZANNA MUSTAPHA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

YUSUF: I formerly known as SANI YUSUF now wish to be known and addressed as SANI YUSUF ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid all banks and general public should take note.

UMORU: I Formerly known as UMORU M DAWA, now wish to be known and addressed as UMORU MAIDAWA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

Bank Details

Pay into any of our Accounts: Account Name: MEDIA TRUST LTD, Send your payment mandate to our email addresses

Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc Account No: 0000913253 Sort Code: 221081552

Bank: First Bank Plc Account No: 2002911690 Sort Code: 011084060

Bank: UBA Plc Account No: 1007117397 Sort Code: 033080013

Bank: GTBank Plc Account No: 0024570856 Sort Code: 058083231

Requirement for Change of Name Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit

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DAILY TRUST
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Booking is Simple and Quick
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DAILY TRUST
E-BOOKING CENTRE
In Partnership with
SOFTSMART

For Nearest e-booking centre call:
Tina: 08134008025
Victor: 08130201829

E-booking/E-payment

Make payment into Media Trust Account,
type the material by using our already existing
format below, attached marriage certificate/Court
Affidavits and send with evidence of payment to:
dailytrustadvt@gmail.com

Enquiries:

Tel: **0703 005 4108 (ABUJA)**
08035039527 (SOKOTO)
0703 8283 572 (PORT HARCOURT)
0806 047 3379 (MAIDUGURI)
0806 681 2566 (LAGOS)
0803 594 5475 (KANO)
0806 347 9316 (KADUNA)
0803 374 5735 (JOS)
e-mail: **dailytrustadvt@gmail.com**

Costing:

Change of Name - N3,000
Loss of Documents - N9,450
Registration of Trustees - N15,500
Product & Services (B&W) (Colour)
1 x 1 col N5,000 N8,000
2 x 1 col N9,000 N15,000
2 x 2 col N18,000 N27,000
3 x 2 col N 28,000 N 42,000

CHANGE OF NAME

BULAMA: I Formerly known as **BULAMA BUKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BULAMA BUKAR BEGO**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

MUSTAPHA: I formerly known as **MUSTAPHA IBRAHIM LARIKUL** now wish to be known as **MUSTAPHA IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note

HAUWA: I formerly known as **HAUWA ABDURAHMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **HAUWA ABDURRAHMAN BURUM**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

MUHAMMAD: I formerly known as **AHMAD SUNUSI** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD SUNUSI AHMAD**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

YAKUBU: I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD HAUWA YAKUBU** now wish to be called and addressed as **YAKUBU HAUWA UMAR** all former documents remain valid. Any authority concern and general public should please take note.

ALEXANDER: I formerly known and addressed as **NJOKU IFEANYI SAMMIE** Now wish to be known and addressed as **ALEXANDER IFEANYI SAMMIE**. All former documents remain valid, General public kindly take note.

IBRAHIM: I formally known as **MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM KATIBU**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ZANNA: I formerly known as **ZANNA LAWAN** now wish to be known as **ZANNA LAWAN AGID**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note

AMINA: I formerly known as **AMINA MOHAMMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINA MUHAMMED UMAR**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

LAMIDI: I formerly known as **LAMIDI ISLAMIA BOLAJI** now wish to be known and addressed as **LAMIDI ISLAMIA ARIKE**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ISAH: I, formerly known as **ISAH KABIRU**, now wish to be known and called **ISAH ABDULRAHMAN**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

OGU: I, formerly known and addressed as **OBIECHEFU FAITH CHINONSO**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OGU FAITH CHINONSO**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

YAGANA: I Formerly known as **YAGANA ALHAJI IBRAHIM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YAGANA IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

LYOP: I formerly known as **PRINCESS SARAH LYOP JOHN** now wish to be known as **PRINCESS SARAH ZERE JOHN**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note

KABU: I formerly known as **KABU ALI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALHAJI KABU ALI**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

MUOLOKWU: I formerly known as **EBELE MOLOKWU IJEOMA JENNIFER** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUOLOKWU JENNIFER IJEOMA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

AMINA: I formerly known as **AMINA OLAOYE** now wish to be called as **AMINA NASIRU** all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

RAFIU: I, formerly known and addressed as **RAFIU MUTIULLAH AFOLABI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **RAFIU MUTIU AFOLABI**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

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

TANKO: I formerly known as **GUBIT AYUBA TANKO** now wish to be known and addressed as **TANKO AYUBA VRENGZAK**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note

SAUDE: I formerly known as **SAUDATU YAKUBU** now wish to be known and addressed as **SAUDE YAKUBU**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

AMINA: I formerly known as **AMINA BIBI FAROUK** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINA ADO FAROUK**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

KABIRU: I formerly known as **MUHAMMED INUWA KURAWA** now wish to be called as **KABIRU ABUBAKAR** all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME
ABESIN: I, formerly known and addressed as **ABESIN TAIWO OLADUNNI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ABESIN TAIWO MUJIZAT**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

MUHAMMAD: I Formerly known as the **AWANA MUSTAPHA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD MUSTAPHA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

DUNG: I formerly known as **BULUS DUNG** now wish to be known as **TIMOTHY DUNG SAMUEL**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note

MUSTAPHA: I formerly known as **DANLAMI AHMADU** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSTAPHA BUKAR WULO**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

MUHAMMAD: I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD AHMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD AHMAD EL-NAFATY**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

MUHAMMAD: I formerly known as **ABDULLAHI BALA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUHAMMAD BALA MUHAMMAD** all former documents remain valid. Any authority concern and general public should please take note.

ABASS: I, formerly known and addressed as **ABASS DAMILOLA TOLLOPE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ABASS DAMILOLA RUTH**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

ALI: I formally known as **ALI IBRAHIM** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALI GUBIO**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

EPHRAIM: I formerly known as **EPHRAIM SAMUEL GWONG** now wish to be known as **EPHRAIM DASELE GWONG**. My date of birth is **21-07-1994** not **01-07-1991**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note

MOHAMMED: I formerly known as **DANJUMA ABDULKADIR** now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED DANJUMA ABDULKADIR**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

IMURANA: I formerly known as **MUSTAPHA UMAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **IMURANA UMAR**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

GARBA: I, formerly known as **GARBA AHMED**, now wish to be known and called **GARBA GWADABE AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

FABUNMI: I, formerly known and addressed as **FABUNMI OREOLUWA ABIODUN**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **FABUNMI OREOLUWA GODWIN**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

HAUWA: I formally known as **HAUWA LAWAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **HAUWA LAWAN SHETTIMA**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

JULIUS: I formerly known as **JULIUS DASHE LAGOEME** now wish to be known as **JULIUS DASHE YIGOEL'AGOEME**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note.

INUWA: I formerly known as **HARUNA DAHIRU** now wish to be known and addressed as **INUWA DAHIRU HARUNA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

SADIYA: I formerly known as **SADIYA IDRIS** now wish to be known and addressed as **SADIYA IDRIS ADAMU**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ABBATI: I, formerly known as **MU'AZU ALI**, now wish to be known and called **ABBATI YUSHAU**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

OKWUANALU: I, formerly known and addressed as **OKWUANALU SALVATION NKEMJIKE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OKWUANALU SALVATIONGAIN NKEMJIKA**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

MALLAM: I formally known as **MALLAM KOBURE** now wish to be known and addressed as **MALLAM KOBURE KOREDE**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

MADA: I formerly known as **MADA STEPHEN JASINI** now wish to be known and addressed as **MADA SOLOMON JAURO**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

NURA: I formerly known as **NURA AMINU** now wish to be known and addressed as **NURA AMINU IBRAHIM**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **AUWAL ISAH** now wish to be called and addressed as **AUWAL ISAH TAFIDA**. All former documents remain valid **AUTHORITY CONCERN TO TAKE**

ABUBAKAR: I formerly known as **MAUDE ABUBAKAR LEMU** now wish to be called as **ABUBAKAR MAUDE LEMU** all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

EJEASOR: I, formerly known and addressed as **OLAJUBU CHRISTIANA OLUWATEMITOPE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **EJEASOR CHIOMA CHRISTIANA OLUWATEMITOPE**. All former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

BINTU: I Formerly known as **BINTU ABBA YAATU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BINTU ABBA KINGI**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

LAWAN: I formerly known as **LAWAN MUHAMMAD MADUMAI** now wish to be known and addressed as **LAWAN KARDA MODUMAI**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

RABI: I formerly known as **ESTHER CHARLES KASKUMA** now wish to be known and addressed as **RABI ISAH**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **SANI ADO** now wish to be called and addressed as **SANI ADO GALADANCI**. All former documents remain valid authority concern and general public to note

I formerly known as **HARMONY INTL SCHOOL CATHERINE ANYEBE** all former documents remain valid. Fidelity Bank PLC general public all authority concern should please take note

EZUGBA: I, formerly known and addressed as **EZUGBA CHUKWUEBUKA OSCAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **EZUGBA CHUKWUEBUKA VALENTINE**. That my correct date of birth is 7th of May, 1995 and not 5th of May, 1995. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public and Authorities Concerned should please take note.

AMARJIYA: I Formerly known as **AMARJIYA BULAMA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMARJIYA BUKAR**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

IKENNA: I formerly known as **IKENNA MICHAEL** now wish to be known as **GODWIN IKENNA NDUKWE**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note

SADIQ: I formerly known as **SADDIQU DANLAMI BICHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **SADIQ ZAKARI ABDULLAHI**. All my former documents remain valid. **ZENITH BANK** and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **AMINU A. ADO 5-1-1980** now wish to be called and addressed as **AMINU ADO SULE 5-10-1985**. All former documents remain valid authority concern and general public to note

TAMURAT: I, formerly known as **TAMURAT LUKMAN IDOWU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **TAMURAT LUKMAN**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

AIKHOMOUN: I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS GLORY ABOSEDE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. GLORY ABOSEDE AIKHOMOUN**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Union Bank Plc, To whom it may Concerned and General public should please take note.

MUSA: I formerly known as **MUSA ALIYU**. now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSA RABIU**. All former documents remain valid. **UNITY BANK**. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

LADI: I formerly known as **LADI MUHAMMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **LADI ISA**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note

ABUBAKAR: I formerly known as **ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD DANKUNYA**. All my former documents remain valid. **ZENITH BANK** and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **IBRAHIM SANI** now wish to be called and addressed as **IBRAHIM A SANI**. All former documents remain valid authority concern and general public to note

MISS OKAMADIRI: I formerly known as. Mrs. **MOCHA CHIOMA BENITA BRANSON**. Now wish to know and addressed as. Miss **OKAMADIRI BENITA CHIOMA**. All former document remain valid General public should please take note.

SOLOMON: I, formerly known and addressed as **OLUSEYE MARY TEMITOPE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SOLOMON MARY TEMITOPE**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public and Authorities Concerned should please take note.

MURNA: I formerly known as **MURNA IBRAHIM**, now wish to be known as **MURNA JONATHAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concern and general public to take note.

ABUBAKAR: I formerly known as **ABUBAKAR MOHAMMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR MOHAMMED MULIMA**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note

HADIZA: I formerly known as **HADIZA WADA** now wish to be known and addressed as **HADIZA WADA IBRAHIM**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

HAUWA: I formerly known as **HAUWA AUWALU**, **HAUWA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **CHINDO HAUWA ABDULLAHI**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

AZENABOR: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss **EMUZE PROMISE OLUWAFUNMILAYO**. Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. **AZENABOR PROMISE OLUWAFUNMILAYO**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

OWOADE: I, formerly known and addressed as **OWOADE HARUNA ADEBOWALE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OWOADE HARUNA ADEWALE**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

AYU: I formerly known as **KWAGHTAGHER AONDOAKAA LIVINUS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AYU AONDOAKAA LIVINUS**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concern and general public to take note.

YUNUSA: I formerly known as **YUNUSA ILA** now wish to be known and addressed as **YUNUSA ALHAJI ILA**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

ASABE: I formerly known as **BILKISU TIJJANI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ASABE TIJJANI**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ABDULLAHI: I formerly known as **MUSA SHEHU MURABUS** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULLAHI SHEHU MURABUS**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

OGUNYINKA: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss **ADEYEMI FUNMILAYO BIOLA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. **OGUNYINKA FUNMILAYO BIOLA**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

ADAM: I, formerly known and addressed as **ADAM ALI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAM ALI GAMBO**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

ZAINAB: I formerly known as **PHILOMINA JOHN** now wish to be known as **ZAINAB YAHAYA ITSE**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note

SAYED: I formerly known as **YUSUF AHMED SAYED** now wish to be known and addressed as **HASSAN AHMED SAYED**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

AUWALU: I formerly known as **AUWALU MUHAMMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **AUWALU MUHD BALARABE**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

SALIFU: I, formerly known as **MUHAMMAD SALIFU OMADA**, now wish to be known and called **SALIFU MUHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

BALOGUN: I, formerly known and addressed as **OGUNSOLU KABIRAT BANKE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **BALOGUN KABIRAT BANKE**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

POPOOLA: I, formerly known and addressed as **POPOOLA QUADRI AFOLABI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **POPOOLA DAMILOLA QUADRI**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

Bank Details

Pay into any of our Accounts:
Account Name: MEDIA TRUST LTD,
Send your payment mandate to our email addresses

Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc
Account No: 0000913253
Sort Code: 221081552

Bank: First Bank Plc
Account No: 2002911690
Sort Code: 011084060

Bank: UBA Plc
Account No: 1007117397
Sort Code: 033080013

Bank: GTBank Plc
Account No: 0024570856
Sort Code: 058083231

Requirement for Change of Name
Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit

DAILY TRUST Classifieds made easy

ADEBIYI: I, formerly known and addressed as **ADEBIYI JELILI ADESIJI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADEBIYI JELILI AKANO**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

MUKTAR: Formerly known as **UMARU DANJUMA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUKTAR DOGARA ALI**. Date of Birth: 4th March, 1989. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I formerly known as **IBRAHIM ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known as **IBRAHIM ABDULLAHI UBANDOMA**. All former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

FAVOUR: That I was formerly known called and addressed as **ETIENE DOMINIC BENJAMIN**. Now wish to be known called and addressed as **FAVOUR BENJAMIN**. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

BROWN: I, formerly known as **MOSES ANGELA ANIEBIET**. Now wish to be known as **BROWN ANIETTE LUCKY**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

NONSO: I, formerly known as **CHUKWU HOPE OROMA**. Now wish to be known as **NONSO HOPE OROMA**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

FATOKUN: I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss ABIIBA IBUKUN OLABISI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs FATOKUN IBUKUN OLABISI**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

I formerly known **AS AWWUL FATIMA IBRAHIM** now wish to be known as **FATIMA IBRAHIM DAHIRU** date of birth **02-01-1972**. All former documents remain valid, public to please take note.

I formerly known as **MUSA MUSA ATOSHO** now wish to be known as **MUSA ABDULLAHI BAKO**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CHIDIEBERE: That I was formerly known called and addressed as **MISS. ONUMAJURU CHIAMAKA IMMACULATA**. Now wish to be known called and addressed as **MRS. CHIDIEBERE CHIAMAKA IMMACULATA**. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

UZOMA: I, formerly known as **GOODLUCK OGBONNAYA AKPO**. Now wish to be known as **GOODLUCK UZOMA OGBONNAYA**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

SARATU: I, formerly known as **SARATU YAHAYA** now wish to be known and addressed as **SARATU ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. Zenith bank and general public should please take note

OJO: I, formerly known and addressed as **AKINOLA TAIWO OLUWASEYI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OJO TAIWO OLUWASEYI**. All former documents remain valid. Bank, Authority Concerned and general public should please take note.

Formerly known as **HALIMA ADAMU**, Now wish to be known as **HALIMA IDRIS ADAMU**, **DATE OF BIRTH 2-3-1980**. All former documents remain valid, public to please take note.

OBEONUSAKA: I, formerly known as **NWOGU ATONSEM SUNNY** as in my Bank Account details, **NWOGU SUNNY** as in my **BNV** and **NWOGU SUNDAY** as on my **Ecosas Passport**, school certificates and other vital documents. Now wish to be known as **OBEONUSAKA GREAT OBARATONSEM**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

CHIMBO: I, formerly known as **MRS. IJEOMA CHIKA EGWUEKWE**. Now wish to be known called and addressed as **MRS. IJEOMA CHIKA CHIMBO**. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. EMEH: I, formerly known as **MISS. OBIANUJU NONYELUM**. Now wish to be known as **MRS. EMEH OBIANUJU NONYELUM**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

RILWANU: I, formerly known as **RILWANU M. ZAYYANU** now wish to be known and addressed as **RILWANU MUHAMMAD ZAYYANU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

ADEKUNLE: I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss OJO ELIZABETH ABOSEDE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs ADEKUNLE ELIZABETH ABOSEDE**. All former documents remain valid. Bank, Authority Concerned and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **ISA HARUNA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known as **HARUNA ISA**. All former documents remain valid, public to please take note.

NNAJIOFOR: I, formerly known as **SAMPSON CHIJOKE PHILIP**. Now wish to be known as **SAMPSON CHIJOKE NNAJIOFOR**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

CHIMBO: I, formerly known as **MR. JEREMIAH IKECHUKWU EGWUEKWE**. Now wish to be known called and addressed as **MR. JEREMIAH IKECHUKWU CHIMBO**. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

I wish to confirm that **RICHARD FIBERESIMA INIMGBA** and **RICHARD FIBERESIMA JOY INIMGBA** refers to one and same person. That I now wish to be known, called and addressed as **RICHARD FIBERESIMA JOY INIMGBA**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

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

JOY: I, formerly known and addressed as **JOY ADAMS**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **JOY MUHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

MARYAM: I Formerly known as **MARIAM DANTSOHO KANNA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MARYAM MOHAMMED DANTSOHO**. Date of birth: 3rd January, 1992. All former documents remain valid, public to please take note.

UDO: I, UDEME GORDEN UDO wish to state that my **BNV** details is **UDEME GORDEN UDO**, that I wish to add **'UDO'** to be known as **UDEME GORDEN UDO**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

ARRANGEMENT OF NAME: I, ASUQUO UDOH EDEM, wish to correct that my name was wrongly arranged on my National Identity Card as **UDOH ASUQUO EDEM** instead of **ASUQUO UDOH EDEM**. That the correct arrangement is **ASUQUO UDOH EDEM**. All documents bearing the above names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

MRS. ANDERSON: I, formerly known as **MISS. OGBOLU CHINEZE ESSTELLA**. Now wish to be known as **MRS. ANDERSON CHINEZE ESSTELLA**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

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

OLEKWU: I Formerly known as **Miss ONEHI OLEKWU PATIENCE** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs OLEKWU PATIENCE ENEMONA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known as **MUHAMMADU SANI MAKAMA** now wish to be known as **AUWAL SHARU ISHAK**, all former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

NMA: I, formerly known as **NGESIA MARGARET MORGAN**. Now wish to be known as **MARGARET NMA MORGAN**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

EDEM: I, formerly known as **JOHN, SHALOM ODUKWUKU**. Now wish to be known as **JOHN, SHALOM EDEM**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

MRS. BOMFORD: I, formerly known as **MISS. ALILIEZI OLUCHI PRECIOUS**. Now wish to be known as **MRS. BOMFORD OLUCHI PRECIOUS**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.



UZAMAB UNITY HOUSE HOLDS FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

The General public is hereby notified that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

TRUSTEES

1. BASIRU ABDULRASID
2. KAMSALAM MUHAMMAD
3. YUSUF IBRAHIM
4. MAHMUD ABDULHAMID
5. YAHUZA NURA JABA
6. YAU ARMAYU AMADU
7. HARUNA NASIRU JIBRIN
8. YUSUF YAHAYA
9. LAWAN YAU MAIKUDI
10. BASHIR BAYERO SALE
11. UMAR FALALU MUHAMMAD

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote friendship, peace, unity, love understanding and progress among members.
2. To put an end to child abuse in the community.
3. To improve the overall performance and learning standard of the orphans and widows.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent Off Aguiyi Street, Maitama P.M.B. 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

LEGAL NOTICE IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KANO STATE PROBATE DIVISION KANO STATE.

WHEREAS the person whose names is set out in the first column here under died intestate in the date and at the specified place in the said column, AND WHEREAS the person(s) whose names and address/es is/are set out in the second column hereunder claim relationship to the said deceased and has/have applied to the High Court of Justice Kano State for the grant of LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION of the personal Properties of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION will be granted to the said applicant unless a NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant thereof is filed in the probate Registry of High Court of Justice Kano within TWENTY ONE DAY'S from the date of publication of this Legal Notice.

DECEASED AHMAD GARBA , late of No. 882 Sheka Qtrs. Died on 21-10-2006 at Gamawa Gen. Hosp. Bauchi.	APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT YUSUF AHMAD & ABUBAKAR SADIQ AHMAD , all of No. 882 Sheka Qtrs, Kano. The Proposed Administrators of the Said Deceased.
IBRAHIM SHU'AIBU , late of No. 123 Tukuntawa Qtrs. Died on 18-4-2019 At Kanya Clinic & Hosp. Kano.	ABDULAZZ SHU'AIBU , of 123, Tukuntawa Qtrs, Kano. The Proposed Administrators of the said Deceased.
MOHAMMAD ABDU NANI , late Adamu Dan Kura Street Gandun Albasa Qtrs. Died 26-11-2019 at Home.	ALI ABDUL NANI , of Adam Dan Kura Street Gandun Albasa Qtrs, Kano. The Proposed Administratrix of the said Deceased.

DATED THIS 31TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019

PROBATE REGISTRY HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE KANO STATE.

SGD: JAMILU SHEHU SULEIMAN PROBATE REGISTRAR

REQUIREMENT FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit;

Men: Court Affidavit

RUFAL MUKHTAR DANMAJE FOUNDATION

The General public is hereby notified that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE:

1. RUFAL MUKHTAR DANMAJE
2. MAIMUNAKABIR
3. ISMAIL UMAR
4. HAFIZU MUKHTAR KURAWA

AIMS AND OBJECTS

TO GIVE CHARITY AND ASSIST THE NEEDY
TO BRING MAXIMUM CO-OPERATION AMONG MEMBERS

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent Off Aguiyi Street, Maitama P.M.B. 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SKILL ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED ORGANIZATION HAS APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION ABUJA, UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. ADAH ALEXANDER EZEM
2. SOLOMON CHUKWUKEREM
3. NEEDAM BENSON NWIKPO
4. MENE- AKEKUE BARIYAH
5. ADAH ANDREW FAITH

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. TO CREATE AND INITIATE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THAT WILL ENHANCE HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH REGULAR SENSITIZATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT TRAININGS.
2. TO BUILDING BRIDGES OF RELATIONSHIP, PROMOTE PEACE AND UNITY AND FOSTER COOPERATION THROUGH INTER / INTRA COMMUNAL ENGAGEMENTS.
3. TO ENCOURAGE AND GUARANTEE THE ACQUISITION OF REQUISITE SKILLS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYABLE CERTIFICATION AMONG THE YOUTHS.
4. TO EDUCATE AND CARRY OUT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AMONG THE YOUTHS ON THE NEED TO EMBRACE TECHNICAL SKILLS AND VOCATIONAL TRAININGS WITH THE VIEW TO ENHANCE THEIR HUMAN POTENTIALS AND CAPACITY FOR PROPER CERTIFICATION.
5. TO ENTHRONE COMMITMENT, DEDICATION AND HONESTY TO THE CALL TO DUTY AND PUBLIC SERVICES ETC.

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, AREA 2 GAKI ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: SOLOMON CHUKWUKEREM.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of **original offer of *STATUTORY RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY** in respect of a plot of land No, 1154 with an area approximately 2000.32M2 in cadastral zone E23 of Kyami District, issued to Mustapha Bello Belel by the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

All concerted effort made to trace the said missing document proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest police station or to Mustapha Bello Belel of LQ29,14 Kano Crescent Malamre Legislative Quarters, Jimeta-Yola, GSM No. 08027832787.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, Hon. Abdulwahab Idris of No.05 Legislative Quarters, U/Dosa Kawo, Kaduna wish to inform the general public of the loss of **Original Provisional Offer of Grant, located at plot No.2 port Louis Road, block 'CB' measuring 900m2 on TPO .833A Millennium City layout, Kaduna issued to me on 17/06/2016 by KADGIS.**

The said document got missing on the 03/11/2019 along U/Rimi to the Central Market Kaduna and all effort made to trace same proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest police station or the above mentioned addressed. The general public particularly KADGIS and all authorities concerned to please take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE JIGAWA LIKEMINDS AT TWENTY FIVE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above-named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

NAME OF TRUSTEES

1. Abba Malami- Chairman
2. Adamu Madaki
3. Saifullahi Umar- Secretary

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The aims and objectives of the association are to:

1. Promote unity in diversity among Jigawa state Indigenes.
2. Promote achieving sustainable development of Jigawa State.
3. Promote peaceful co-existence among Jigawa State indigenes.
4. Partner with like minds for promotion of sustainable development of Jigawa State.

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Off Agui Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

NUFUDA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the General Public that the above named Association has applied for the registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Acts of 1990.

TRUSTEES

1. ISHAKU LAWAN
2. BALA SALAMATU MOHAMMED
3. BAKARI SALISU BUBA
4. SHELENG MOHAMMED ISA
5. HAMMANJAM ADAMU JINGI
6. NURUDEEN AHMAD BABA

AIM/OBJECTS

1. Reduce poverty, hunger and child mortality,
2. Improve access to primary education, promote gender equality and maternal health
3. Combat major endemic diseases, preserve the environment,
4. Collaborate and create partnerships and linkages for Sustainable development.

Any objective to this registration should be forwarded to the Director General, Corporate Affairs Commissions Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed Secretary
NURUDEEN AHMAD BABA

HOUSE OF MERCY AND DELIVERANCE MINISTRY (AKA TESTIMONY CITY)

ADDRESS OF THE ORGANISATION: ALONG AND AFTER DEZENY HOTEL (ORONGOMA, LOKOJA, KOGI STATE)

This is to inform the general public that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Abuja for Registration under part 'C' of Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEE:

1. PROPHET DR. GIDEON OJOCHEGBE ISAH---CHAIRMAN
2. HON. SAMUEL OLU AKERELE JP-----SECRETARY
3. ENGR. OLORUNSHI IDOWU JAMES
4. ELDER EBUTE ALEXANDER MUHAMMED
5. ELDER JAMES ODEKINA

Aims and Objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Any objection to this Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.



PHOTO NEWS

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Yakubu Abubakar
Photo Editor

photonews@dailytrust.com



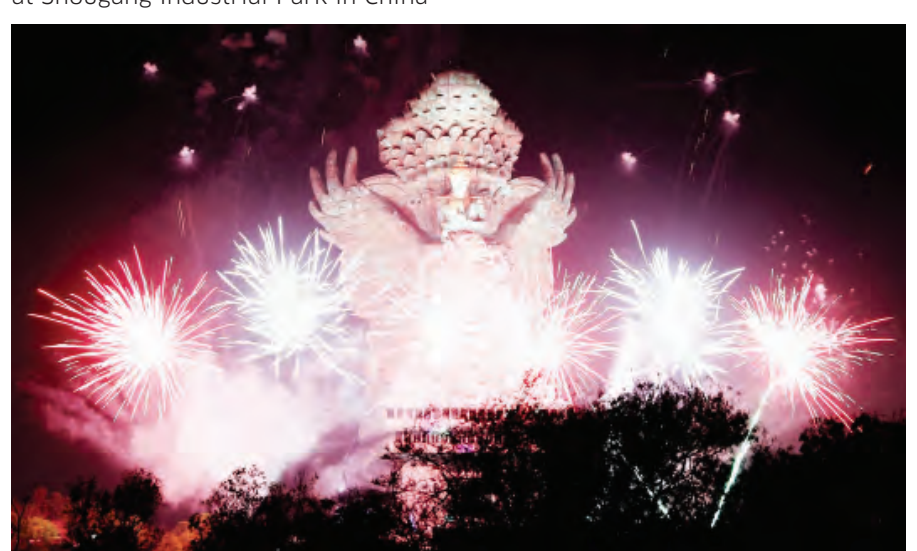
■ South Korea welcomes the new decade Photo: Getty Images AsiaPac



■ People celebrate the new year during an event at Shougang Industrial Park in China Photo: JASON LEE/Reuters



■ People celebrate the arrival of the year 2020 at a New Year's Eve countdown event near the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic headquarters in Beijing Photo: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



■ Fireworks explode after midnight over Garuda Wisnu Kencana cultural park part of New Year celebrations in Bali, Indonesia Photo: Rex



■ Fireworks explode over Sydney Harbour as part of New Year's Eve celebrations Photo: Rex



■ Protesters hold up their hands to symbolize the five demands of the pro-democracy movement as New Year's fireworks light up the sky in Hong Kong Photo: APHong Kong Credit: AP



■ People make last minute withdrawal from an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) in preparation for the New Year celebration in Abuja yesterday Photo: NAN



■ From left: Minister of Police Affairs, Alhaji Abubakar Maigari Dingyadi, Gov. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto state and former minister of Youths Affairs, Inuwa Abdulkadir at the funeral of a state legislator, Isah Harisu in Sokoto Monday



AROUND THE WORLD

IVORY COAST

Street militia leader sentenced to 20 years

Charles Ble Goude, an ally of former Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo, has been sentenced in absentia to 20 years in prison by a court in Abidjan for his role in the civil war that followed the 2010 presidential election, his lawyers said.

Ble Goude headed the notorious Young Patriots street militia during Gbagbo's presidency.

Gbagbo and Ble Goude were acquitted in January by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague

of charges of crimes against humanity during the violence, in which some 3,000 people were killed.

But Ivorian prosecutors this month brought charges against Ble Goude - who has remained in Europe while ICC prosecutors appeal against the acquittals - for rape, torture and other crimes related to his role in the conflict. He denied the charges. Political tensions are rising in Ivory Coast ahead of an October 2020 presidential election.

MEXICO

Row with Bolivia creates N/Year headache for president

A row between Mexico and Bolivia has created a New Year's headache for Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, exposing him to opposition attacks and testing the credibility of his pledge to stay out of other countries' affairs.

The dispute, in which Bolivia has expelled the Mexican ambassador to La Paz, has created an awkward standoff for Lopez Obrador, who has sought to avoid foreign entanglements and appears to have little to

gain from a protracted spat.

"Getting into a fight with a 'small' country doesn't do anything for him; on the contrary, it looks bad," said Roy Campos, head of polling firm Consulta Mitofsky.

Bolivia on Monday gave Mexican ambassador Maria Teresa Mercado 72 hours to leave the country as tensions escalated over Mexico's decision to grant asylum to several people described as criminals by the new interim Bolivian administration.

RUSSIA/POLAND

Row over start of WW2 escalates

A row between Russia and EU countries over the causes of World War Two has escalated, with a top Russian official condemning the US ambassador to Poland.

Parliament Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said a tweet by Ambassador Georgette Mosbacher was "insulting" to Russians and Americans.

On Monday she tweeted: "Dear President Putin, Hitler and Stalin colluded to start WWII." President Vladimir Putin says Poland and its allies are distorting history.

During a marathon news conference on 19 December,

the Russian president said it was "totally unacceptable and inaccurate" to cast equal blame on Nazi leader Adolf Hitler and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin for the war's outbreak.

Mr Putin said he had requested Soviet archive documents in order to write an article on the subject - Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939 - and, in his view, to set the record straight.

He argued that the Western powers and Poland had appeased Hitler's aggression by letting him grab Czechoslovakia in 1938.

AUSTRALIA

Fires: Military to be deployed to help rescue effort

Australian military aircraft and vessels will be deployed to help emergency services in the fire-ravaged states of New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria.

Thousands of people fled to beaches in the south-eastern states on Tuesday as emergency-level fires spread.

In Mallacoota, Victoria, about 4,000 people sought shelter on the coast.

Two more people have been confirmed dead in NSW, bringing the fire-linked death toll to 12.

Authorities say four people

are missing in Victoria and another in NSW.

"We've got literally hundreds, thousands of people up and down the coast, taking refuge on the beaches," said Shane Fitzsimmons, commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Mr Fitzsimmons said it was "the worst fire season we have experienced here in NSW".

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Defence Minister Linda Reynolds have agreed to send military aircraft and vessels at the request of the Victorian government.

IRAQ

US Baghdad embassy attacked by protesters

Protesters angered by recent US air strikes targeting an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia have attacked the American embassy compound in Baghdad.

US troops fired tear gas to disperse a crowd that got into a reception area in the compound, which is in the capital's heavily fortified Green Zone.

A guard post on the street nearby was also set alight.

US President Donald Trump accused Iran of "orchestrating" the attack and said it would be "held fully responsible".

Iran denied this, and condemned the "audacity" of the US in blaming Tehran.

At least 25 fighters died when the US bombed bases associated with the Kataib Hezbollah militia in western Iraq and eastern Syria on Sunday. The US said it was

retaliating for a rocket attack on an Iraqi military base in Kirkuk on Friday that killed an American civilian contractor.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi said the strikes had violated his country's sovereignty, while Kataib Hezbollah leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, warned that its response "would be very tough on the American forces in Iraq".



■ Hashd al-Shaabi (paramilitary forces) fighters set fire on the U.S. Embassy wall to condemn air strikes on their bases, in Baghdad, Iraq

Photo: Reuters/Thaier al-Sudani

ANGOLA

Court orders seizure of Isabel dos Santos' assets

An Angolan court has ordered the seizure of the assets and bank accounts of the billionaire daughter of ex-President José Eduardo dos Santos.

The seizure appears to be part of an anti-corruption drive by the current government in oil-rich Angola.

The administration of

President Joao Lourenço is seeking to recover \$1bn (£760m) it says it is owed by Isabel dos Santos and her associates.

She has repeatedly denied wrongdoing during her father's term in office.

Often described as Africa's richest woman, Ms Dos Santos is estimated by Forbes

magazine to have a fortune of \$2.2bn.

The court ordered the freezing of Ms Dos Santos' Angolan bank accounts and the seizure of her stake in local companies, including telecoms giant Unitel and bank Fomento de Angola (BFA), the state-owned news agency reported.

EGYPT

Arab League warns against deployment of foreign fighters in Libya

The Arab League urged the warring sides in Libya on Tuesday not to do anything that might enable the deployment of foreign fighters in the North African country and worsen its conflict.

The Arab League's council, its top body, met in Cairo after Egypt called for an emergency

meeting on Libya, where eastern-based forces led by military commander Khalifa Haftar are trying to seize the capital Tripoli.

Turkey has said it will seek parliamentary support for sending troops to Libya.

A statement issued by the Arab League's council warned of "the gravity of taking any unilateral

steps ... in a manner that allows foreign military interventions and contributes to the escalation and prolongation of the conflict".

"Regional interventions that help among other things in facilitating the transfer of foreign extremist fighters from other regional conflict zones to Libya" should be prevented, it said.

CHINA

Xi says 'sincerely' hopes for best for Hong Kong

Chinese President Xi Jinping said in comments broadcast on Tuesday that he "sincerely" hopes for the best for Hong Kong and its people, adding the situation there has "been everybody's concern over the past few months".

"Without a harmonious and stable environment, how can there be a home where people can live and work happily?" Xi said in a New Year's Eve speech carried on state television.

A prosperous and stable Hong Kong is the aspiration not only of Hong Kong's people, but also the expectation of people in mainland China, he added.

ISRAEL

Top court hears case on Netanyahu's future

Israel's Supreme Court has convened to hear a petition on whether an indicted member of parliament can form a new government, a key test case for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to see if he can prolong his political career after elections in March.

If the court decides Netanyahu is ineligible, it could precipitate a constitutional crisis in Israel, and exacerbate the already tenuous ties between the Israeli government and judiciary.

The court is not expected to hand down an immediate ruling on Tuesday and may ask for a full panel of the court to convene on the matter. Either way, it was wading into uncharted territory.

NORTH KOREA

Kim calls for 'military countermeasures'

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for active "diplomatic and military countermeasures" to preserve the country's security in a lengthy speech at a key political conference possibly meant to legitimise important changes to his nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

Kim spoke during the ruling Workers' Party meeting, which is expected to continue for the fourth day on Tuesday, according to the Korean Central News Agency. During his seven-hour speech on Monday, Kim issued national goals for rebuilding North Korea's economy and preparing active and "offensive political, diplomatic and military countermeasures".



INSIDE POLITICS

PoliQuote

"The governor (Godwin Obaseki) will enjoy the 'privilege of first refusal' during the forthcoming APC governorship primaries as enjoyed by Comrade Adams Oshiomhole in 2012" - **Alhaji Kabiru Adjoto, the immediate past speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly**

2019: Major political events in Nigeria

→ 50

Ex-Rep upbraids 9th N/Assembly over N37bn renovation budget

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Former member of the House of Representatives, Ladi Adebutu, yesterday lampooned the leadership of the ninth National Assembly over N37billion budgeted for the renovation of the assembly complex.

Adebutu, who represented Remo federal constituency in the eight assembly, said the leadership of National Assembly under Senate President Ahmed Lawan and Speaker Femi Gbajabamila was brilliantly constituted but expressed regret that the legislature had become an "appendage" of President Muhammadu Buhari's

government.

He spoke while responding to questions from journalists in Abeokuta, Ogun State, during the end-of-year-party organized by a faction of the PDP in the state.

Adebutu, who was the gubernatorial aspirant of the PDP in 2019, also branded the current legislature as a department of the ruling APC.

The former legislator who equally described Lawan and Gbajabamila - led National Assembly as a rubber stamp, saying such assembly "ultimately fails and it has started failing."

Adebutu also bemoaned the nation's debt profile, describing it as painful and unbearable.

Also speaking, the factional State Chairman of the party, Sikirulai Ogundele, expressed worry over the forthcoming local government election in the State, stressing that the party has no confidence in the Ogun State Independent Electoral Commission (OGISEC) in conducting a credible, free and fair election.

Ogundele said the PDP might boycott the election, alleging that OGISEC is an extension of the APC-led administration in the State.

He insisted that the party would only participate in the election if it was conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).



■ Senate President
Ahmed Lawan

Buhari, APC laid landmines for 2020 – Secondus

By Saawua Terzungwe

The National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Prince Uche Secondus, says President Muhammadu Buhari and his party, the APC have laid landmines that may explode and ground the country in 2020.

Secondus in a New Year message yesterday through his Special Adviser on Media, Ike Abonyi, said Nigerians should brace up for the "dictatorial regime" in the new year.

Prince Secondus said with the judiciary caged, the legislature ready and willing to rubber stamp whatever comes from the executive, media and the opposition intimidated, Nigerians should await the fang of a dictator wearing the apparel of a democrat.

He said 2020 portends further hard times for Nigerians with the huge loan demands passing through the National Assembly without scrutiny coupled with the accompanying high taxation bills from the executive.

The opposition leader predicted that 2020 would be tough, considering the alleged high level of

corruption already rated by experts to be worse under the present administration as they continue to allegedly look away to reported cases of fraud involving high profile members of the ruling class.

"Added to this is the ineptitude that has engulfed the oil sector and various agencies of government as square pegs are put in round holes at the expense of merits," Secondus said.

Reviewing the activities of the past 12 months, Prince Secondus said 2019 remained the worst year for democracy in Nigeria.

He said the worst form of vandalization was done to democracy and rule of law in the country in the outgoing year and blamed it on the anti-democratic forces allegedly being nurtured by the APC to achieve their one party agenda for the country.

Secondus appealed to all critical stakeholders in the nation's democracy, particularly the media and civil society groups to remain alert to their responsibilities and hold APC administration accountable in 2020 as its curious open visa policy allegedly has dubious political undertone.

2020: We won't let you down, APC assures Nigerians

By Muideen Olaniyi

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) has urged Nigerians to expect more dividends of democracy in the 2020 New Year.

The APC National Publicity Secretary, Malam Lanre Issa-Onilu, who said yesterday that ruling party acknowledged and held dear the trust and faith Nigerians had placed in its government, promised not to let Nigerians down.

Issa-Onilu urged Nigerians to play their part by cooperating with the government to achieve its development plans for shared progress.

The party assured all that the faithful execution of policies and programmes of the current administration would be further intensified in this New

Year.

He said, "With our country's landmark return to the January-December budget cycle - a feat achieved by the APC-led National Assembly and Executive after 16 years of the PDP failure, Nigerians are assured that the ongoing massive infrastructural development covering the rail, road, agriculture, aviation, port, education and health sectors would be given further fillip.

"The President Muhammadu Buhari government is vigorously tackling and solving the social, economic and security challenges our country faces one after the other. Government's successes in plugging revenue leakages, checking violent extremism, oil sector reforms, anti-corruption, economic diversification,

curbing waste, infrastructure development among other achievements are profound testament."

"To our teeming members and supporters, our great party remains a progressive, strong, formidable and popular political unit delivering pro-people policies and repositioning our country through our elected and appointed officials at federal, state and local government levels.

"We urge our members to support and cooperate with the recently-constituted National Reconciliation Committee which is empowered to address grievances of party members and resolve existing conflicts, all with a view to fostering unity and oneness within the party across the country."

Atiku: 2020 is time to work for a better future

By Saawua Terzungwe

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar says the year 2020 is time to work for a better future, adding that government should respect the rule of law and initiate policies that would benefit Nigerians.

Atiku in a statement by his Media Office yesterday said the year heralded a brand new decade and required all to stay together more than ever before to take on, head front, the common enemy of insecurity bedevilling the nation.

The 2019 presidential candidate of the PDP said government must do things differently within the year and make deliberate effort to

improve the material wellbeing of the people by lifting millions of Nigerians out of the extreme poverty belt at a start and to prosperity.

"It is incumbent on government at all levels to pursue policies that will provide decent housing to the mass majority; put food on the table; provide healthcare and education.

In the new year, government should not pretend to be democratic, but rather act according to the fundamentals of a democracy.

"I do not share the sentiment when some people claim that the outgone 2019 was a successful year for Nigerians. Such sentiment is reductionist and does the harm of making us have a false sense of victory."

ANALYSIS >>

2019: Major political events in Nigeria

By Saawua Terzungwe

President Muhammadu Buhari re-elected

President Buhari, the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), was re-elected in the February 23, 2019 polls.

Buhari got a total of 15,191,847 votes, giving him another term of four years. His main challenger and candidate of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Atiku Abubakar scored 11,262,978 votes in the polls which had 71 other candidates on the ballot.

Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu, declared President Buhari winner of the election having scored the highest number of votes.

Yakubu, who was the national returning officer for the presidential election, put the number of valid votes at 29,364,209.

Buhari won a total of 19 states, while Atiku won in 17 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

The states won by Buhari were Ekiti, Osun, Kwara, Nasarawa, Kogi, Gombe, Yobe, Niger, Jigawa, Kaduna, Bauchi, Lagos, Ogun, Kano, Katsina, Borno, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Zamfara.

On the other hand, Atiku won Ondo, Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi, Anambra, Oyo, Adamawa, Edo, Benue, Imo, Plateau, Taraba, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and the FCT.

Atiku and his party, the PDP proceeded to the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal to challenge Buhari's emergence as President for a second term but their suit was struck out for lacking in merit.

The five-member panel of the tribunal held that Atiku and the PDP failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt, allegations of corruption and non-compliance with the Electoral Act against Buhari and the APC.

Atiku and the PDP had alleged that security agencies and agents of the APC committed acts of violence, vote-buying, manipulation of ballot papers, stuffing of ballot boxes, massive thumb-print of ballot papers, deflation and inflation of votes, among others in states such as Borno, Yobe, Niger, Katsina, Bauchi, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Gombe and Kebbi.

But in the lead judgment delivered by the chairman of the tribunal, Justice Mohammed Garba held that the failure of Atiku and the PDP to call among their 62 witnesses those from the 11 focal states, mainly in the North, affected by the allegations contained in paragraph 15 of their petition polling-unit-by-polling-unit as required by law, was detrimental to their case.

"The burden of proof in sections 131 and 136 of the Evidence Act was not discharged on any of the grounds for the petition. The petitioners have

The year 2019 was characterised by some major events that shaped the nation's political landscape. Our correspondent presents a chronicle of some of the events and how they happened.



■ President Muhammadu Buhari



■ Gov. Nyesom Wike



■ Gov. Seriake Dickson

not proved any of the grounds of their petition in Paragraph 15. The petition is liable to be dismissed and is hereby dismissed in its entirety," Justice Garba said.

The PDP and Atiku were not satisfied with the judgement and filed an appeal at the Supreme Court. The apex court equally struck out the appeal and upheld the September 11 judgment of the Justice Garba-led Presidential Election Petitions Tribunal which affirmed President Buhari's victory at the polls.

The seven-man panel of the apex court led by the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Tanko Mohammed said the panel agreed that there was no merit in the appeal filed by Atiku and his party, the PDP.

APC, PDP count losses, gains

The APC went into the March 2019 governorship elections with the full control of Kebbi, Jigawa, Zamfara, Kano, Adamawa, Katsina, Bauchi, Kaduna, Borno, Yobe, Niger, Ogun, Plateau, Lagos, Nasarawa, Oyo and Imo. But the party lost four states of Bauchi, Oyo, Adamawa and Imo to the PDP at the polls.

The PDP on the other hand went into the elections with Gombe, Enugu, Abia, Kwara, Cross River, Delta, Sokoto, Akwa-Ibom, Ebonyi, Benue, Rivers and Taraba states. The party, however, lost Gombe and Kwara to the APC.

In the November 16 governorship election which was held in Bayelsa and Kogi states, the APC cleared the two states. The APC took Nigerians by surprised when it won Bayelsa State, one of the strongholds of the PDP in the country.

However, the governorship elections were not held in some states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in 2019.

For instance, Anambra, Edo, Ekiti, Ondo and Osun states did not participate in the elections

because their governorship elections held at different times (off season).

This was mainly due to court judgments that nullified the election of their governors at different times in the past.

Buhari signs 2020 budget

President Buhari on December 17 signed the 2020 spending plan into law.

The budget tagged "Budget of Sustaining Growth and Job Creation" is Nigeria's biggest budget ever, totalling N10.59 trillion.

Key assumptions and parameters upon which the 2020 budget was based include crude oil production of 2.18 mbpd while the benchmark oil price is \$57.

The budget assumes a deficit of 1.52 percent of the estimated gross domestic product - representing around 2.18 trillion naira - to be financed through foreign and domestic borrowing.

The National Assembly had on December 5 passed and raised the total estimates from the proposed budget from N10.33tn to N10.59tn.

The spending plan includes a value-added tax increase from five percent to 7.5 percent.

A breakdown of the budget figure as approved by the Senate indicates N560.4 billion for statutory transfers, N4.84 trillion for recurrent expenditure, capital expenditure provision of N2.46 trillion and N2.72 trillion for debt servicing.

In the approved budget, defence got the highest vote for recurrent expenditure with N784,589 billion. It also got the highest vote of N116.181 billion for capital expenditure. The education sector got the second highest recurrent expenditure of N490.303 billion as well as N84.728 billion for capital expenditure.

Works and housing sector got the highest capital expenditure vote of N315,563 billion in addition to its N27.983 billion recurrent expenditure.

National Judicial Council N110billion, Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) N80.8billion and Universal Basic Education (UBE) N111.7billion, National Assembly Public Complaints' Commission N4.7billion, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) N40billion, National Human Rights Commission N2.5billion, North East Development Commission N38.49 billion, and the Basic Health Care Fund N44.49billion.

According to the budget document, the GDP growth rate is projected at 2.93 per cent while inflation rate is put at 10.81 per cent. The budget is also based on an exchange rate of N305 per US dollar.

Wike, Dickson fight dirty

Two governor from the South South geo-political zone; Nyesom Wike of Rivers State and his Bayelsa State counterpart, Seriake Dickson, had entangled in supremacy battle over oil wells and fields for their respective states.

Governor Wike had threatened to dethrone the Amayanabo of Kalabari Kingdom in Rivers, an Ijaw speaking tribe in the state for hosting Governor Dickson of Bayelsa State, who was in the state to show solidarity with Ijaw people.

Speaking during a solidarity visit by Kalabari people at the Government House, Port Harcourt, few weeks ago, Wike said, "You can see how people are trying to divide a state. A fellow governor would come from somewhere to create division.

"Dickson professed love for Ijaw people in Rivers state, but was busy working to take the state's oil resources in Soku and Kula.

"Already, we have gone back to Court in relation to Soku oil wells. This is the man who is claiming Kula oil wells and Soku.

"I have gone back to court and we will reclaim the Soku Oil Wells

for Rivers State. This is the same man, you claim, loves you and you roll out drums against protocol."

But Dickson, in turn at a media chat in Yenagoa, accused Wike of playing a pivotal role that led to PDP's defeat in Bayelsa State.

"You will recall that the governor of our neighbouring state, Governor Wike of Rivers State, is used to making careless and very childish remarks from time to time.

"Recently, he went on his usual habit. This is the first time I formally react to Wike's childishness. I have ignored him with pains and redress, all his previous attempts to belittle Bayelsa state, and to intimidate our state and its leadership," he said.

The move by the PDP national leadership to wade into the crisis did not yield any positive result as Wike vowed not to succumb and asked Governor Dickson to resign.

In a statement issued by the special assistant to the governor on electronic media, Simeon Nwakaudu, Wike argued that the PDP lacked powers to resolve the issue of oil wells.

The governor also explained that the Federal High Court had already determined the issue, adding that the party's intervention was no longer profitable in view of the incalculable damage allegedly done by the Bayelsa governor.

"I don't know why they are interceding. They have no power to resolve the issue of Oil Wells. Secondly, the matter has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

"Anybody who is not satisfied should go on Appeal. Are they interceding on behalf of someone who betrayed the party?

"They know that Governor Dickson betrayed and sold out the party. During the 2019 election in Rivers State they know what happened in the state. That Dickson worked with my opponent," Wike said.

BUSINESS

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NIGERIA STOCK EXCHANGE MARKET CAP. ▶12,958TRN (0.87%) ↑ ALL SHARE INDEX ▶26,842.07POINTS (0.87%) ↑ MARKET TURNOVER ▶1.053BN SHARES

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

OIL AND GAS	BANKING	CONSUMER GOODS	INSURANCE	INDUSTRIAL
 262.54 6.71%	 356.84 1.37%	 592.85 -0.28%	 125.82 1.96%	 1,075.60 2.17%

NSE GENERAL INDEX

COMPANY NAME	MARKET(NM)	PRICE	CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
BANKING					
ACCESS BANK PLC.	355,452.26	10.00	2.56	140	47,313,001
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	244,525.86	7.15	0.70	149	37,398,900
ZENITH BANK PLC	583,974.78	18.60	0.54	262	29,786,039
FBN HOLDINGS PLC	220,756.05	6.15	-3.15	95	12,945,955
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	2,137,223.87	105.00	1.90	96	1,036,866
INDUSTRIAL GOODS					
DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	2,419,752.05	142.00	0.35	183	16,782,410
LAFARGE AFRICA PLC.	246,449.27	15.30	9.29	61	13,002,864
OIL AND GAS					
SEPLAT PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	387,078.83	657.80	10.00	29	311,014
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE					
SKYE SHELTER FUND PLC	1,710.00	85.50	-	0	0
UNION HOMES REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT)	10,175.81	40.70	-	0	0
UPDC REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST	11,340.15	4.25	-9.57	1	87,374
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
NIGERIA ENERGY SECTOR FUND	411.91	552.20	-	0	0
VALUEALLIANCE VALUE FUND	3,312.39	103.20	-	0	0
AGRICULTURE					
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	440.00	0.20	-	0	0
OKOMU OIL PALM PLC.	53,037.40	55.60	1.09	12	122,040
PRESOCO PLC	47,500.00	47.50	-	4	3,945
FISHING/HUNTING/TRAPPING					
ELLAH LAKES PLC.	8,500.00	4.25	-	0	0
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	1,500.00	0.50	-	8	261,850
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES					
A.G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	1,456.01	0.55	-	0	0
JOHN HOLT PLC.	217.92	0.56	-	0	0
S C O A NIG. PLC.	1,903.99	2.93	-	0	0
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION OF NIGERIA PLC	40,241.51	0.99	-1.01	41	2,582,985
U A C N PLC.	24,779.15	8.60	0.58	83	7,953,950
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION					
ARIBCO PLC.	521.24	3.51	-	0	0
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	0	0	-	0	0
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC.	26,268.00	19.90	-	15	86,530
INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION					
ROADS NIG. PLC.	165.00	6.60	-	0	0
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT					
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	2,598.40	1.00	-0.99	5	200,000
AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS					
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0	0
BEVERAGES—BREWERS/DISTILLERS					
CHAMPION BREW. PLC.	7,438.02	0.95	-	1	5,000
GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC.	242.22	0.89	-	0	0
GUINNESS NIG PLC	65,821.00	30.05	-	35	107,942
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC.	81,660.69	9.50	-	3	2,000
NIGERIAN BREW. PLC.	471,817.22	59.00	-1.26	57	2,075,360
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	163,200.00	13.60	-1.45	71	1,105,563
FLOUR MILLS NIG. PLC.	80,777.48	19.70	-	24	292,117
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC.	7,850.90	0.99	-	4	69,000
MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	1,340.10	0.36	-	0	0
N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC.	76.26	4.30	-	1	46,285
NASCON ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC	34,310.23	12.95	-	41	298,109
CONSUMER GOODS					
UNION DICON SALT PLC.	3,321.07	12.15	-	0	0
FOOD PRODUCTS—DIVERSIFIED					
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	19,815.03	10.55	2.93	14	498,400
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC.	1,165,125.42	1,469.90	-	14	4,875
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC.	1,680.31	22.10	-	9	2,866
VITAFAM NIG. PLC.	5,503.71	4.40	10.00	64	2,767,933
PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS					
P Z CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC.	22,433.20	5.65	4.63	57	663,926
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	126,390.12	22.00	-0.23	45	2,185,736
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	119,272.08	6.50	2.36	51	5,488,446
FIDELITY BANK PLC	59,398.33	2.05	-0.49	29	8,816,384
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC.	874,106.02	29.70	2.41	109	6,962,819
JAIZ BANK PLC.	18,267.83	0.62	-	24	11,065,469
STERLING BANK PLC.	57,292.93	1.99	-	10	27,348
UNION BANK NIG. PLC.	174,724.52	6.00	-2.44	25	322,119
UNITY BANK PLC.	7,481.18	0.64	-3.03	5	216,591
WEMA BANK PLC.	28,545.10	0.74	5.71	26	3,656,220
INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES					
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	1	4,998
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	4,989.75	0.72	1.39	22	14,237,981
AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC	20,790.00	1.98	10.00	7	594,917
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	3,170.70	0.39	-	0	0
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	22,820.04	2.20	-	0	0
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	6,628.28	0.45	9.76	7	321,000
GOLDFINCH INSURANCE PLC	909.99	0.20	-	0	0
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	1,228.00	0.20	-	0	0
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSURANCE PLC	487.95	0.38	-	0	0
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	1,830.86	0.25	-7.41	4	260,000
LAW UNION AND ROCK INS. PLC.	2,148.17	0.50	-	0	0
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	4,240.00	0.53	-	0	0
MULTIAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC.	2,234.55	0.20	-	3	322,159
NEM INSURANCE PLC.	12,778.82	2.42	-	2	863
NIGER INSURANCE PLC.	1,547.90	0.20	-	4	746,160
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	2,960.40	0.55	7.84	1	100,000
REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC	1,333.75	0.20	-	0	0
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2,502.25	0.20	-	0	0
STACO INSURANCE PLC	4,483.72	0.48	-	0	0
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC.	2,582.21	0.20	-	0	0
SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC.	2,800.00	0.20	-	1	5,000
UNIC DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS PLC.	516.46	0.20	-	0	0
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC.	3,200.00	0.20	-	0	0
VERITAS CAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	2,773.33	0.20	-	1	2,700
WAPIC INSURANCE PLC	4,550.13	0.34	-	19	2,318,671
MICRO-FINANCE BANKS					
NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	2,629.63	1.15	-	0	0
ABBAY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	4,200.00	1.00	-	0	0
ASO SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	7,370.87	0.50	-	0	0
INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	5,796.93	1.39	-	0	0
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	2,265.95	0.20	-	0	0
UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC.	2,949.22	3.02	-	0	0
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	8,000.00	4.00	-4.31	29	958,250
CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	35,291.19	6.00	-	14	469,526
DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	60.00	0.40	-	0	0
FOMB GROUP PLC.	36,635.01	1.85	0.54	49	6,020,623
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC.	1,543.61	0.30	-	3	150,000
STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	430,703.66	41.00	5.13	42	3,875,721
UNITED CAPITAL PLC	14,400.00	2.40	-	20	183,291
HEALTHCARE					
EKOICORP PLC.	2,119.05	4.25	2.41	6	590,840
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERVICES PLC	781.69	0.22	-	0	0
PHARMACEUTICALS					
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	366.17	0.50	-	0	0
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	6,467.72	3.10	-	2	19,500
GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC.	7,294.85	6.10	9.91	35	572,516
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	3,329.70	1.93	-	4	139,986
NEMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	1,177.48	0.62	-	3	7,015
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	556.71	3.62	-	0	0
PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	325.23	1.50	-	0	0
COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS					
COURTEVILLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PLC	816.96	0.23	-4.17	8	2,193,577
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	1,470.89	0.50	-	0	0
COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS					

COMMODITIES PRICE	CWGL PLC	6,413.06	2.54	-	0	
CRUDE OIL (BRENT)						
CRUDE OIL (BRENT)	WTI	\$71.76	-	-	-	
NATURAL GAS						
NATURAL GAS	NATURAL GAS	\$2.61	-	-	-	
COPPER						
COPPER	COPPER	\$2.81	-	-	-	
GOLD						
GOLD	GOLD	\$1,284.1	-	-	-	
SILVER						
SILVER	SILVER	\$14.650	-	-	-	
SUGAR						
SUGAR	SUGAR	\$12.21	-	-	-	
COCOA						
COCOA	COCOA	\$2,314	-	-	-	
LIVE CATTLE						
LIVE CATTLE	LIVE CATTLE	\$114,000	-	-	-	
COTTON						
COTTON	COTTON	\$75.46	-	-	-	
COMMODITIES PRICE						
IT SERVICES						
IT SERVICES	IT SERVICES	1,549.70	0.33	-5.71	9	1,467,357
E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	10,962.00	2.61	-	2	6,966
AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	1,123,311.48	298.90	-	7	35,483
BUILDING MATERIALS						
BERGER PAINTS PLC	BERGER PAINTS PLC	1,956.31	6.75	-	7	38,886
CAP PLC	CAP PLC	16,800.00	24.00	-	14	93,800
CEMENT CO. OF NORTH.NIG. PLC	CEMENT CO. OF NORTH.NIG. PLC	237,897.37	18.10	-	0	0
MEYER PLC.	MEYER PLC.	286.87	0.54	-	0	0
PORTLAND PAINTS & PRODUCTS NIGERIA PLC	PORTLAND PAINTS & PRODUCTS NIGERIA PLC	1,769.32	2.23	-	0	0
PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1,156.20	9.40	-	0	0
AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,256.91	2.09	-	0	0
CUTIX PLC.	CUTIX PLC.	2,342.56	1.33	-8.28	18	510,890
ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS						
BETA GLASS PLC.	BETA GLASS PLC.	26,898.49	53.80	-	5	18,522
GREIF NIGERIA PLC.	GREIF NIGERIA PLC.	388.02	9.10	-	0	0
OIL AND GAS						
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	1,252.54	0.20	-	7	859,000
OANDO PLC	OANDO PLC	49,601.34	3.99	8.42	70	1,426,495
11 PLC	11 PLC	53,332.04	147.90	-	9	8,213
CONOIL PLC	CONOIL PLC	12,838.11	18.50	-	3	222
ETERNA PLC.	ETERNA PLC.	4,694.92	3.60	9.09	11	133,158
FORTE OIL PLC.	FORTE OIL PLC.	23,574.91	18.10	-	16	76,781
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC.	MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC.	4,663.23	15.30	-	4	27,276
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC.	TOTAL NIGERIA PLC.	37,652.97	110.90	-	19	17,268
AUTOMOBILE/AUTO PART RETAILERS						
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	2,623.26	4.45	-	0	0
TRANS-NATIONWIDE EXPRESS PLC.	TRANS-NATIONWIDE EXPRESS PLC.	431.34	0.92	-	3	50,266
HOTELS/LODGING						
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	4,259.15	2.75	-	0	0
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	IKEJA HOTEL PLC	2,328.25	1.12	-	0	0
TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC.	TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC.	7,862.53	3.50	-	0	0
TRANSCORP HOTELS PLC	TRANSCORP HOTELS PLC	37,241.98	4.90	-	0	0
MEDIA/ENTERTAINMENT						
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	4,320.00	0.36	-	0	0
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	223.78	0.37	-	0	0
LEARN AFRICA PLC	LEARN AFRICA PLC	871.74	1.13	-	0	0
STUDIO PRESS (NIG) PLC.	STUDIO PRESS (NIG) PLC.	1,183.82	1.99	-	0	0
ROAD TRANSPORTATION						
ASSOCIATED BUS COMPANY PLC	ASSOCIATED BUS COMPANY PLC	745.97	0.45	-	1	5,500
INTERLINK TECHNOLOGIES PLC	INTERLINK TECHNOLOGIES PLC	757.44	3.20	-	0	0
TRANSPORT-RELATED SERVICES						
GLOBAL SPECTRUM ENERGY SERVICES PLC	GLOBAL SPECTRUM ENERGY SERVICES PLC	3,720.00	4.65	-	0	0
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING COMPANY PLC	NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING COMPANY PLC	3,898.13	2.40	-	22	1,306,198
SKYWAY AVIATION HANDLING COMPANY PLC	SKYWAY AVIATION HANDLING COMPANY PLC	5,671.50	4.19	-	0	0
PRICES FOR ETP SECURITIES						
GREENWICH ALPHA ETF	GREENWICH ALPHA ETF	910.00	91.00	-	1	2,050
LOTUS HALAL EQUITY ETF	LOTUS HALAL EQUITY ETF	419.82	8.71	-	0	0
NEWGOLD EXCHANGE TRADED FUND (ETF)	NEWGOLD EXCHANGE TRADED FUND (ETF)	790.50	5,270.00	0.76	1	190
STANBIC IBTC ETF 30	STANBIC IBTC ETF 30	594.28	100.00	-	0	0
THE SIAML PENSION ETF 40	THE SIAML PENSION ETF 40	721.89	120.92	-	0	0
NETIA BANKING ETF	NETIA BANKING ETF	304.18	3.57	1.71	2	12
NETIA CONSUMER GOODS ETF	NETIA CONSUMER GOODS ETF	152.80	5.95	-	1	21
NETIA GRIFFIN 30 ETF	NETIA GRIFFIN 30 ETF	1,856.26	12.45	1.22	1	10
NETIA INDUSTRIAL ETF	NETIA INDUSTRIAL ETF	110.42	10.49	-0.38	1	10
NETIA S & P NIGERIA SOVEREIGN BOND ETF	NETIA S & P NIGERIA SOVEREIGN BOND ETF	712.91	202.51	-	0	0
PRICES FOR DEBT SECURITIES						
(182-DAY CGN TRILL)ISB SEP2024	(182-DAY CGN TRILL)ISB SEP2024	100.00	100.00	-	0	0
10.00% FGN JUL 2030	10.00% FGN JUL 2030	417,056.18	70.50	-	0	0
10.091% FGS DEC 2022	10.091% FGS DEC 2022	797.74	100.00	-	0	0
10.277% FGNB FEB 2020						

Fire razes 14 shops in Jos market

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

A fire outbreak has engulfed a section of Katako Market in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State with 14 shops reportedly burnt to ashes. *Daily Trust* correspondent who visited the

scene of the incident reports that the affected section of the market was entirely razed down.

Lawal Kamal, Chairman of Body 'B' who confirmed the incident to *Daily Trust* yesterday narrated that the fire outbreak began at about 3:30am and succeeded in destroying the

affected section of the market before the arrival of the fire service.

He said: "The fire was caused by electrical fault. This is not the first time the market is experiencing such incident. In September this year, electrical fault had caused a fire which

destroyed the Timber 'B' section. Jos Electricity Distribution Company has not been serious about the problem because it does not check connections regularly.

"It is very saddening. I have been here since 3:30am when the fire started. We have lost

property worth N15m. Almost all those that are affected have to start afresh. You have seen it yourself. We thank God there was no loss of life," he added.

Abdulkhaki Bashir, owner of one of the affected shops, said, "It has happened and I take it as the will of God."

Northerners embracing poverty - Mu'azu Babangida

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

The Chairman, Board of Trustees (BoT) of the Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation (SABMF) and former Governor of Niger State, Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, has said that northerners are embracing poverty rather than fighting it.

Speaking at a dinner organised in honour of the outgoing management team and the new management of the foundation held Monday night at the foundation's secretariat in Kaduna, he further declared that the Northern region as a whole is friend to poverty.

He said the late Sir Ahmadu Bello laboured to unite the North regardless of ethnicity, tribe or religion and left a credible legacy which sadly is not being emulated. "The northern states are behind any other state of the federation. Northerners are friends to poverty; while other regions are running away from poverty, the northern states are embracing poverty.

"We need something that will unite the North regardless of political parties or ethnicity. For many years now, no conscious effort to fight poverty has been made commensurate to the growing population of the region.

"We need to unite to fight poverty alongside investment in education," he said.

Earlier in his speech, the outgoing managing director, Dr Ali Shettima, disclosed that for over nine years, the foundation spent over N2 billion in various projects including scholarship award to indigent students and assistance to organizations.

C/River worried over Lassa fever in Ebonyi

From Eyo Charles, Calabar

Commissioner for Health in Cross River State Dr Betta Edu has revealed that the state has sprung into action to avert any outbreak of Lassa fever in the state. This follows recent reports about the epidemic in neighbouring Ebonyi State.

The commissioner said she had to give marching order to the officer in charge of the department of Epidemiology, Ministry of Health to set up patrol teams to check those coming into the state, especially from Ebonyi where an outbreak has already been registered.



■ Scene of the fire incident at Katako Market in Jos

Photo: Ado Abubakar Musa

A/Ibom gov't stops salaries of 723 workers - NLC

From Iniabasi Umo, Uyo

The Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) in Akwa Ibom has deplored the non-payment of salaries of 723 workers in the state.

State chairman of NLC Comrade Sunny James said during a solemn assembly organised by the union yesterday in Uyo that the government stopped the 723 workers salaries since July 2019.

He said till date, the

government has not given any justifiable reason for the action, noting that four of their members who worked in Jubilee Syringe Company were sacked for demanding their rights.

James stated that retired workers in the state from 1999 have not been paid their gratuities, adding that the salaries and entitlements of Local Government employees have not being paid even though Governor Emmanuel has given directives to that

effect.

The NLC chairman disclosed that the December 31 deadline for the payment of the N30,000 minimum wage still stands.

"The State Government stopped salaries of 723 workers since July till date. They have neither been recalled nor given reasons for the stoppage of their salaries and they have not been sacked though they (State Government) are contending sack.

Jigawa Rep member dies in Dubai

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Dutse

The member representing Garki-Babura federal constituency in the House of Representatives, Mohammed Adamu Fagen Gawo (APC Jigawa), has died. He died yesterday in Dubai, UAE.

A member of the family, Mohammed Hadi Inuwa, made the disclosure to newsmen on phone, saying the late Fagen Gawo died at the age of 74.

The deceased, passed on while in Dubai for medical treatment over an ailment associated with his leg, he said. The late Fagen Gawo was in his second term as member of the national assembly. Jigawa State acting chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Habibu Sarah, also confirmed the passing away of late Fagen Gawo, saying he last spoke with the diseased at around 2pm on Tuesday, and had told him that he had fully recovered and would soon return to the country.

The deceased left behind 10 children and a wife.



■ Late Rep. Mohammed Adamu

N6.3bn suit: You have case to answer, court tells Jang

From Dickson S. Adama, Jos

Plateau State High Court yesterday dismissed the no case application of ex-governor Jonah Jang, in a suit of alleged illegal diversion and misappropriation of N6.3 billion filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

In his ruling, Justice Daniel Longji, who is retiring from service after the case, said both Jang and his accomplice, Yusuf Pam, have a case to answer.

The EFCC has lodged 17 count charges against Jang, among which is diversion of

the sum of N2 billion provided by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for empowering youths and women on small and medium scale enterprises.

Another charge has to do with misappropriation/diversion of funds meant for the State Universal Basic Education (SUBEB), among others.

In the proceedings, EFCC presented its witnesses and tendered documents as evidence through its lead counsel, Rotimi Jacob SAN, and thereafter closed its case.

However, Jang's counsel led by Mike Ozekhome (SAN) filed a no submission case,

saying that their client was not guilty because no case was established against him to warrant his indictment by the court, and sought the court to rule in their favour.

But in his ruling, Justice Daniel Longji, said having gone through all processes of the applicants and prosecution, the prosecution (EFCC) has established a strong case against the accused (Jang), and therefore he has a case to answer.

The case would be handed over to a new chief judge and a new date for hearing/ruling would thereafter be communicated.

Expect great prospects, rapid devt, Lalong assures Plateau people

From Dickson S. Adama, Jos

2020 holds great prospects and hope for accelerated development in Plateau State, Governor Simon Lalong assured the people of the state yesterday.

Lalong, in his New Year message released by his spokesman, Dr Makut Simon Macham, said his rescue

administration was pursuing its 3-point policy thrust that would consolidate on its past efforts.

He said the huge support and cooperation of the people of the state since he assumed office was demonstrated in 2019 when he was returned to office by massive votes of the electorate.

"The year 2020 will be quite

eventful as we put behind us the distractions of elections litigation and focus on delivering on the dividends of democracy to our people especially in completing the legacy projects we have initiated in all parts of the state. We shall commission many of them and also ensure that others are given the desired priority attention," he

said.

He said with the 2020 budget already signed, there would be no time to waste as the machinery of government would be kept active to deliver quality, prompt and selfless service to the people.

The governor charged the people of the state to build on the peace already pervading the entire state to

make it easy for investors to come in with their resources and knowledge to create jobs and other economic opportunities.

According to him, the Plateau State Investment and Economic Summit which will be hosted in 2020 will be a watershed for opening up the economic potentials of the State to the world.

Darius urges Taraba people to forgive one another

From Magaji Isa Hunkuyi, Jalingo

Governor Darius Ishaku of Taraba State has urged people of the state to forgive one another, be more tolerant and eschew bitterness.

The call was contained in his 2020 New Year message to people of the state through his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Mr Bala Danabu.

He said in 2019, the state faced serious security challenges, but expressed delight over efforts by security agents in addressing the in the state.

Darius assured that there would be more developmental projects in the second year of his rescue mission in the state.

We will continue dev of Rivers -Wike

Simeon Nwaka

Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike has declared that his administration will intensify the development of Rivers State in 2020.

In a New Year Special Broadcast on Tuesday Night, Governor Wike said that his administration will redouble efforts to deliver on its promise.

He said: "Although every New Year comes with new goals, new hopes and opportunity for new accomplishments, we will continue with the existing priorities that we have set for ourselves: improved security, tangible investments in road infrastructure, delivery of social services, human capital development and expansion of the economy through improved funding support for Small and Medium Scale businesses and agriculture.

"As we therefore usher in the New Year, we promise that things can only get better for Rivers State. We reiterate our resolve to continue to provide accountable, caring and transparent administration that works for everyone, both residents and visitors."



■ From right: Former Kano State governor, Senator Ibrahim Shekarau; Arewa Consultative Forum's Secretary, Mr. Anthony Z. Sani; and Mallam Bukar Zarma, during a dinner in honour of the outgoing management team of Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation and welcoming of the new management in Kaduna on Monday

Photo: Shehu K. Goro

Lets join hands to make Oyo great Makinde

Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, has urged the people of the state to join hands with his government to make the state greater in 2020.

This was contained in a statement issued in Ibadan on Tuesday by Mr Taiwo Adisa, the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor.

Makinde in a New Year message to the indigenes and residents of the state, said that his aim in the New Year is to make the state a hub for education tourism in the country.

The governor noted the ongoing revamping of the education system.

He said that increased

funding to improve the quality of education and access for children of school age, among other policies, already introduced by his administration, would yield positive results in 2020.

Makinde said that his government had put in a lot of efforts to turn around the health sector, ensure maximum security of lives and property and to revamp the economy of the state.

He promised not to relent in the efforts to turn the fortunes of the state around.

The governor further highlighted his efforts at securing the state.

He noted that the ongoing

'Light-Up' Ibadan projects, which would be extended to other major cities, as well as collaboration with all security agencies through the provision of necessary equipment and support; were geared toward improved security.

Makinde explained that the state's economy was already being driven by the revolution in Agriculture, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises development, and infrastructure, among others.

He advised residents of the state to think of contributions they could make toward achieving the state of their dreams. (NAN)

2020: Nigeria has chance for national rebirth - Bode George

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

Former Deputy National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Bode George has said 2020 provides opportunity for Nigeria to have a "national rebirth."

He called for the jettisoning of the "the odious ingredients of instabilities, embracing new visions of ethical commitment to reposition our nation on a strengthened, firm and decisive

course."

He said Nigerians should begin the New Year with a renewal of hope and with a belief in a bright new beginning without discord, without malice, without selfishness.

In the statement he personally signed, he said, "This national journey must now be renewed totally and overhauled upon a foundation of trust, upon the firm ground of genuine commitment to

service, upon the pivot of enlightened patriotism, and upon the sincere platform of brotherhood without boundaries.

"Let us look forward to a new beginning with an absolute resolve on mutual harmony and friendship across the national divide. We must heal old wounds. We must bind new ties. We must solidify the foundational bonds of our founding fathers."

2020 will be better for Benue people - Ortom

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State has said that year 2020 would be better with greater opportunity for people of the state. Ortom, in a statement on Tuesday through his Chief Press Secretary, Terver Akase, also felicitated with Benue people and other Nigerians as the country enters a new year.

"The governor gives praise and glory to God for His grace, guidance and protection all through year 2019, to enable the present administration confront the challenges of development. He is optimistic that 2020 will be a better year with greater opportunities for the people," the statement read in part.

Year 2020 holds high prospects - Sen Abdullahi

From Ibraheem H. Muhammad, Lafia

Nigerians have been enjoined to remain steadfast and renew their faith in the President Muhammadu Buhari administration's drive towards economic transformation of the country. The Senator Representing Nasarawa West, Nasarawa State, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, made the call in a statement in his New Year message.



SPORT

Liverpool set to sign Osimhen ahead of Barcelona, Chelsea

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■ Kevin de Bruyne

Why I left Chelsea in 2014 - Kevin de Bruyne

Kevin de Bruyne has opened-up on his ill-fated spell at Chelsea, as the Manchester City ace insists the Blues 'don't understand' the plight of players in their loan system.

At 20-years-old, Chelsea signed the Belgian from

boyhood club Genk for £6.7m - but immediately packed him off to Werder Bremen.

De Bruyne remained in the first-team squad for the 2013/14 season under Jose Mourinho, but quickly realised his ten goals and nine assists for the Bundesliga side the previous term had gone unnoticed - only making nine appearances for the West London side.

He left, and a breakout spell at Wolfsburg and five seasons at

Man City later - de Bruyne is a double Premier League winner, one of the world's best and the Blues' 'one that got away.'

'Wolfsburg was different because I just wanted a new challenge and not be loaned out because that system is really tough for people,' he said on BT Sport's 'What I Wore' show.

'They don't always understand - when you do a few loan spells and come back to the team you know people are still doubting,

saying "he's a young player, is he going to make it."

'In my mind I had played four years in Belgium, a year in Germany, had 160-180 games under my belt plus national team experience, so you're not thinking like a young boy at 18 anymore who is just happy to get a game.

'I didn't get a chance at Chelsea and I decided I needed a new team. Wolfsburg really wanted me.'

NBBF to usher in 2020 with Total Division One League

By Olusola 'Jide @jide_olusola

The Nigerian Basketball Federation president, Engr Musa Kida has revealed plans to start 2020 with Total Division One League while promising the year will witness the consolidation of achievements recorded on the domestic and international scene last year.

He promised that continued attention will be paid to the domestic scene with special focus on the Men and Women Premier Leagues as well as the Division 1 and 2 leagues for men.

"We wish Nigerians the best the New Year will offer as we restate our commitment to basketball development in the New Year. We are going to start 2020 strongly with the Total Division One League starting in Lagos on the 20th of January which is an indication of our focus for the year."

Kida who was elected alongside the board on the 13th of June, 2017 while reminiscing on the last 12 months said the federation has recorded some modest achievements which can only get better.

"In the year under review, the D'Tigress continued their invincible run on the continent to win the 2019 Afrobasket Championship in Dakar, Senegal while the D'Tigers was the highest African team at the



■ Victorious D'Tigress celebrating after winning the FIBA Women's Afrobasket in 2019

FIBA men's World Cup which earned them an automatic place in the 2020 Olympic Games."

"We also participated in some under age competitions in 2019. After many years of absence, Nigeria returned to the FIBA Africa u-16 championship

in Cape Verde. The women senior team gave Team Nigeria something to cheer at the Beach Games in Cape Verde as the only sport to win any medal for Nigeria.

"On the local scene, more teams were added to the Zenith Women League which made it

stronger. For the past 15 years, we had only three winners, but this year, a new club- Air Warriors of emerged a new champion in their first year in the league."

Speaking further, the NBBF supremo said 2020 being an Olympic Games year will be a

busy one for federations whose team(s) will be taking part at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"In February, our women national team will be going to Belgrade, Serbia for the Olympics qualifiers and we also need to prepare them for this as we hope to qualify," he said.

Jalingo LG win maiden Taraba state Governor's Cup

By Olusola 'Jide @jide_olusola

Jalingo local government has emerged the champions of the maiden edition of the Taraba state Governor's Cup.

The epic finale of the championship which was decided at the Jolly Nyame stadium Jalingo in Taraba state on Sunday, saw Jalingo LG defeating Ibi local government 1-0 to lift the prestigious title in grand style.

A total of 15 local government areas and one special development centre participated in the 2019 edition.

According to the state governor, Darius Dickson Ishaku who was represented by the Commissioners of youth and sports, Ibrahim Ada Iman commended the state FA and other stakeholders for a successful competition while

reaffirming the government's commitments to develop sports in the state.

"I want to thank the organizers of the tournament and other stakeholders for making the tournament successful without any lapses, the state government will continue to support the development of sports at the grassroots level," he said.

On his parts, the Taraba state football association, (FA)

chairman Mahmud Sanusi Mohammed, described football as a unifying factor devoid of tribe, ethnicity and religion, while adding the FA would further intensify plans to discover talents at the grassroots upon his assumption as the FA chairman in June 2019.

"The competitions will be a yearly one which will be contested by all the 16 local government in the state and

two developmental areas, already eleven players have been discovered by scout from Sweden already, are we are looking on how to get more talents from the state".

It would be noted that cup winners Jalingo LGA went home with N1million, while 2nd place Ibi local government picked N300, 000 as Gassol local government who came third smile home with N200, 000.

VAR only for 'clear and obvious' mistakes says top rules chief

The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) should only overturn on-field decisions when there has been a "clear and obvious" error, according to one of football's leading international rules officials.

VAR has proved highly controversial since it was introduced into the Premier League this season.

A particular source of concern has revolved around offside calls.

Last weekend saw Norwich, Brighton, Sheffield United, Wolves, Brighton and Crystal Palace all have goals disallowed by marginal VAR rulings amid doubts over whether the available technology is accurate enough to make such fractional calls.

Players and managers have also questioned whether the system should not be used to reverse an on-field

decision that appears correct to the naked eye, a view that received support on Monday from the general secretary of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) -- the sport's ultimate rule-making body.

Lukas Brud, while not addressing specific incidents in English football, said IFAB guidance advises VAR should only be used to correct clear errors also applied to offside.

"Clear and obvious still remains -- it's an important principle," Brud said in comments reported by the British media.

"There should not be a lot of time spent to find something marginal.

"If you spend minutes trying to identify whether it is offside or not, then it's not clear and obvious and the original decision should stand," he added.

NPFL leading scorer, Israel Abia declared missing

By Olusola 'Jide @jide_olusola

The Nigeria Professional Football League leading goal scorer, Israel Abia has been declared missing by his club, Sunshine Stars.

In a statement signed by Chris Okunnuwa, Head Media/Communication, Abia has been away from the club since Sunday without an official leave, while the rest of the group remained in Akure to continue preparations for the upcoming NPFL matches at the turn of the New Year.

The club's management has issued strong warning to agents and clubs seeking the services of Abia as it stressed that the player's contractual agreement with the club is yet to lapse.

"Consequently, Sunshine Stars warn that any Club or agent approaching Abia for the purpose of transfer without the Club's approval faces the risk of a lawsuit, as the Player is contracted to Sunshine Stars FC.

"Sunshine Stars FC (SSFC) wishes to inform the general public particularly the Clubs in the NPFL about its player, Israel Abia who is presently AWOL," the statement read.

Israel currently leads the goal scoring chart with seven goals



■ Israel Abia

from 11 matches played.

This recent case won't be the first time domestic players would be declared missing by their clubs.

It will be recalled that Kado City Football Club declared one of its players, Umar Bala Mohammad missing in March 2019 as it was alleged the player travelled to Belarus without the knowledge and approval of the management.

It will also be recalled that Rivers United declared their right-back, Markson Ojubo missing after failing to report to camp after the brief 2018 FIFA World Cup break.

Also, Abia Warriors in August declared goalkeeper Joshua Enaholo who had absented himself since the club resumption without any excuse or permission from the management.



■ Super Eagles players celebrating winning bronze at 2019 AFCON in Egypt

NFF to shift focus to youth programs in 2020 - Pinnick

By Olusola 'Jide @jideolusola

The President of Nigeria Football Federation, Amaju Pinnick has stated that the focus of the federation this year will be on the various qualifying matches for major competitions as well as youth and grassroots development programs.

According to a statement from NFF's media department, the qualifying campaigns of the Super Eagles for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, as well as the qualifiers of the Super Falcons for the 12th edition of the Women Africa Cup of Nations, and those of the U17 girls and U20 girls for their different FIFA World Cup finals will be well attended to.

"We are also determined to concentrate much effort and resources on youth development programmes, including but not limited to

the NFF/Zenith Bank Future Eagles Programme.

"It is important that we continue to churn out quality talents and work hard to nurture them to excellent products who will then fit into the age-grade National Teams and bring honour to the nation at various championships.

"As we have made known, teams representing Nigeria in international matches and competitions will be told in no uncertain terms that they are expected to win, not just participate. The era of simply being there to participate is long gone."

The draw for the qualifying campaign of the 2022 FIFA World Cup finals will be conducted in Egypt in January 2020, with 10 groups of four teams each that will produce only the winner from each group advancing to a fierce, five home-and-away battles which will eventually produce Africa's flagbearers in Qatar.

Already, the Super Eagles are in command of their pool in the qualifying race for the 33rd Africa Cup of Nations finals in year 2021, with two wins out of two against Benin Republic and Lesotho last month. Second-placed Benin Republic are three points adrift, with the race set to resume in August 2020.

Nine-time African champions, Super Falcons also have a qualifying round to negotiate before heading to the finals of the Women Africa Cup of Nations to defend the crown they taken consecutively between 2014 and 2018.

The U20 girls, Falconets and the U17 girls, Flamingos have qualifying matches for their different FIFA World Cup competitions already set.

The 2020 FIFA U20 Women's World Cup finals will be co-hosted by Costa Rica and Panama, while India will host the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup finals.

Henry emerges as surprise candidate for Barca job

Thierry Henry has reportedly emerged as a surprise candidate to become the next Barcelona manager if Ernesto Valverde leaves the club.

The former Barcelona forward took charge of MLS side Montreal Impact on an initial two-year deal in November.

But Henry has now been linked to becoming boss at the Nou Camp if current manager Valverde departs, according to Spanish outlet Sport.

Valverde's contract at the Catalan giants is set to expire in June, although there is the option to renew it for another



■ Thierry Henry

year.

Henry's coaching career began just three years ago as Roberto Martinez's assistant

at the Belgium national team and he lasted just 104 days in his first managerial role at Monaco.

However his lack of experience does not reportedly concern Barcelona as he knows 'the Barca way' having played for them for three years.

Henry is also good friends with his former Barcelona and France team-mate Eric Abidal, who is Barcelona's director of football.

Barcelona are currently at the summit of LaLiga, two points ahead of rivals Real Madrid.

Referee dropped after failing to send Jorginho off against Arsenal

Craig Pawson has been dropped from referring and will not take charge of any Premier League game in Matchweek 21.

According to the schedule of match officials published on Monday, Pawson will be at the Emirates Stadium as a fourth official.

Pawson will be returning to

Arsenal's home ground for the second time in three days, after failing to send Jorginho off as the Gunners lost 2-1 to Chelsea.

Jorginho who had already been booked, clearly pulled back Matteo Guendouzi as the midfielder broke away, but Alexandre Lacazette instead received a yellow card.

Police arrests John Terry's dad

Ted Terry, father of Chelsea legend John Terry has been arrested for allegedly attacking his partner, Evelyn Minkey.

Terry was said to have attacked Minkey during the late-night row at the couple's home in Chafford Hundred, near Grays, Essex, The Sun UK reports.

John Terry's dad was arrested by police after Minkey begged neighbours to "get him away from me," during the fight.

The Sun reports that the 42-year-old Minkey fled the street and was heard yelling, "He's a psycho" and "Get him away from me."

After begging neighbours to call the police, more than 12 officers arrived at the scene and a shirtless Terry was arrested in front of stunned onlookers.

He was allegedly seen struggling with officers and heard saying, "Go away" and "Do yourself a favour, leave it alone," according to the newspaper.

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Yakubu Mohammed

yakubumohammed@dailytrust.com, 08055001917 SMS Text Only

Tug of religious war

Predictably, the listing of Nigeria by US State Department among countries with "severe violation of religious freedom" has sparked off the near dormant religious "war" in the country.

In this holy and hallowed season of Christmas, US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, as if he was sending a message of good will, chose to release the report of the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom for the year 2018, a report which was as damning as it was unflattering.

That report put Nigeria in the company of countries such as Comoros, Russia, Uzbekistan, Cuba, Nicaragua and Sudan, countries which it says "continue to tolerate discrimination on the basis of belief" and which, to use ordinary language, have continued to suppress freedom of worship.

It also listed Nigeria's Boko Haram among the most prominent terrorist groups. For good measure, there is a particular emphasis on the continued detention of Sheik Ibrahim Zakzaky and his wife along with numerous other detainees as justification for Nigeria's listing.

"Our actions" says the State Department, "have been, and will continue to be, consistent with our position on religious freedom. No country, entity or individual should be able to persecute people of faith without accountability."

The Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, welcomed the censure of Nigeria. It said in statement issued on behalf of its national president, Mr Samson Ayokunle, that the killing of Christians in states like Kaduna, Benue, Plateau, parts of Adamawa and Taraba, though not mentioned, couldn't have escaped the attention of the US. In a manner of saying a Daniel has cometh to judgment, CAN saw the listing of Nigeria as an endorsement of its well-known position that Christians have been and continue to be persecuted.

But Sultan Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar, president-general of Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, put up a strident defense of Muslims and denied there was any persecution. At least no such report was ever tabled at the interfaith meetings where leaders of various faiths meet to promote religious tolerance. For the first time, it would seem, the Sultan had publicly made a distinction between criminally minded Fulani herdsmen, some of whom are not Muslims and whose activities should, therefore, not be linked with Islam. In fact, said the Sultan, among the Fulani you have a large number of Christians as you have a large number of atheists.

Unfortunately, CAN can't be persuaded to see the matter any

other way. It behooves the leaders of the Muslim community therefore to come out more boldly and more clearly to defend the faith by putting all cards on the table and dissociate the community from the activities of extremists either of the Boko Haram hue or some fiery Islamic preachers who inflict their ignorance on their vulnerable followers. Many of them have done more harm to Islam than the so-called unbelievers.

It is difficult to convince the leadership of CAN that Boko Haram is not targeted against Christians. But many Muslims have also fallen victim of their activities which clearly are out of the fold of Islam. But as if to give more credence to CAN in this tug of war, the ISWAP, one of Boko Haram's fellow travelers, came out with a video in which it claimed to have killed eleven Christians that they had been holding as hostage somewhere in the North East of the country. The killing, which was condemned world-wide, was said to be in retaliation for the death of the leader of the Islamic State Abu Bakr al Baghdadi who committed suicide in October to avoid being captured by US forces in Syria.

Reacting to the killing, President Buhari was "saddened and shocked by the death of innocent hostages in the hands of remorseless, godless, callous gangs of mass murderers."

But he brought the message more poignantly home: "We should under no circumstance let the terrorists divide us by turning Christians against Muslims because these barbaric killers don't represent Islam."

Now we are beginning to talk. This is the kind of denunciation we had expected from leaders of the Islamic community when Boko Haram was burning down churches and killing Christian worshippers. Perhaps such clear message would have served to convince people that armed bandits, cattle herdsmen who were killing people on their farms and the most atrocious of them all, the Boko Haram, don't mean well for the country. And they don't mean well for Islam. Because all their activities are anti-Islam.

Islam, for instance, does not permit the taking of women as war prisoners. Keeping Leah Sharibu in captivity is totally against the tenets of the religion. Islam does not encourage conversion by force because, in its holy book, we have been told there is no compulsion in religion.

Islam is not anti-Christians because you cannot be a good Muslim without believing in the teaching of Jesus Christ, the son of holy Mary, a woman of extrem virtue, with a whole chapter of the Holy Qur'an devoted to her, the one who is honored by

God above all women, the virgin chosen by God to be the mother of a holy child, who would speak from the cradle heal and cure by the mercy of God; the one sent to spread the word of God and proclaim his Unity and Holiness, the only one that deserved to be worshipped, without any partners ascribed to Him. That was Christ for whom his followers named their religion - Christianity - though what he preached was monotheism, the worship of one Supreme Being, in Arabic, Al Islam.

And that is what was revealed to those before him, "Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Tribes, and that which was given to Moses and Jesus and the Prophets from their Lord." And that was the message that was given to Holy Prophet Muhammad, the seal of all the prophets, the last in the relay race after whom there is no other prophet.

So those who willingly and ignorantly take up arms against the followers of that Christ are doing grave harm to themselves. And Muslim leaders have a duty to educate both their followers and those they wish to convert. But conversion is not with the sword but with words of mouth and your good, exemplary conduct.

It is clear that CAN's arrow is decidedly aimed more against the presidency than against Islam and the Muslims. When it argues inappropriately that appointments are lopsided against Christians, it is on a weak ground. That is not evidence of persecution of the Christian flock. There are millions of Muslims who can make the same argument. The president was honest enough when he betrayed his personal weakness by confessing that he was appointing only those he knew. Problem is that he couldn't have known everybody, no matter how much he tried. Incidentally majority of those he knew have found their way into his administration. That many of them are Muslim may, therefore, have nothing to do with his love of Islam.

There is another notion that must not be allowed to gain ground. President Donald Trump may have his problems but hatred for Islam in Nigeria is not one of them. And he is not unduly enamored of Christians in Nigeria either. When the case was made against Nigeria, the prominent name that came up as evidence of persecution on the basis of faith is that of Zakzaky and his wife. But they are not Christian.

And in my effort to confirm the integrity of the report, I checked what it had to say about the persecution of Muslim minorities in the Rohingya genocide. The four generals of Myanmar Army that were most culpable had been named and shamed by the same report that seeks to paint Nigeria as a religiously intolerant country. In whatever we do or fail to do, the world, like the Big Brother, is watching us. Happy New Gregorian Year.

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Liverpool set to sign Osimhen ahead of Barcelona, Chelsea



■ Victor Osimhen

Liverpool manager, Jurgen Klopp, has made Lille striker, Victor Osimhen, one of his transfer targets in the January transfer window.

The 21-year-old only joined the Ligue 1 outfit last June, but he is already attracting interest from a host of top clubs across Europe.

The likes of Barcelona, Spurs, and Chelsea are said to be interested in the Super Eagles star but it looks like Klopp is already making plans to hijack the move.

Osimhen has scored 13 goals in all competitions for Lille, convincing Klopp to order the Reds scouts to provide comprehensive detail about him.

Sharapova returns to action in Brisbane



■ Maria Sharapova

Former world No 1 Maria Sharapova said Tuesday she still had "a lot of fire" as she attempts to resurrect her career after an injury-plagued 2019.

The five-time major winner will open her 2020 campaign in Brisbane after being awarded a wildcard by organisers in preparation for the Australian Open later in January.

"To be fair when I was younger I never saw myself playing past 30," the 32-year-old Russian told reporters in Brisbane.

"But I still feel there is a lot in me to give. I still have a lot of fire in me and I am big competitor."

Sharapova has not played since a first-round loss to career-long rival Serena Williams at the US Open in August.