

STILL IN CAPTIVITY

11 SCHOOLGIRLS OF FGC, BIRNIN YAURI

567
DAYS

1 STUDENT OF BETHEL BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL, KUJAMA

539
DAYS

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DisCos earn N1.3tr from electricity bills in 23 months

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4 police orderlies feared killed as Ohakim's convoy bombed

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17 days after release:

Scarcity of new naira notes worries Nigerians

- Most ATMs dispensing old notes
- Hawkers of new notes making brisk business

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Fake doctor infused HIV-positive blood in woman

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Bandits raid late Jere emir's residence, shoot 1, abduct couple

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Each problem that I solved became a rule which served afterwards to solve other problems

– Rene Descartes



AFRICAN SAYINGS

“What is bad luck for one man is good luck for another”

(African Proverbs)

Source: BBC collection of listeners' proverbs

WEATHER

Compiled by JAMIL H. SALIM

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

(Temperature in centigrade)

PRAYERS TIMES

JUMADA AL AKHIR 10, 1444 AH

| PRAYERS | ABUJA | ENUGU | KADUNA | KANO | KATSINA | LAGOS | MAIDUGURI | P/HARCOURT | SOKOTO |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|------------|--------|
| FAJR | 5:31 | 5:31 | 5:34 | 5:33 | 5:38 | 5:48 | 5:16 | 5:31 | 5:47 |
| DHUHR | 12:39 | 12:40 | 12:40 | 12:35 | 12:39 | 12:57 | 12:18 | 12:43 | 12:47 |
| ASR | 3:53 | 3:54 | 3:54 | 3:49 | 3:53 | 4:11 | 3:32 | 3:57 | 4:01 |
| MAGHRIB | 6:23 | 6:24 | 6:21 | 6:14 | 6:17 | 6:42 | 5:57 | 6:28 | 6:28 |
| ISHA | 7:28 | 7:29 | 7:26 | 7:19 | 7:22 | 7:47 | 7:02 | 7:33 | 7:33 |

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna



PHOTO OF THE DAY

■ A man hawking wristwatch at Ojota garage in Lagos yesterday

Photo: Benedict Uwalaka

STOCK INDEX

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

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Thugs attack Tambuwal's convoy in Sokoto

From Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

Thugs on Sunday attacked the convoy of Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto State with stones.

The governor was attacked in the state capital, Sokoto while he was returning with his entourage and party officials from the campaign tour of Silame and Wammako local government areas of the state.

Dignitaries who escaped unhurt together with the governor at the time of the assault included the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) gubernatorial candidates of Sokoto and Kebbi states: Malam Saidu Umar (Mallam Ubandoman Sokoto) and Gen. Aminu Bande

(rtd), and the deputy governorship candidate of Sokoto State, Hon. Sagir Bafarawa among others.

Two vehicles in the fleet were damaged by the attackers.

Tambuwal told journalists at the end of a stakeholders' meeting with political appointees on Monday that some of the attackers had been arrested and would soon be prosecuted.

He vowed to bring to book the attackers of his motorcade.

"The matter is being investigated by the security agencies. Some arrests have been made. Rest assured that the law will take its course," the governor stated.

According to the state Commissioner for Information,

Hon. Akibu Dalhatu, in a separate press briefing, the attackers' gang leader, one Abu Mai Adda, said to be on the watchlist of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in the last three months for allegedly attacking their personnel, was one of those apprehended.

The commissioner said Mai Adda also destroyed some vehicles in the governor's convoy and stole five motorcycles after attacking PDP supporters at the campaign ground in Wamakko.

Governor Tambuwal on his part said: "It is unfortunate that yesterday on our way back from Wammako, at the senatorial office of Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako, some hoodlums attacked my

convoy on our way to the Government House.

"We cannot condone any culture of violence in Sokoto State," the governor said, while appealing for peace. "We cannot afford to toy with the fragile peace in the state.

"I, therefore, urge all political leaders in Sokoto to eschew violence; and to advise all their followers and supporters, to go out and campaign peacefully; and look for votes and not perpetrate violence.

"As you know, we believe in peace. We have been preaching peace and peaceful coexistence in Sokoto State, irrespective of political party differences, lineage or persuasions," he added.



■ Former National Welfare Officer of the All Progressives Congress, Alhaji Ibrahim Masari (r), APC Presidential Candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, and Jigawa state Governor Abubakar Badaru, when Asiwaju and his entourage arrived at the private wing of the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport in Abuja early Monday after observing Umrah (lesser hajj) in Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Photo: Tinubu Media Office

One bandit killed as police repel attack in Katsina

From Tijjani Ibrahim, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command has killed one bandit during a gun duel.

The state command's spokesperson, SP Gambo Isah, said the clash took place as the bandits attempted to attack the police at Magama-Hirji Junction in Jibia Local Government Area.

He said several bandits escaped with gunshot injuries.

He said: "Today, Monday, 2/01/2023 at about 0430hrs, terrorists in their numbers, shooting sporadically with AK 47 rifles, attacked a police nipping point at Magama - Hirji junction, along Jibia - Katsina road. The policemen engaged the terrorists in a fierce gun duel

and successfully repelled them.

"One of the terrorists was neutralised, and one AK 47 rifle was recovered with four magazines containing ninety (90) rounds of 7.62mm ammunition of AK 47 rifles. Money and other exhibits were also recovered. Many of the terrorists escaped the scene with gunshots injuries," he added.

Isah said two policemen who sustained injuries during the encounter were taken to Jibia hospital for treatment and discharged.

"Search parties are still combing the area with a view to arresting or recovering more dead bodies of the terrorists. Investigation is ongoing," he added.

Residents protest FAAN's takeover of community in Kwara

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Residents of Gerewu community in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State have accused the management of the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) of moves to displace them from their homes.

About 5,000 residents from about 3,000 households raised the alarm during a protest calling on the Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari, Prof Ibrahim Gambari, Kwara State governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari and all well-meaning Kwarans to intervene in the matter.

Displaying placards with various inscriptions, the protesters said they had lived in the area for decades and laboured

for years to erect their buildings only for FAAN to start erecting a fence around their homes.

Speaking on behalf of landlords in the community, AbdulAzeez Taofiq alleged that all efforts to meet with FAAN's management had proved abortive and they had remained evasive over the matter.

He said neither a notice was served on the community nor document presented to them by FAAN relating to the land in question.

"We are alarmed to see that our houses and lands, which we laboured to acquire are being fenced by FAAN and we don't know why.

"Some of us are retirees, pensioners who have worked, toiled for years before we are able to put up a structure, we don't know what is happening

but we cannot afford to lose our properties.

"We are appealing to Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, the Emir of Ilorin, Chief of Staff to the President, Prof Ibrahim Gambari to intervene," he added.

He added that "There are many of us that have our land surveyed. How come a land that was surveyed is now being claimed by FAAN? We feel they want to veto us".

Acting chairman of the Gerewu community, Alhaji Ibrahim Shuaib said there had never been any indication that the land belongs to FAAN.

Magaji of Gerewu, Alhaji Ibrahim Amosa, who corroborated the submissions of the protesters, said the community had existed for close to 100 years.

Responding, the FAAN PRO,

Ilorin, Mrs Oloreigbe, told *Daily Trust* on Monday in a telephone chat that the residents are only seeking public sympathy "because they know they are illegal occupants.

"Well, we have held several meetings with them on the issue for years. So, there is no need for the protest because they are aware that they are illegal occupants.

"There are just looking for public sympathy. All the signatures of those who were paid when FAAN bought the land in the 70s were all documented. They have been encroaching on our land and now the federal government is ready to take it back.

"After the completion of the ongoing fencing of the land, we will know the next line of action, the FAAN PRO said.

Bandits kidnap ex-ZAROTA boss, Col Garba, 2 children

Suspected terrorists have reportedly kidnapped a former Commandant of the Zamfara State Road Traffic Regulatory Agency, ZAROTA, retired Colonel Rabi'u Garba and two of his children along Gusau-Tsafe road in Zamfara State.

A resident of the troubled community explained that Garba was returning to his country home, Yandoto with two of his children on Sunday, 1st January, 2023 in the night when the terrorists kidnapped them.

Locals in the area said they ran into the bush for fear of the terrorists when they heard gunshots.

The locals said they later discovered that retired Colonel Garba who was whisked away with two of his children was their target.

Meanwhile, the police, which confirmed the incident, said its mobilised tactical operatives were currently carrying out a rigorous rescue operation in the surrounding bush to ensure the rescue of the three kidnapped victims unhurt.

Fire guts 4 shops in Kano

Fire has razed four shops in Kano on Airport Road, close to France Road, in Fagge Local Government Area of the state.

This is contained in a statement issued by the Public Relations Officer of the State Fire Service, Alhaji Saminu Abdullahi, on Monday in Kano.

He said the incident occurred on Monday morning.

"We received a distress call around 09:06 a.m from Hamish Ahmed and we immediately sent our rescue team to the scene at about 09:13 a.m. to stop the fire from spreading to the other shops.

"The four shops razed were used to sell hospital equipment, car spare parts, while one shop was slightly burnt with toilet wares," the statement said.

He said the cause of the fire was under investigation. NAN

Muslim scholars condoles Christians over death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

A Team of Nigeria Muslim scholars, headed by Malam Gambo Barnawa, has condoled with Christians worldwide over the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on Dec. 31, 2022 at the age of 95.

The scholars extended their condolences when they paid a New Year visit to Pastor Yohanna Buru, the General Overseer of Christ Angelical and Life intervention Ministry, Sabon Tasha, kaduna.

Barnawa said they visited Buru's house to wish him a Happy New Year, using the opportunity to extend their condolence greetings to Christians all over the world over the demise of Pope Benedict XVI. NAN

Scarcity of new naira notes worries Nigerians

By Simon E. Sunday,
Faruk Shuaibu, Philip S.
Clement (Abuja), Abiodun
Alade, Eugene Agha (Lagos) &
Zahraddeen Y. Shuaibu (Kano)

Seventeen days after the release of the redesigned N200, N500 and N1,000 banknotes by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), millions of Nigerians have not physically seen or transact businesses with the notes.

Many of those who spoke to *Daily Trust* in Abuja, Kano and Lagos are worried over the scarcity of the new notes, especially at banks' Automated Teller Machine (ATM) points.

This concern is coming less than 28 days to the January 31 deadline CBN fixed for phasing out of the old naira banknotes.

The CBN introduced the redesigned banknotes on December 15, 2022, saying it was part of measures to control inflation, mop up currency outside the banking system, fight corruption and discourage payment of huge cash to kidnappers and bandits among others.

Lagos

Checks at ATMs across Lagos indicated that the old notes are still being dispensed.

Customers who visited the banking halls before the holiday also disclosed that they were issued the old notes. One of them, Miss Iyunade Phillip said, "I was given old notes at the bank on Thursday, December 29. The new notes are very scarce. I am not sure if they can keep to the January 31 deadline because the notes are not available."

It was learnt from some bank workers in Ojo, Ikeja and Agbara in Lagos and Ogun states that they have not been issued new notes while others said the CBN was rationing the new notes.

"We don't have any new notes and have not been dispensing any in the last one week because CBN has not issued us any since the last one was disbursed," said an Access Bank staff member at GRA Ikeja.

A Point of Sales (POS) operator in the Ogba area of Lagos, Mrs Zainab Ajibade, said she was still collecting the old notes because the new ones are hardly available. She said that banks are still issuing the old notes to them.

"They are still issuing the old notes to us and in some cases if you are lucky, you can get N2,000 worth of new notes if you are making a withdrawal of N50,



■ CBN Headquarters, Abuja

000 or N100,000 depending on availability," she said.

It was also observed that most customers who paid with cash at shopping malls and stores during the festive period used the old notes.

Hawkers make brisk business

However, *Daily Trust* gathered that currency hawkers are profiting from the few redesigned notes in circulation.

In some areas, they charged as high as N10,000 on a bundle.

A bundle of new N200 notes which is N20,000 is sold for N30,000 while N500 and N1,000 which are N50,000 and N100,000 are sold for N60,000 and N110,000 respectively.

A currency hawker who spoke on condition of anonymity said the charges are their gain.

"There are very few new notes in the market. It was a difficult task getting them during the festive period. We would have made huge gains if they were available. We also paid for the few new notes we got so we have to put the charges," he said, noting that they couldn't meet the demand of their customers who wanted the new notes for the celebration of the New Year.

Abuja

Some of the banks visited by our reporter in Abuja showed that the new naira notes were not yet inputted in the ATM machines.

Despite the GTBank in Jabi having seven ATMs in its vicinity, all were not dispensing the new naira notes.

When our reporter visited the bank yesterday, a security guard said the machines were yet to be loaded with the new notes.

A customer of the bank, Danladi Isah, who withdrew from one of the machines, said he was not concerned about the type of money available.

He said since the old currencies were still a legal tender, he was not worried as he will spend the notes he collected before the CBN's policy takes effect.

Another customer, Philip Abu, said it was tough at the bank he visited as everyone was requesting for the new banknotes. "What they did was to give a piece of the N1,000 notes to everyone making withdrawal; we even asked for the N500 note but they said it has been exhausted."

The situation was the same at Zenith Bank in Jabi as it was observed that people who withdrew from the machines left with old notes of N1,000.

While a security guard confirmed that, a user of the machine, Paul Obinna, said since the old notes could still be used for transactions, he had nothing to be afraid of as it was little funds he came to withdraw.

"People that need to be worried about the new notes are those that engage in huge transactions. For me, if I should withdraw N50,000, all in old notes, I will spend them before the deadline takes effect," he said.

Some bank customers however said that shortly after the

December 15 roll out time, some banks issued pieces of the new banknotes.

Halima Musa, a Jaiz Bank customer in Gwarinpa, Abuja, said, "I went to withdraw N50,000 from the bank and they added just two pieces of the new N1,000 banknote to it."

Kano

The scarcity of the new banknotes was also being felt in Kano. Some residents who use ATMs frequently said they were not yet dispensing the new notes.

Likewise, those patronizing PoS and the operators expressed similar views.

Audun Ghali is a marketer in the popular Singer food market and he said: "I went to ATM almost 10 times since when the new notes were released but yet it couldn't dispense even a single N500 note of the new money."

"The only place one can get money is in the bank when you withdraw a huge amount. Even that is only if you are on good terms with the bankers," Ghali revealed.

Nazifi Sani, another resident, said he withdrew N70,000 from the ATM in the early hours of Monday, but all were old notes.

"In fact, they gave me new banknotes but it is the old version, not the new ones."

Alhaji Nuhu Danliti, also a marketer, said the last time he withdrew money from the bank he got about two per cent in new notes from the total money. He also said his friend got N300,000

when he withdrew N1 million from the bank.

"I used to do a lot of transactions as a marketer but I got the money once from the bank. For ATMs, it is not even there. I have never seen anybody that got the new naira notes from there. I withdrew N500,000 from the bank and they gave 2%. My friend also got N300,000 out of N1 million. That was the only time I got the new naira notes. And to tell you the truth, they are not qualitative. Some people are even rejecting it," he said.

Jibrin Aminu, who operates a business centre including a PoS machine, said he has only seen the new naira notes once and it was brought by a customer who sent money to his relatives.

He said although he receives and sends money, he neither gets the new notes from the bank nor from people who come for transfer.

'January phase-off sacrosanct'

The CBN had last week in a circular assured that "The current N200, N500 and N1,000 banknotes will circulate side by side with the redesigned banknotes till January 31, 2023, when the current notes shall be withdrawn from circulation and cease to be legal tender."

"The current banknotes remain legal tender till January 31 and should not be rejected as a means of exchange for purchasing goods and services."

CBN also emphasised that there will be no extension after the January 31, 2023 deadline. It said: "There will be no extension, so citizens are advised to ensure they deposit all the N200, N500 and N1,000 banknotes in their possession before the deadline of January 31, 2023."

On December 22, 2022, the Deputy Governor of CBN, Aisha Ahmad, while briefing the House of Representatives on the redesigned naira on behalf of the Central Bank governor, Godwin Emefiele, said 500 million mint notes were ordered by the bank.

She however, did not state how much those notes were worth.

"I am unable to share that now, only because I want to give an accurate figure," Ahmad responded to the lawmakers' enquiries.

Efforts to get new information from CBN was not successful as the spokesman, Osita Nwanisobi, did not respond to the enquiries put to him yesterday most likely because of the public holiday.

Osinbajo calls family of woman killed by police in Lagos

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has contacted and consoled the husband and family of Mrs Bolanle Raheem, the pregnant lawyer killed by a policeman, Drambi Vandii, on Christmas Day in Lagos.

Osinbajo contacted the husband and family on December 28 to condole and pray with them, even though

aides said he had been away on vacation since Christmas Day when he preached at the Aso Villa Chapel.

The murder of the Bolanle on Christmas day has sparked reactions from Nigerians from different walks of life, including condolences for the family and prayers for the repose of her soul.

The vice president, during the phone call made from his vacation, also assured the deceased family of justice and prayed to God to give them the fortitude to bear the loss.

Alongside President Muhammadu Buhari, Osinbajo, in the wake of the EndSARS protest in 2020, championed the reform of the police special units,

eventually leading to the outright dissolution of the police anti-robbery squad.

Moreso, the vice president, while acting as president, directed an overhauling of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

Osinbajo, had also, through the National Economic Council (NEC), directed the creation of

judicial panels in states across the country that reviewed cases of police brutality and extra-judicial killings across the country in the ENDSARS aftermath.

Arising from those panels hundreds of millions have been paid as damages and compensations, even as the administration is expected to do more. (NAN)

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Theme:

Interrogating the 2023 Presidential Agenda

..... Panelists



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



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



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

Date: Thursday, January, 26, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: NAF Conference Centre and Suites,
Gwarinpa Express Way, near NEXT
Shopping Mall, Kado, Abuja

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2023: NSCIA seeks protection for Muslims in South East

By Abbas Jimoh

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) has raised the alarm over the killing of Muslims in the South East by some non-Muslims.

The council under the leadership of the President-General and Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, also called on security agencies to do more to protect the lives and property of Muslims and bring the perpetrators of such killings to justice.

The NSCIA further urged Muslims to collect their permanent voter cards (PVCs) because evidence revealed that many registered Muslims were yet to do so.

These are contained in a communique issued after the special extraordinary meeting of the Expanded General Purpose Committee (EGPC) of the NSCIA that was held last Wednesday in Abuja.

"As Muslims are being profiled and killed in what appears as ethno-religious cleansing in the South East by some non-Muslims which is evident in the recent confessions by some individuals, the committee called on security agencies to do more to protect the lives and properties of Muslims and bring the perpetrators of such killings to justice," the communique said.

The committee said the eligibility criteria for leadership were too general to the extent that unsuitable people were ultimately getting elected to positions of authority.

"In essence, there is an urgent need to raise the bar of leadership in Nigeria beyond basic qualifications," the communique jointly signed by NSCIA Secretary General, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, and Director of Administration, Zubairu Haruna Usman-Ugwu, said.

At the meeting presided over by the Sultan included the Deputy President General, NSCIA (South), Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo; former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed; Secretary-General of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), Dr Khalid Aliyu; and Executive Secretary of the Muslim Ummah of Southwest Nigeria

Charges Muslims to collect PVCs

(MUSWEN), Prof. Muslih Yahaya.

Many Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs); senior academics; traditional rulers; top executives; other eminent personalities and leaders of Islamic organisations from different parts of the country also attended the meeting.

The communique said, "Nigerians should freely choose the best candidates and vote those who will lead with justice, fairness and righteousness in line with our usual prayer, 'O Allah, make the best of us our leaders, and don't make the worst of us our leaders. Don't make us, on account of our sins, be under those who will neither fear you nor be compassionate to us.'

"The federal government should ensure free, fair, peaceful and credible general elections in 2023 by providing the necessary environment through adequate voter mobilisation and appropriate security measures."

The committee also urged more Muslims to establish private universities for the educational development of Nigeria as a whole and Islam in particular because Muslim students in some private universities

owned by non-Muslims were being subjected to religious victimisation and oppression.

It also condemned the negative activities of 'accidental Imams' and 'emergency sheikhs' who promote hatred, disunity and dissension in their mosques and on social media, warning Muslims to be wary of their antics as they did not represent Islam or Muslims.

The council urged the federal government to make available financial empowerment opportunities in the country and to tackle poverty and unemployment in society, enjoining Muslims to key into the available opportunities.

The committee expressed serious concern about the general insecurity manifesting in terrorism, banditry, kidnapping and ritual killings all over the country. It also called on the federal and state governments to work harder on securing Nigeria from the rampaging criminals, the communique added.

It also expressed sadness over the death of some Muslim sisters who were involved in a ghastly accident in Shagamu, Ogun State, on their way to a training programme.

Coalition seeks higher 'beverage tax'

By Abbas Jimoh

The NGO Alliance on Health Financing, a group of health organisations, has condemned the beverage industry's attempts to dissuade the government from raising taxes on carbonated drinks.

A N10 per litre excise tax on sweetened, carbonated and non-alcoholic beverages was passed in the 2021 Finance Act.

"The beverage manufacturers don't really care about employment or the economy. They only

care about amassing profits and getting more people hooked on their products," said Omei Bongos-Ikwue and Shirley Ewang, the coalition's representatives in a statement.

They also condemned the marketing of sugary beverages to young children and encouraging unhealthy dietary habits early in life.

The group said the beverage industry had failed to realise that its products only provided short-term satisfaction, but in the long run, beverage

consumers would suffer from diseases that come at a high cost of treatment and leave them on the brink of poverty thereby worsening the country's health system.

It called for an increase of the N10 per litre excise tax on sweetened, carbonated and non-alcoholic beverages passed in the 2021 Finance Act, saying it was not high enough to lead to a significant reduction in consumption and make a noticeable health impact on type 2 diabetes and heart disease caused by drinking sugary beverages.

NSCC tasks govts on Health Insurance Act domestication

The Director General of the National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC), Dr Emem Omokaro, has appealed to state governments to domesticate the National Health Insurance Act to enhance access to healthcare by older persons.

Omokaro made the appeal in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday in Abuja.

She said President Muhammadu Buhari had set up a Committee on Health for Older Persons in late 2020 to look at the gaps in access to healthcare by

older persons. "After all said and done, the president signed into law the National Health Insurance Authority Act. That is the legal framework for universal health where older persons are captured.

"Before now, it used to be children, women and pregnant women, but now older persons are captured. Health is on the concurrent list and only a few states have started rolling out their health insurance.

"However, I am appealing to state governments across the country to domesticate the

National Health Insurance Act.

"Once states have domesticated the act and developed the policy, it means that they are going to articulate this initiative, especially they will be able to coordinate it," she said.

The NSCC boss said before the act was signed into law, there were gaps in the inclusion of older persons in areas of primary healthcare, agriculture, housing, transport and other mandates of government agencies, hence the need for its domestication.(NAN)

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Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Durumi IDPs seek UNHCR, FG's help on shelter

By Abbas Jimoh

The internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Durumi camp, Abuja, have urged the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the federal government to come to their aid amid the recent demolition of the camp.

The chairman, Durumi Camp, Malam Ibrahim Ahmadu, made the call on Monday in Abuja, during the presentation of livelihood items and cash to 70 households among the worst hit by the Action Aid Nigeria (AAN).

The FCTA on December 21 demolished the Durumi IDPs camp over alleged insecurity scare and infiltration by suspected insurgents.

Over 300 households with 65 per cent being women and children were affected by the demolition.

Ahmadu said that it was important for the UNHCR, federal government, Borno State government and others to come to their aid.

He also urged the FCDA to discontinue the demolition exercise, arguing that the camp did not harbour criminals as alleged.

"The camp authorities alongside security agencies apprehended 17 Boko Haram members, recovered two AK47 rifles and locally made guns in the camp as we don't harbour criminals," he said.

Speaking earlier, the Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria, Ene Obi, said the demolition took place without warning to the IDP camp residents or option of relocation to another location.

"Women and children currently sleep in open spaces, some with mats or blankets and others without. Starvation and hunger now prevail due to the loss of their saved foodstuffs, and cooking utensils because of the unplanned demolition," Obi said.

4 police orderlies feared killed as Ohakim's convoy bombed

From Jude Aguguo
Owuamanam, Owerri

Four policemen attached to a former governor of Imo State, Ikedi Ohakim, have been killed when gunmen reportedly bombed his convoy on Monday.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident happened as the former governor was returning from Oriagu in Ehime Mbano.

It was not clear whether

he was going to his house at Okohia in Isiala Mbano or going to Owerri, the state capital, but an eyewitness said when the gunmen were unable to get him, they bombed the backup vehicle conveying the police and set it on fire.

This led to the death of four of his police orderlies.

Ohakim was governor of Imo state between 2007 and 2011.

Another eyewitness said that the former was with two of his children

when the gunmen struck.

It was gathered that for the brave display by the driver of the ex-governor, the hoodlums would have got their target.

The former governor, it was gathered made a swift call and reinforcement was sent to Owerri after the gunmen had escaped.

Efforts to speak with the Imo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), CSP Mike Abattam, were fruitless. He did not answer his phone calls and had yet to reply a text

message sent to him as of the time of filing this report.

The police in Imo and Ebonyi recently identified IPOB as the masterminds of the burning of the INEC offices and the killing of residents for defying the sit-at-home order declared by the outlawed group.

Few days ago, the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Usman Baba, had raised the alarm that separatist groups in the country were working to

disrupt the 2023 general elections.

Baba, who was represented by the Deputy Inspector General in charge of operations, Dandaura Mustapha, spoke when he appeared before the House of Representatives ad hoc committee investigating attacks on the facilities of the INEC.

The police chief said the attacks on the offices of the electoral body increased after the ban on political campaigns was lifted.

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ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC), KANO STATE

Kano

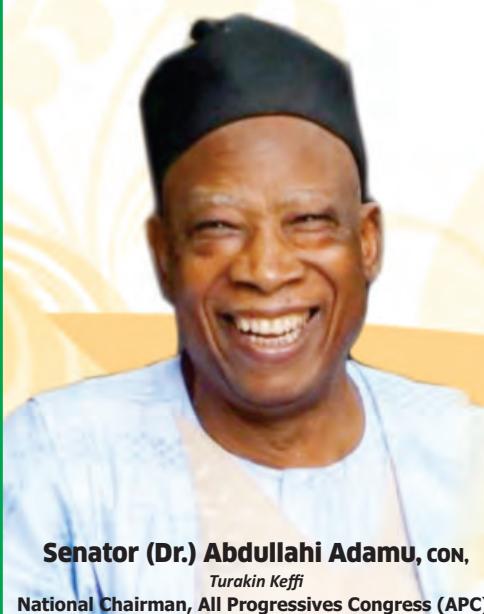
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**His Excellency,
Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu**
APC Presidential Candidate



Sen. Kashim Shettima
APC Vice Presidential Candidate



Senator (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, con.
Turakin Keffi
National Chairman, All Progressives Congress (APC).

The Executive Governor of Kano State and Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje OFR cordially invites all and welcomes the APC Presidential Candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, his running mate, Kashim Shettima, the APC National Chairman, Adamu Abdullahi, all APC Governors of the Northwest, all members of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, amongst other stakeholders, to the formal flag-off of the APC Presidential Rally in Kano State.

The historic event is scheduled to take place as follows:

- Date:** Wednesday 4th January, 2023
Venue: Sani Abacha Stadium, Kofar Mata, Kano
Time: 10:00am Prompt

You are all welcome!



**His Excellency,
Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR**
Executive Governor, Kano State



Announcer:
Alhaji Abdullahi Abbas
Kano State APC Chairman

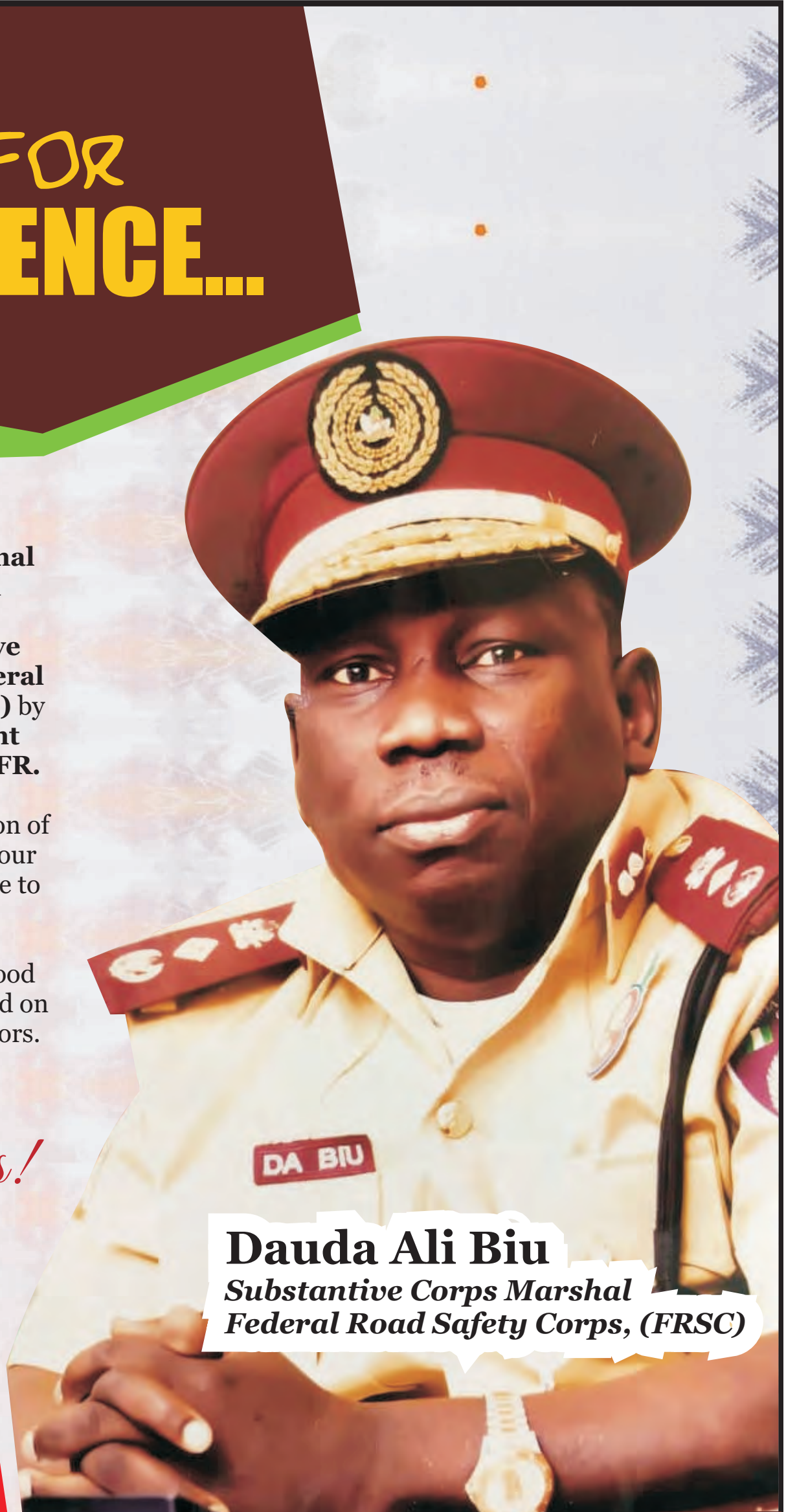
REWARD FOR COMPETENCE...

The **PTD- NUPENG National Executive** felicitates with **Dauda Ali Biu**, on your confirmation as **substantive Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC)** by **His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR.**

Your elevation is a reaffirmation of your diligence, honesty and your unequalled zeal in your service to the Nation.

We pray to God to give you good health and wisdom as you build on the legacies of your predecessors.
Amen.

Congratulations!



Dauda Ali Biu
*Substantive Corps Marshal
Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC)*

SIGNED:
COMRADE LUCKY OSESUA
National Chairman, PTD-NUPENG

INSIDE POLITICS

“It will be shameful for the President to hand over power to any other party than his own. So President Buhari loves the APC and its success more than anybody — APC National Chairman Senator Abdullahi Adamu

Obasanjo attacks leaders out of frustration – Presidency

By Muideen Olaniyi

The Presidency on Monday took a swipe at former President Olusegun Obasanjo for his latest attack on President Muhammadu Buhari.

Obasanjo had in an open letter on Sunday lamented that the last seven and a half years of President Buhari's administration had “no doubt been eventful and stressful years for many Nigerians.

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

Reacting, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Malam Garba Shehu, in a statement titled ‘Morally Squalid Obasanjo Attacks Leaders out of Frustration’, said the former president would not stop attacking President Buhari because of his jealousy of anyone who beat him to a new record in the nation's development process.

“To say that ‘frying pan to fire’ is the situation in Nigeria at this time should be read to mean a personal experience to him and we know what that means.

“Hell’ for Obasanjo is when a President, any President that comes after him refuses to be his own puppet, to do as he wishes on all matters and at all times.

“He then keeps attacking out of frustration.

“Obasanjo's vengeful attitude towards President Buhari is the height of selfishness and little short of moral squalor.”

He said President Buhari just completed the Second Niger Bridge after three decades of failed promises, recalling that Obasanjo laid the sod for the bridge in his first term as elected President and work never started.

He added, “when he sought re-election for his second term in office, he returned to the site to turn the sod for the bridge the second time.

“When the Obi of Onitsha, forthright and scholarly, reminded him that he had done this in the past, Obasanjo told the foremost Southeast traditional ruler that he was a liar, in the full presence of

the Chiefs and Oracles in his palace.

“Obasanjo lied to the Southeast to get their votes. President Buhari didn't get their votes but built the bridge because he believed it is the right thing to do.”

The presidential spokesman said having tried tenure elongation and failed, Obasanjo's fictitious mind must be telling him that he was the one under attack when President Buhari restated that he would supervise a better election than the one that brought him to office and leave as and when due.

He added that as President, Obasanjo destabilised internal democracy by orchestrating impeachment after impeachment of governors who were not compliant with his highly imperial administration, adding that “As we said sometime back, Mr. Obasanjo's tenure, 1999-2007, represented the dark days of Nigeria's democracy due to a slew of assaults on the constitution.”

In contrast, Shehu cited the growing profile of President Buhari as the Champion of Democracy not only at home and in the West African subregion but the African continent as a whole.



■ Obasanjo

Avoid mistakes of 2015, Benue PDP tells electorate

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

The Benue State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has urged the electorate to avoid the mistakes of 2015 by voting for credible candidates this year who can tackle the avalanche of challenges bedevilling the country.

In a new year message yesterday, the state publicity secretary of the PDP, Bemgba Iortyom, said the forthcoming election is the time to right the wrongs of

the past.

Iortyom said the party has reaffirmed confidence in the leadership of Governor Samuel Ortom, and his stand on issues both at the national and local levels of the polity.

The statement hailed the quality and resilience of what it described as the ‘Benue Spirit’ under Ortom which it said has endured and thrived under the most challenging circumstances.

“It is in light of this that our great party under the leadership of His Excellency,

Governor Samuel Ortom in Benue State, charges the people to be vigilant against repeating the miscalculation of 2015 which gifted power to those undeserving of it at the national level.

“To the electorate, Benue PDP says, this is the time to right the wrongs of 2015, the time to sanitise our corridors of power and offices of public trust by keeping out demagogues and charlatans vying for election without any track record at previous duty posts or credibility of character.”

Tambuwal cautions political actors against violence

From Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto State has cautioned political actors in the state against violence ahead of the forthcoming general elections and vowed to bring to book the attackers of his motorcade on Sunday.

Suspected thugs had attacked the governor's convoy with a hail of stones in the state capital, Sokoto, when he was returning with his entourage and party officials from a campaign tour in Silame and Wammako LGAs of the state.

Also with the governor at

the time were the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidates of Sokoto and Kebbi states, Mallam Saidu Umar (Mallam Ubandoman Sokoto) and Gen. Aminu Bande (rt); the deputy governorship candidate of Sokoto State, Hon. Sagir Bafarawa and other dignitaries all of whom escaped unhurt.

Two vehicles in the convoy were damaged by the attackers.

But Tambuwal told newsmen at the close of a stakeholders' meeting with political appointees on Monday that some of the attackers had been arrested and will soon be prosecuted.

“The matter is being investigated by the security agencies. Some arrests have been made. Rest assured that the law will take its course.

“We cannot condone any culture of violence in Sokoto State. I, therefore, urge all political leaders in Sokoto to eschew violence and to advise all their followers and supporters, to go out and campaign peacefully and look for votes, and not perpetrate violence.

“As you know, we believe in peace. We have been preaching peace and peaceful coexistence in Sokoto State, irrespective of political party differences, lineage or persuasions,” he said.

Aregbesola, Oyetola camps close ranks for Tinubu in Osun

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

Two former governors of Osun State, Rauf Aregbesola and Adegboyega Oyetola, and their supporters have resolved to work to ensure victory for the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, on February 25.

Addressing party faithful at the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Secretariat in Osogbo, Oyetola said Osun must deliver one million votes for Tinubu, and appealed to all aggrieved members of the party in the state to bury their differences and work together.

Members of the party who are supporters of the former governor and Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola had declared the cessation of hostilities and returned to the mainstream APC.



■ Tinubu

Speaking on behalf of Aregbesola's camp, a former speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Dr Najeem Salaam, and former Commissioner for Information during Aregbesola's administration, Mr Lani Baderinwa, confirmed that they had ceased fire and pledged to work with other party men for Tinubu/Shettima victory.

On his part, Oyetola said, “Osun shall rise again. Please, let us jettison our differences and work together. Don't allow anything to cause unnecessary division. Let us work together as usual.

“We don't have another party other than this. I am overwhelmed by what I have been seeing and hearing, and this gives me assurance that our party remains the party to beat.”

He appealed to Osun APC members and residents who are yet to collect their PVCs to do so without further delay to enable them to vote during the elections.

“I am worried by the number of uncollected PVCs in Osun, close to a million. Please, let's collect ours. That is the only power that we have. Let us collect them and elect Asiwaju.

“He has done excellently well and sacrificed a lot for this country. We are all witnesses to his achievements. I could remember that when the opposition party took over the southwest, he was the one that returned the region to progressive government,” Oyetola said.

From Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt

Inside Wike/Atiku supporters' politics of bitterness

Political attacks have put Rivers State on edge as supporters of Governor Nyesome Wike and those of the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) slug it out in a supremacy battle.

Since the political rift between Atiku, Wike, and his G-5 team has defied reconciliation moves, the supporters of the duo in the oil-rich Rivers State have been maintaining a cat-and-dog relationship.

Wike fell out with Atiku shortly after the presidential primaries, when the latter emerged as the PDP's presidential candidate. Wike's quest to get the party's vice presidential ticket was fruitless, as Atiku picked the Delta State governor instead.

Angered by the development, Wike teamed up with four other governors to rebel against the party, insisting on the resignation of the PDP's National Chairman, Dr Iyorchia Ayu, as a condition for a truce.

Wike had made it clear that he will not support Atiku nor campaign for him in the state. Atiku's supporters are alleging that they have been persecuted in the state.

Dr Abiye Sekibo, a former transportation minister and director of the PDP Campaign Management Committee in Rivers State, alleged that their members had been attacked on several occasions by thugs suspected to be working for Wike.

Mr Rhino Owthorkire, an executive of the Peoples Democratic Party Presidential Campaign Council in Rivers State, was allegedly shot by gunmen suspected to be political thugs.



■ Atiku



■ Wike

Owthorkire, who is the Director for Youths Mobilization in the PDP presidential campaign council, was allegedly shot while returning home in Aluu, Ikwerre LGA of the state.

This came barely a month after the victim was allegedly kidnapped and forced to denounce his support for Atiku.

In November, Owthorkire was seen in a viral video in a cave-like location denouncing support for Atiku under duress.

Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Okon Effiong, had ordered an investigation into the matter.

The command arrested 12 people suspected of having taken part in the attack on supporters of Atiku in the state.

Effiong announced the arrest of the suspects during a recent meeting with political parties and their candidates in Port

Harcourt, the state capital.

Controversy trails attack on Lee Maeba's residence

The invasion of the Port Harcourt residence of Senator Lee Maeba, a strong supporter of Atiku, by suspected thugs has become a matter of controversy between the camps of Atiku and Wike.

Many thugs were said to have invaded the Port Harcourt GRA residence of Senator Lee Maeba last month and destroyed his cars.

Maeba said he was being persecuted because of his support for Atiku. He also stated that the certificate of occupancy of his Port Harcourt residence was revoked by the state government.

But the Rivers State Government has dismissed the attack on Maeba's house as stage-managed theatrics to stir

political sentiment.

Governor Wike has since exonerated himself and his supporters over the attack.

He said in his entire political journey, the use of violence has never been part of the measures adopted to attain his political goals.

The state commissioner for Information and Communication, Alagbo Chris Finebone, said the state government has seen isolated reports suggesting that some people were purportedly being physically molested for political reasons.

He said security agencies must exercise the highest level of diligence, discreetness and carefulness in their work to sift the wheat from the chaff to arrive at a credible conclusion.

Finebone said it is not strange to find politicians staging high-

level melodrama to either cover up their tracks or muddle up the waters to achieve a preconceived narrative aimed at hoodwinking the public for political reasons, especially at a time like this.

Also, the chairman, publicity and communications for the PDP Campaign Council, Hon. Ogbonna Nwuke, said the essence of the planned attack was to create panic and an atmosphere of fear and terror in the state.

The Director of the Rivers State Campaign Management Committee of the PDP Campaign Council, Dr Abiye Sekibo, has called on security agencies to investigate the series of attacks on their members and provide them with security.

Chronicling attacks on Atiku's supporters, he appealed for calm and called for a thorough investigation.

He noted that the attacks, threats to life, and destruction of properties of people supporting Atiku in Rivers State, by thugs sponsored by certain individuals, seeking to instil fear in law-abiding citizens of Rivers State, were increasingly becoming unbearable, and required urgent and unrelenting professional intervention of the police and all other security agencies.

He pointed out that, given the overwhelming video evidence of the armed attack against Rhino and his cousin, the verdict of the commissioner of police would not be that they masterminded an assassination attempt on themselves, "just as he erroneously claimed in the case of the distinguished Senator Lee Maeba."

PDP, APC have taken Nigeria backward – ADP presidential candidate

By Terkula Igidi

The presidential candidate of the Action Democratic Party (ADP), Engr Yabaji Yusuf Sani, has berated the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) for allegedly taking Nigeria backward since democracy returned in 1999.

In his New Year message yesterday, Sani urged Nigerians to reject the candidates of the

two parties at the forthcoming elections, saying they have dashed the hopes of the people.

He said, "Nigerians were excited at the return of democracy in 1999, hoping that the new dawn would usher in freedom, peace, development and prosperity.

"However, it has turned out to be an era of impunity, recklessness and retrogression. Not much difference has been made from the time of the adventurists who usurped power through the barrel

of the gun.

"The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the contraption known as the All Progressives Congress (APC) are squarely and pointedly to blame for the unprecedented calamity that has befallen the country within the period.

"In between them, like in a relay race, they have been exchanging the baton of leadership and sharing the national resources as booties of war by a rampaging army in a war of attrition."

661,783 PVCs uncollected in Edo – INEC

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

The Edo office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has disclosed that 661,783 Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs) comprising old and new ones are yet to be collected in the state as of December 31, 2022.

A statement by the Edo INEC Education Officer, Timidi Warriwei, said 409,832 of the number are uncollected old PVCs while 251,951 are new uncollected PVCs received by the commission.

He said, "The uncollected old PVCs were 425,239 but 15,407 have been collected leaving

409,832. The new PVCs received were 289,931 but 37,980 have been collected leaving 251,951."

He explained that the collection of PVCs is ongoing on daily basis including Saturdays and Sundays (excluding public holidays) from 9am to 3pm at INEC offices across the 18 local government areas of the state.

Kano PDP crisis: No notice for dissolution of my exco – Sagagi

From Salim Umar Ibrahim, Kano

The embattled chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Kano State, Shehu Wada Sagagi, has said there is no letter from the party's National Working Committee (NWC) dissolving his executive in the state.

The Kano Caretaker Committee of the PDP led by Alhaji Mai Adamu had accused Sagagi of disobeying court order by still parading as the party's helmsman.

But reacting yesterday in an interview with our correspondent, Sagagi said he is a law-abiding party member looking forward to a united PDP in Kano State and refuted the allegation that he disobeyed the court order.

He said, "Their problem is

that they don't have the proper legal interpretation or they chose to ignore it. Yes, it's true the court of appeal has set aside the lower court judgement of Justice Taiwo O. Taiwo. But the judgement said the NWC can go ahead and dissolve the state exco.

"Up till now, I have not received a letter from the NWC indicating that my existing executive has been dissolved. Secondly, the fact that we filed an appeal, we approached the Supreme Court and it listened to us and gave us a date, that is not automatic, that judgement at the Court of Appeal stands.

"I have informed my lawyers about that allegation and even if they feel I disobeyed the court judgement what they should do is go back to the court and complain not to say somebody is impersonating."

OPINION

Email: opinion@dailytrust.com
Text: 08131800030

'Vultures' are hovering again: "Shine your eyes Nigerians!"

By Andrew A. Erakhrumen

Nigeria's political firmament is visibly cloudy! What kind of rain will result? We may not know – now! However, with past experience, if things maintain their course, predictions can be made. As we said in the past, typical Nigerian politicians, whose interest is always, only, in next election, are on top of their game, again: ".....They are already positioning.....repositioning themselves for offices, [this] 2023 and beyond, when they are not sure if 'tomorrow' will come, and if it does, if they will see it! As always, they are calculating.....recalculating.....to get into, or retain their stay in public offices....."

'Vultures' have been hovering over the land looking for prey; dying or dead! Their strategies have not changed! They have been: engaging in tokenism; bowing, prostrating/kneeling, everywhere; eating roasted yam/plantain/maize on the streets. How they have succeeded this long is bewildering! Why the masses, the people, have been unable/unwilling – since 1999 – to come to terms with the fact that power belongs to them (the people) is puzzling! The pace of enlightenment must increase, increasingly! It is work in progress, we must not quit!

Enlightening the people, massively, is important because, according to Bantu Stephen Biko simply known as Steve Biko (1946–1977): ".....The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed....." The people, owing to primordial leanings – (clan, tribe, region, religion, sectarianism, among others), all types of poverty, high level ignorance and underdevelopment – allow themselves to be hoodwinked by their oppressors who are supposed to have long been legally sentenced to be tied to stakes and executed! This is not an exaggeration! These felons have inflicted so much damage on Nigeria that it is now on a life support 'machine'; one that is becoming unsustainably expensive to maintain! Should we allow it to die? Not at all! Even as those charlatans/con-artists do not give a hoot about its current state! Nigeria may be far from what its potential suggests but it must not be left in the hands of robbers! Prior to this January, 2023, many contestants – in quick succession – have already 'thrown their hat into the ring'.

All bona fide citizens of this country (if not lawfully encumbered) have inalienable right to present themselves for elective political offices. The corollary to this is that the electorate, also, have inalienable right to accept or reject contestants by voting for, or against, them! This should not call for arguments. This is the beauty of participatory democracy that has not taken firm rooting here.

Nevertheless, with the current unsightliness in Nigeria, people should pay attention to those who want to 'lead' them! Nigerians must ask questions; they must deeply interrogate these contestants on what they want to do differently. It will be pathetic for Nigerians to still allow the same set of people, who have brought the country to this low ebb, to get recycled again. Already, politicians that contributed – one way or the other – in foisting the calamity Nigeria/Nigerians are experiencing have also declared their intention to seek political offices! Is this not ludicrous? Nigerians have really allowed these characters to be this audacious!

Who are these people? What is their track record? How did they acquire their wealth? What is/are their intention(s)? Whose interest do they want to serve? What is/are in their message? Have they been tested to be trusted? Do they have their own private business? Have they been able to manage their private business successfully? How 'successful' were they in their previous political position(s)? These and many other salient questions are necessary because, currently, Nigeria is seriously sick!

Therefore, the country needs all hands to the pump to help in preventing its death! As at today, the names being bandied about (except very few) as contestants in this year's oncoming elections are those with hidden body bags for Nigeria's 'corpse' in case of its sudden death! In other words, many of the contestants have been primed to accept the role of undertaker for Nigeria – if it dies; but, it will not die! Why the optimism? It emanates, purely, from Nigeria's spirit of never say die! Nigeria has what it takes to survive; and it will!

The country has the humans and other resources necessary to achieve its potential. The challenge being encountered, now, is the inability/refusal of Nigerians to allow competent people get in the saddle. It should be stressed that the 'Turn-by-Turn/'Come-and-Eat' politics practised in Nigeria by the privileged political elite have not taken, and will not take us to any other destination, except, of course, chaotic and crisis situations! This is what we have been clamouring against! A system that deliberately impoverishes its youth is sitting on a ticking time bomb! It should now be clear to all and sundry that eyes and ears must be open in order to get things right. Nigerians must demand credible answers concerning politicians' courage to confront the mammoth challenges the country is presently encountering. We are not demanding for sweet talk or mudslinging but concrete verifiable plans! We are yearning for political office holders who will galvanise Nigerian polity towards erecting sustainable credible strong institutions.

We are not talking about rocket science here! What we are rightfully demanding is achievable! What the country requires is a crop of leaders with clear focus and sincerity of purpose. It is utter self-deception and a disservice to think that Nigeria can develop with the ambushing, entrapping, oppressive, repressive, exclusive, discriminatory and fraudulent anti-democratic shaky superstructure erected since January 15, 1966! Linked to this wobbly structure is a conjured document (for justifying past fraudulence) imposed as the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is baffling that the said questionable document is still alive today! We are talking about a document that makes any Nigerian president the 'most powerful' in the whole world! It is doubtless that many of us love the country. We surely do! However, the current system – that conditions people to not expect much from life – is only fit for the ash heap of history! This is January, 2023CE, another dawn – for Nigerians – to swiftly set forth!

Erakhrumen teaches at the Department of Forest Resources and Wildlife Management, University of Benin, Benin City

Before we get into a PVC collection crisis

By Abideen Olasupo

As a Nigerian, passionate about the electoral process and willing to participate, you begin to wonder if the entire dynamic electoral process is all designed to either frustrate you or make participation some kind of survival of the fittest. This is probably the easiest way to describe the entire process of being a registered voter and eligible to vote on election day. Right from the process of visiting the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office, usually some distance from residential areas, joining the queues and eventually getting registered. After enduring conflicting information on the readiness of your Permanent Voters Card (PVC), you eventually take the pain to visit INEC office for collection and get greeted with the response that the voters' card is still not ready. This is the situation of many Nigerians who remain determined to participate in the 2023 general elections as the challenge with PVC collection persists.

Beyond these challenges of unavailable PVCs, there has been a series of reports of missing PVCs, poor communication on place and time of collection and alleged extortion by INEC officials in the process. The combination of all these factors is enough to dwindle citizens' confidence from participating in the process. Although the commission categorically stated that the last batch of cards are ready for collection from 12th December 2022 to 22nd January 2023. This information was amplified by organisations working on elections in a bid to mobilise citizens to collect their cards and participate in the 2023 general elections. The ecstasy that followed this news, especially for potentially new voters who just turned 18 was doused by challenges experienced in the collection of PVCs across Nigeria.

With close to 20 million uncollected Permanent Voters Cards from 2011 and another over nine million new registrants between June 2021 and July 2022, the least Nigerians deserve is an effective way to ensure all eligible voters collect their cards and participate in the 2023 general elections. The commission itself in recent times has continued to lament the low PVC collection across various states, which remains a major cause of concern. For instance, there are about 1.7 million uncollected PVCs in Lagos State, about 500,000 uncollected cards in Abuja, over 160,000 people in Kogi State have abandoned their cards at the INEC offices in the state. This is the case across all 36 states of Nigeria.

No doubt, the condemnable attacks on INEC offices in some parts of the country has not helped the preparatory cause for the elections with over 50 offices attacked in the last three years. However, the threshold for conducting credible elections must not drop, especially in the area of citizens participation. While it is the responsibility of registered voters to

visit the INEC office in their local government of registration to collect the cards as INEC does not distribute voters' cards to people's residents, the commission must develop effective strategies to ensure the process is seamless.

There is no doubt that INEC has in recent times harnessed the use of innovative technology to promote transparency and ensure efficiency in its process. With comprehensive data of registered voters and PVCs printed, the commission with support of CSOs can develop a strategic standard of operation to make the process easier and faster. This intentionality will first enable the accurate identification of eligible voters whose PVCs are laying at INEC office via their names, phone numbers, email and location right from 2011 till date. In this vein, a bulk email or Short Message Service (SMS) can be sent to potential voters who are yet to collect their PVCs with information like local government, wards or address of where they could collect their cards. Although the SMS is said to be deployed but this has to be decentralised to all locations and to every citizen who is yet to collect their PVCs right from 2011.

This will no doubt go a long way first informing citizens that their cards are indeed ready for collection and the exact location where they can collect it while alleviating the challenges of endless visits to either the wrong locations or meeting unavailable PVCs. Basically, the idea is not to "spoon-feed" the potential voter as some may claim but to make participation easier and seamless. Citizens themselves must show the zeal and will to participate in the process by asking the right questions and making inquiries to the appropriate channels, especially regarding PVC Collection, INEC Local Government Offices, Registration Area Centres, Polling Unit locations and contacts of electoral officers at their location of electoral participation. Beyond this, the election management body must continue to provide accurate and timely information mainly to counter misinformation about the entire process. This will build some level of confidence in citizens and further promote transparency as all eyes seem to be on the commission to deliver its most credible process since its establishment.

With 29 million voter turnouts, which is barely 35 per cent of the 84million registered voters in 2019, there is an opportunity to ensure the future of Nigeria is not decided by a minority of its voters who are just about 10 per cent of the entire population. In 2023, Nigerians have the opportunity to use the power of their PVCs to vote in the right leaders and all stakeholders, especially INEC should up their game in order not to dim citizens confidence as elections draw nearer.

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EDITORIAL

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

Abuse of CBN Ways and Means

Last week, the Senate rejected President Buhari's request for approval to restructure the government's debt owed the Central Bank of Nigeria. The debts were accumulated through the apex bank's overdraft to the government, otherwise known as Ways and Means. In his letter to the Senate, President Muhammadu Buhari explained that the amount involved was N22.7trn, made up of advances given by the CBN to the government over the last 10 years, and another one trillion naira billed to be raised as a new domestic loan.

It is clear that given its fiscal challenges, the government has no plans right now to repay the loans, which raises the question of how the loans were allowed to accumulate to this extent in the first place.

Section 38 of the CBN Act of 2007 as amended recognises that the federal government can have a "temporary deficiency of budget revenue" for which the Bank "may grant temporary advances" to the government. But sub-Section 2 puts a clear cap on the amount that can be so advanced to the government, stating that the "Total amount of such advances outstanding shall not at any time exceed five per cent of the previous year's actual revenue of the federal government".

The next subsection is also quite clear on the repayment of such advances, stating clearly that they shall be repaid "As soon as possible and shall, in any event, be repayable by the end of the federal government financial year in which they are granted and if such advances remain unpaid at the end of the year, the power of the Bank to grant such further advances in any subsequent years shall not be exercisable unless the outstanding advances have been repaid".

Clearly, if the above provisions of the law regulating the central bank operations had been adhered to by all the persona dramatis involved in this saga of borrowing and lending, there would have been no drama at the National Assembly. The Assembly, in our view, feigned ignorance of the disregard of the extant law in respect of CBN's advances to the government, while the government itself has been having a field day borrowing endlessly and without restraint from the CBN.

The Ways and Means advances to the government have ballooned since President Buhari assumed office, rising from just about N789.6 billion in May 2015, to its current unacceptable and illegal level of N22.7trn. Worse, the advances have grown precisely as the government's revenue flows have dwindled. Consequently, the Ways and Means advances, which are supposed to be of a short-term nature, have become the primary ways of funding the government's deficits, or worse a blank cheque for the government.

For instance, in the first six months of 2022 alone, CBN doled out a whopping overdraft of N2.5trn to the government. That is 46% of the N5.4trn revenue the government made in 2021, and thus far more than the threshold of 5% of revenues (N273.5 billion) allowed by law. It is therefore evident that strict adherence to the provisions of the Act would have prevented this current imbroglio, where the government finds itself in a difficult situation to deal with the debt it has accumulated.

Daily Trust believes that too many wrongs have been committed on this matter. First, by the CBN submitting to the government's demands, without summoning the courage to assert its independence by pointing to the provisions of the law. We need to state here that a Central Bank must maintain its independence from the government if the country's financial system is to be healthy and stable.

Second, the executive has displayed a crass disregard for the laws of the land by flagrantly abusing its power and contravening a known law. Its penchant for "free" money from the central bank obviously blinded its ability to realise the deleterious impact of its actions.

The National Assembly has also neglected its oversight function on the CBN. The Senate has a Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions, the Committee on Finance, and correspondingly, in the House there is a Committee on Banking and Currency, and another one on Finance.

As the 9th Assembly comes to a close, Daily Trust calls for a complete overhaul of the committee system in the National Assembly. Had the committees been more effective, such open disregard of fiscal regulations in the country would not have persisted over ten long years. If the National Assembly hopes to retain its relevance in the emerging political realities, it must rise to the challenges of ensuring that the right things are done, and where infractions are recorded, the culprits are brought to book.

In the meantime, the federal government must intensify its efforts and make clear how it hopes to restructure the debts before the exit of this administration.

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2023: Time again for "Carry go!"

These days, Nigerian political office holders are busy either scheming how to be part of the incoming government, or "settling" themselves with public funds so they can continue to live lives of luxury after leaving public office.

While all indices point to the fact that the outgoing Buhari administration failed to deliver on election promises or improve life for the majority of citizens, its members have no compunction about rewarding themselves for their failure. Pointing out their many shortcomings is an unnecessary waste of time as history will recount them. It simply suffices to say that Buhari will leave Nigeria much worse off than he met it in 2015. No matter what arrant nonsense his spin doctors or ardent supporters spout as evidence of the nation's "forward movement" under his watch, the gloomy Christmas faces at long petrol station queues, or markets where the prices of goods spiraled out of control, indicated that 2022 was a miserable year for Nigerians.

Although in his New Year message our outgoing president said he had done his best, history will recount all the atrocious bloodshed, increase in food prices, lack of fuel, lack of electricity and endless corruption scandals, which he presided over while praise singers massaged his ego. The release of disgracefully sub-standard new currency notes, and a Central Bank unable to state clearly how much money was printed and at what cost was the icing on the cake of failure!

Former Minister of Education, Obiageli Ezekwesili says no one should be shameless enough to defend the failures of the Federal Executive Council and state governors.

As far as voting for the incoming president is concerned, the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Bishop Matthew Kukah urges Nigerians to be wary of politicians who make sweet promises during campaigns but fail to fulfill them after getting into office. In his opinion, fixing the nation requires humility, truth, honesty, expertise and firm commitment, all of which have been palpably lacking in recent times.

While concentration is focused on the Presidency, the 9th National Assembly (NASS) is winding up. They passed their highest ever NASS budget to reward themselves for their failure in oversight functions! The initial budget of N20.51 trillion allocated N169 billion for NASS, who before approving it unconscionably increased the total to N21.82 trillion and their share to N228 billion. Budget padding is still alive and well despite having to borrow to fund the budget! Despite the nation's dire financial circumstances, the outrageous sum of N30 billion is budgeted for legislator's severance packages. This is N7 billion higher than what was approved by the previous 8th Assembly. Last minute "self-settlement" and treasury depletion is not restricted to the NASS. The president and the governors are also set to depart and in the process bequeath to themselves mammoth gratuities and outrageous pensions in addition to public property. In the next few months, buildings owned by government will become personal property, while everything from official cars to refrigerators, TV's, air-conditioners and furniture bought with public money will be removed

from government premises and become personal property of the former office holder. As has become routine, these assets will be replaced at public cost only for incoming political office holders to also leave with them when their tenures expire. Attempting to buck this trend, the new Osun State governor is trying to recover not less than 11 exotic SUV's and other vehicles valued at N2.9 billion owned by the state, which he claims are in the possession of the former governor and his wife.

Nigeria should not expect to recover from economic recession as long as political actors keep bleeding the treasury dry before departure. The payment of pensions to former governors and

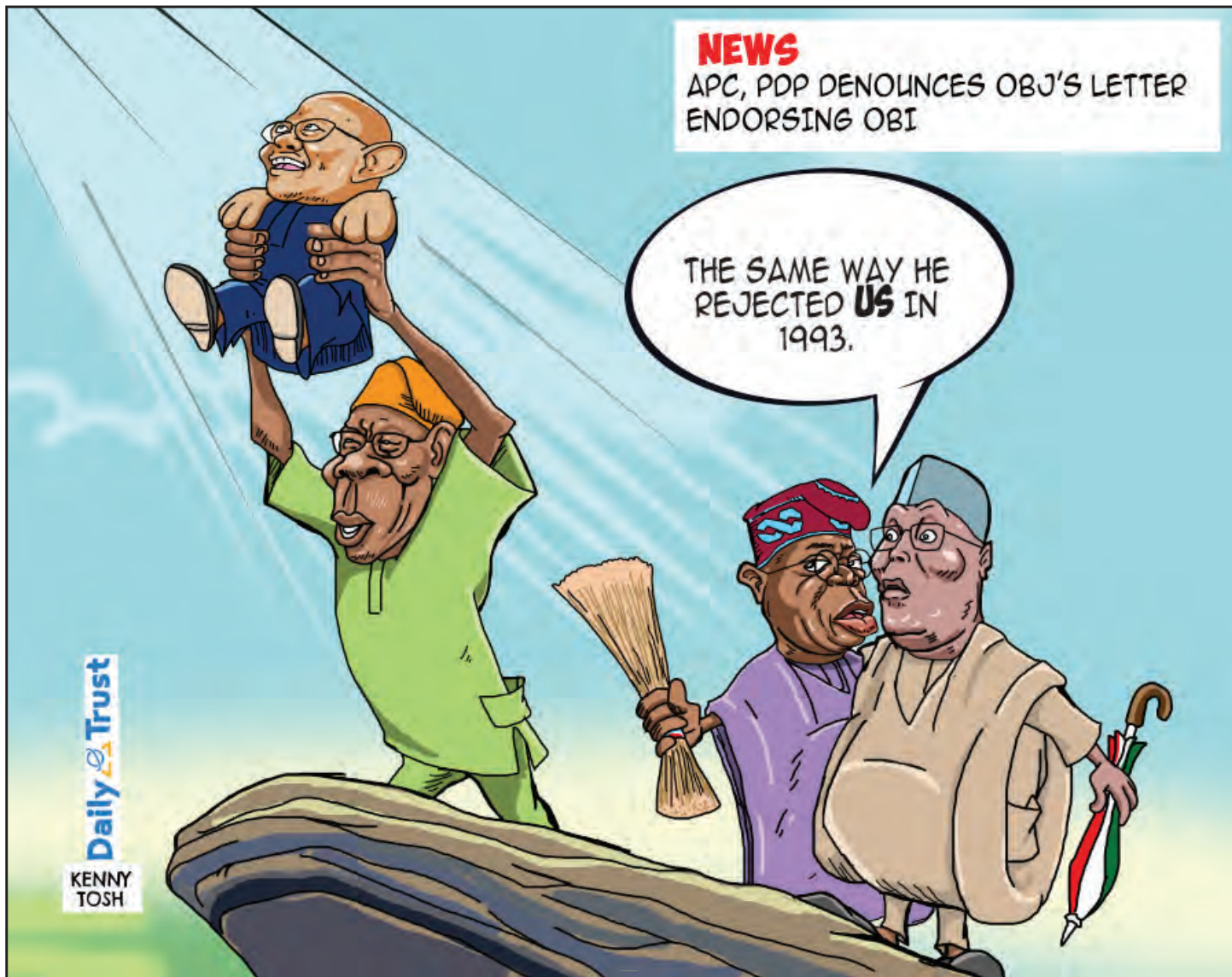
As far as voting for the incoming president is concerned, the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Bishop Matthew Kukah urges Nigerians to be wary of politicians who make sweet promises during campaigns but fail to fulfill them after getting into office. In his opinion, fixing the nation requires humility, truth, honesty, expertise and firm commitment, all of which have been palpably lacking in recent times.

their deputies, and the outrageous severance packages for NASS members is unjustifiable, immoral, unpatriotic and condemnable. While thousands of retired civil servants who worked patriotically for 35 years, retired soldiers and retired policemen wallow in poverty, former state governors who were in office for only eight years cart away millions in indefensible pensions. Even former governors who are paid to be in the senate or have taken ministerial appointments still shamelessly collect the pensions they brazenly appropriated to themselves. All this, in spite of the unconstitutional opaque "security vote" running into hundreds of millions per month, which governors do not account for and permits them to bleed their state treasuries dry. Payments to former military Heads of State who committed the biggest crime against the nation is clearly unjustifiable.

In his 2022 Christmas message titled "Nigeria: Let us turn a new page" Bishop Kukah said we have paid the price of nepotism entrusting power into the hands of mediocrities. He called on all Nigerians who have been given custody of public trust and commonwealth to rise up to the duties for which they have been so handsomely rewarded. Although outgoing President Buhari lives in denial, Nigerians feel betrayed by his poor performance and are looking forward to wholesale changes in leadership. Public opinion polls suggest that this current bunch of failures should quickly round up because, in the hope that serial failure can be turned into success it's far more important that they leave quickly, than that they give inventory of what they are taking away. Or in local pidgin-english "make dem carry go, as long as dem quick commot!"

LETTERS to the Editor

CARTOON by Kehinde O. Omotosho



Why implementing cashless policy is too early

It is too early for us in Nigeria as a whole to adopt a cashless policy. It is just obviously too early. Yesterday, I read a post by Prof. Abdelghaffar Amoka of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in Kaduna State, about his experience with a Point of Sale, PoS, agent.

He had gone to refill his gas cylinders at the cost of 19k+ and he used a PoS machine to pay for it. Though he was debited, the money wasn't credited to the PoS agent's account. Rather than waste his time there, he transferred another amount to someone's account to pay. He would have become helpless if he had no money left in his account.

Some weeks back, I experienced a similar thing in Abuja. I went to withdraw N5, 000 using a PoS. I was debited but the money was not credited to the PoS account. The operator said she would not give me the money because her account was not credited. It took my bank nearly 10 days to refund me.

Before going ahead with its cashless policy, another factual and excusable factor the apex bank should consider is the fact that most of our businesses are done in cash, especially those trading in rural communities where there are no banks, no internet, no electricity, no education. These people form a large portion of the Nigerian populace.

The questions I keep asking myself regarding this policy are: Did the Central Bank of Nigeria build banks in those areas? Would the people be travelling from their various villages to cities to transfer, withdraw or deposit money? What did the government do in place of these challenges? Does CBN have enough manpower to do this job even if they have built banks? Did CBN mistake Abuja, Lagos, Port Harcourt, and a few cities for Nigeria?

These, among other reasons, are the factors I want the CBN governor to consider. Before they present this policy, they need to put all these things in place and educate people about it so that people will evaluate its strengths and weaknesses, and decide to either oppose or support it. The CBN didn't do that. It just woke up and served it to the Nigerians a la carte.

Lawan Bukar Maigana wrote from Abuja and can be reached via email: Lawanbukarmaigana@gmail.com

Electioneering and the faces of liars

Nigeria is barely two months to another election experience. As such, we are daily and intensively bombarded with soothing words, slang, slogans, and expressions. All contestants, whatever their parties, tell us we can totally depend on them for a new Nigeria and a new economic trophy. Can we? Honestly, can we trust their capacity and attitude to cross the red sea of unemployment, hyperinflation, chronic nepotism, tough and stubborn corruption, and misguided economic policies, that have notoriously pushed millions of Nigerians into the corrosive financial ghetto - a place that used to be for the few?

Let's define liars, first, and then proceed to unravel the gimmicks of these liars. A liar is a teller of untruths - he knows the truth but prefers the untruth to accomplish

his self-interest. In the context of electioneering among others, liars are political office-seekers who for their own gain or collective profit sweet talk the unsuspecting electorate into believing what they - the politicians - do not mean. For example, they slam it on our faces that naira will equal dollar if they are voted for. Liars! Our experience as a nation for the past 20 years does not concur with that disillusioned reality. In fact, the overstressed global economy does not suggest such and also, according to our "dollar - naira" antecedent, it seems the opposite is truer.

They speak of massive employment as if they are about creating jobs for a handful of people. One curiously wonders if all that lies ahead is just to merely conjure these jobs into existence. Between 2006 and 2022,

unemployment rate has jumped from 3.86 per cent to about 36 per cent. To make matters worse, this current ugly figure has been projected to increase to 45 per cent in 2023. For about 20 years, unemployment statistics have shamefully continued to show a sympathetic and an unmatched increase. If we couldn't fix it over a period of 20 years, how then shall we in just a political tenure?

Speak of the security and protection of lives and properties, and they chuckle, and perfectly remark, "Here is the blueprint - just hand Nigeria over to us and watch us transform it into an Eldorado. Security, for some time now, has continued to receive a huge allocation and attention. Result? Increased anxiety and a watery endless assurance. Insecurity in Nigeria has defied many a solution, though efforts

continue, hoping we can put it behind us someday. Maybe we should remind our leaders - to - be that these cantankerous slayers of men, or blood suckers have not shown any clear sign of weakness or ineptitude, yet they want us to trust them to thrash these "insane bloody killers" in just a political tenure.

In conclusion, as we pray, desire and work towards having a new Nigeria, lying is a wrong key strategy to do this. All are liars, I suppose, as former President OBASANJO quipped - there is no saint among them. And since only one of them is destined for the seat, may it be that with extraordinary capacity, attitude, patriotic vision, selflessness, and amazing understanding of true governance.

Samuel Ogunnaike wrote from Lagos

Kudos to our gallant troops

The Nigerian troops are now the backbone of securing the nation from incessant terrorist attacks or any group of gangs that fight against the law. This is the right time to recognise the contributions of Nigerian gallant troops on battlefields across different locations.

Our gallant troops are worthy of appreciation because it is

not an easy task to be spending days and nights under difficult conditions to protect the lives and properties of the masses. Our troops sacrificed all they got to stand for the country and the rise of insecurity. This is a very challenging task as the terrorists are numerous and anonymous which makes it hard for our armed forces. Despite such

challenges, the gallant troops work hard in chasing out the terrorists from many territories across the country.

It should be noted that fighting terrorism and banditry for over a decade is very difficult but they refused to give up.

No words can describe the efforts of our gallant troops. Nigeria is facing various security

challenges in many parts of the country. But, the response of Nigerian gallant troops has changed the situation in many parts.

Thus we must do everything possible to support our gallant troops.

Yakubu Boyi Fulani, Department of Mass Communication, Borno State University

2022 NNPC/SPDC JOINT VENTURE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SCHEME

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (Operator of the NNPC/SPDC /TotalEnergies/AGIP Joint Venture) in pursuance of its Social Investment programme in Education, which aims to promote academic excellence and enhance the employability of young Nigerians, invites applications from suitably qualified Nigerian Students admitted into Full Time academic studies in the 2020/2021 session, to apply for its University Scholarship Scheme.

WHO CAN APPLY?

This merit-based scholarship is in two categories - the National Merit Award (NM) and the Areas of Operation Merit Award.

NATIONAL MERIT AWARD (NM)

Open to all Nigerians.

AREAS OF OPERATION MERIT AWARD

Open to Nigerians who are indigenes of SPDC's operational areas in Bayelsa, Delta, Imo, and Rivers States

ELIGIBLE CRITERIA:

- Must be citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Must be registered FULL TIME undergraduates in an accredited and approved University in Nigeria
- Must be in 200 Level (as at January 2023) or possess proof of admission into Undergraduate programme in the 2020/2021 academic session
- Must not be a beneficiary of any other scholarship from an entity operating in the Oil and Gas Industry, National or International.

HOW TO APPLY?

1. All applicants should have personal valid email account and phone number (for consistent communication)
2. All applications must be processed online, via <https://candidate.scholastica.ng/schemes/SPDC2023>
3. Applicants for the Operational Area Awards are required to provide scanned copies of letters of identification, (which must be duly stamped and signed) by:
 - The Paramount Ruler of the Community; and
 - The Chairman of the Community Development Committee or Community Executive Council (CDC or CEC)

The letters should be addressed to: The Manager, Social Performance, The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (Shell), Shell Industrial Area, Port Harcourt, Rivers-State.

P/S: Each document must not exceed 200KB and the image format must be in JPEG




NOTE:

- Shell DOES NOT DEMAND PAYMENT FROM APPLICANTS. The application is entirely FREE of charge
- Shell DOES NOT ASSIGN 'Representatives'/'Agents' to assist applicants' process applications
- Applications open on the 3rd January and closes 3rd February 2023
- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for the proctored computer-based test
- Only successful candidates at each selection stage will be contacted
- Applications must be processed ONLY through the Shell Nigeria website

DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) is committed to data privacy. Processing of Personal Data Collected by SPDC.

- Personal data collected by SPDC will be used exclusively for the purpose of selection of candidates for scholarship award. The information will not be used for an incompatible purpose.
- SPDC is the Controller for the processing of your personal data.
- SPDC will only disclose information to third parties if that is necessary for the fulfilment of the purpose identified above or for compliance with the law. SPDC will not use your personal data for direct marketing purposes.
- In the event the personal data needs to be processed by, transferred to or exchanged with a third party, appropriate contractual safeguards will be put in place to ensure that the third party will take adequate measures to safeguard the privacy of the data.
- As a data subject, you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data on legitimate compelling grounds except when it is processed in order to comply with a legal obligation or to be used for the purpose for which you have given your implied consent.
- SPDC will only retain the data for as long as it is necessary to serve the purpose of collection or to the extent necessary to comply with applicable law or to protect the rights of SPDC, its affiliates or the data subject concerned.
- We have implemented technology and policies with the objective of protecting your privacy from unauthorized access and improper use. For inquiries or concern, please contact: SPDC-SI-Scholarships@shell.com

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CITY & CRIME

130 hospitals, pharmacies operated by fake doctors discovered in Kano LG

... Fake doctor infused HIV-positive blood in woman

From Zahraddeen Yakubu Shuaibu, Kano

A committee inaugurated by the Chairman of Tudun Wada Local Government Council, in Kano State, Alhaji Ahmad Tijjani Matata, has discovered 130 hospitals and pharmacies operated by fake doctors in the LGA.

The committee, during its investigation, found that only one of the fake doctors had a secondary school certificate,

while one of them was an electrical engineer who owned an eight-bed hospital that claimed to treat different illnesses.

The chairman of the committee, Alhaji Abubakar Musa Karafe, said the worst part was how one of the fake doctors infused HIV-positive blood in a woman who attended his clinic for treatment of malaria.

He said the investigation received a series of complaints from residents over the proliferation of private

hospitals and pharmacies in their various villages.

"It is disheartening that we even found an electrical engineer operating a private hospital and attending to patients; prescribing drugs, administering drips, blood and even attending to pregnant women. One of them even added HIV-positive blood to one woman.

"We even found one who is a traditional medicine vendor, but he admitted cholera patients. We had to evacuate

them to the hospital for proper treatment. Most of them don't even have basic knowledge about health.

"One of them said he was a nurse, and later we discovered he only has a secondary school leaving certificate," he added.

According to the committee chairman, most of them were from Kagoro, in Kaduna State, who came to Kano and posed as doctors. He said they will take proper action against them and ensure that they face the wrath of the law.

Gunmen storm Abuja community, abduct 4 returning from crossover night

By Adam Umar

Gunmen, in the early hours of Sunday, stormed Paze, a community around the Byazhin area on the outskirts of Kubwa town in the FCT, and abducted four people.

City & Crime reports that four heads of families were separately abducted from their homes, but their wives and other members were spared.

Our reporter, who visited the community yesterday, saw people discussing the incident in groups.

A housewife, Juliet Olarenwaju, whose husband was among those abducted, said she was on her way back home from church with her husband after attending the New Year's crossover night, some minutes after lam, when the incident happened.

"As we were approaching home, we saw people numbering about 15 coming from the nearby bush, and walking toward us.

"Then they started splitting themselves as we were getting closer; that was when my husband whispered to me that the people looked suspicious and that they were up to something.

"So, he asked me to rush into our compound immediately and open the burglary attached to our bungalow, while he was closing the entrance door of the house.

My husband had to rush to join me, and lock the burglary door, immediately.

"They later broke the burglary and started doing the same on our second door, while at the same time demanding us to come out.

"My husband asked them what they wanted and in the process, handed over all the available money with him along with our two mobile phones.

"But they insisted that we should come out. They broke the second door and came in. "They beat my husband," she added.

Joy Daniel, another housewife in the area, also narrated how gunmen broke into their compound and dragged them out, collected their money, foodstuff and mobile phones.

She said her husband, Daniel Audu, along with two other heads of families in the neighbourhood, namely Solomon Ayongo and another identified as Jerry, were abducted.

Madam Joy, who is heavily pregnant, said she was beaten mercilessly by the attackers.

She said the attackers forced them to sit on the ground and left with four people.

A community leader in the area, Mr Julius Ighabo, said on getting a phone call about the incident, he passed the information on to the commander of the vigilantes in Byazhin area of the community.

Man remanded for impersonating magistrate in Kwara

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

A magistrates' court sitting in Ilorin, Kwara State, has remanded one Bolaji Babaita for allegedly impersonating a judge.

The Ilorin branch of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), sued Babaita for allegedly impersonating magistrate Imam Babatunde Popoola to defraud members of the public.

According to a direct complaint filed by Barr Taofiq Olateju on behalf of the NBA, the defendant (Babaita) specialised in impersonating, forging and procuring landed property documents with fraudulent intent using the name of the magistrate.

Olateju urged the court to order the defendant's remand, saying it would serve as a deterrent to others from perpetrating such act.

Magistrate Abdulrahem Bello, who presided over the matter, granted the request and ordered the defendant's remand in the federal correctional facility.

He adjourned the case to January 19.

Police arrest 458 suspected kidnappers, cultists in 12 months

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

The operatives of the Edo State Police Command have arrested 458 suspects allegedly involved in various crimes between January and December 2022.

Addressing journalists on the command's achievements, the command's spokesman, SP C. Nwanbuzor, said the suspects were arrested over alleged kidnapping, cultism, robbery, rape, and unlawful possession of firearms, among others.

He said the successes were recorded following the desire of the Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Dankwara, to get rid of crime and criminality in the state.

"From January to December 2022, the command has recorded achievements against various violent crimes and other offences, including the arrest of suspects, rescue of victims, recovery of arms/ammunition, empty rifle magazines, empty ammunition shells, vehicles and tricycles."

He said 102 suspects were arrested for kidnapping, robbery 65, cultism 193, defilement 16, ritualist two, arson two, IPOB/ESN one, while 77 were arrested for unlawful possession of arms within the period.

According to him, 68 kidnap victims were rescued while 58 suspected kidnappers and robbery suspects were killed within the period.

Bandits raid late Jere emir's residence, shoot 1, abduct couple

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Bandits have raided the private residence of the late emir of Jere in Kagarko LGA of Kaduna State, late Dr Sa'ad Usman, abducting a man, identified as Hussaini alongside his wife and her four-month-old baby.

A resident of Jere, Mu'azu Adamu, who confirmed the latest kidnapping incident over the phone to our reporter on Monday, said it happened on Sunday, around 11:23 pm.

He said the woman, however, later escaped with her child as they were being led by the bandits to raid another house in the area.

He said the bandits, who came in their numbers armed, proceeded to Anguwar Salanke and abducted another resident

identified as Baba Na'ibi, while injuring other people identified as Ahmad and Musa.

"Actually, one of the victims was hit by a stray bullet when the bandits shot into the window of the house of Baba Na'ibi, while the second was injured by the shattered window pane of the house," he said.

He said the two injured victims were taken to the hospital.

The Jere emirate council's secretary, Malam Aliyu Zubair, confirmed the kidnapping, saying six people were abducted in the area based on the information at his disposal.

He said the bandits invaded the late emir's private around 10:12pm on Sunday, and abducted one person, before proceeding to a neighbour's house, where they whisked away five people.

"And before the police arrived, the bandits had escaped. It was our vigilantes who tried to engage them, but they were overpowered because the guns the bandits were carrying were more sophisticated than those of the vigilantes," he said.

City & Crime had reported that bandits on December 11, 2022 invaded three villages in Kagarko and Kachia LGA of Kaduna State and abducted 37 people.

Also on December 12, 2022, bandits abducted a Fulani leader, Aliyu Abdullahi, popularly known as Ardon Magadana, who was on a motorcycle going back home after attending a security meeting at Jarjala in the area.

There was no official response from the authorities of the Kaduna State Police Command over the incident as at the time of filing this report.

Man arrested for aborting girlfriend's pregnancy to avoid marriage

... 2 pharmacists held for abortion

By Adam Umar

The police in Zuba, Abuja, have launched an investigation against three persons over a 17-year-old girl's pregnancy, and subsequently conducted illegal abortion on her.

The vigilantes' commander in the area, Musa Alhassan, while speaking with City & Crime at the weekend, said the matter was initially reported to their office last week by the girl's parents, who said their daughter was abducted.

"They complained that the girl, a JSS 3 student, was being kept by one Jamilu

Abdullahi, 41, the first suspect, for over two weeks, following their discovery that she was pregnant.

"We located the girl in the custody of the suspect at Chaza community, Suleja where he rented a room. Alhassan further stated that the suspect had confessed to committing the crime during their investigation, and hence the matter was taken to his guardians in Suleja town, where an agreement was reached, on how he should take care of her, as well as marry her, after delivery."

He said unknown to them, while the

discussion was ongoing, the suspect on the other hand gave N10,000 to some friends to abort the pregnancy.

"She was given an abortion tablet by a second suspect, a pharmacist in Madalla town, and later an injection by a third suspect, another pharmacist in Suleja town, all in Niger State," the vigilante leader said.

He also said the three suspects were handed over to the police in Zuba early last week, while the girl who was five months pregnant before the said abortion, was taken to a clinic in the town for medical attention.



Some of the suspects paraded at the FCT police command in Abuja at the weekend

Police raid hotel, nab 10 robbery suspects, recover guns

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The FCT police have arrested 10 robbery suspects and recovered guns, including two stolen vehicles, after raiding a hotel in the Sambisa Masaka area of Nasarawa State.

The Commissioner of Police in the FCT, Sadiq I. Abubakar, made this known while parading the suspects at the command's headquarters in Abuja at

the weekend. He said the suspects were arrested by operatives of the FCT command attached to the state criminal investigation department after a raid on the hotel following intelligence information.

He gave the names of the suspects as Ibrahim Umar, Nurudeen Yunusa, Mohammed Ahmed, Yunusa Ibrahim, Ahmadu Ahmed, Zakari Salihu

Suleiman, Isah Labaran Muhammed Muhammed and Salihu Suleiman.

He listed exhibits recovered from the raid to include five AK-47 rifles, four G-3 rifles, 122 live ammunitions of 7.62MM, one locally made pistol without ammunition, three ballistic vests, six empty AK-47 magazines, charms, ID cards, and two Golf and Toyota Camry cars, among others.

The police commissioner further disclosed that four other suspects were also arrested over armed robbery at various POS points at Maitama, Garki, Wuse, and Central Area of the FCT.

He gave the names of the suspects as Isah Wada, Sunday Jacob, John Monday Audu, and Peter Adaji, saying the suspects had been hunting POS operators and dispossessing them of money.

Harmattan: Women distribute sweaters, detergent to almajiri in Jos

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

A group of women in Jos, Plateau State, have distributed items including sweaters, slippers, soap and detergent to almajiri students to cushion the effect of this year's weather condition in Jos.

The women said they distributed the items due to the cold weather condition of the state, especially during the harmattan season, adding that they were worried about the condition of the almajiri children during this period and decided to distribute the items to give them a sense of belonging.

Hajiya Ladi Mu'azu, Secretary of Motherhen Initiative, while distributing the items, said the group realized what the almajiri students were passing through, saying "we were born and raised in Jos, and therefore ought to pay back to the society.

Hajiya Larai Binta Hassan, coordinator of the group, while commenting on the gesture, said they looked not only at the almajiri but other vulnerable children.

"We understand that during this period, almajiri students and other vulnerable children face lots of challenges, and so, we saw the need to tackle the situation," she said.

They advised the children to avoid roaming the streets and bad friends who would distract them from the essence of their enrollment in the various tsangaya schools, which is to learn and memorise the Glorious Qur'an.



Chairman of the Lagos State Taskforce, CSP Shola Jejeloye, (centre) during one of the operations carried out in the state

Lagos crushes 18,120 bikes in 2022, impounds 8642 vehicles

Prosecutes 122 passengers for patronizing banned monocycles

From Eugene Agha Lagos

Not less than 8,642 vehicles, 18,537 commercial motorcycles were impounded for violating the Lagos State Traffic laws in 2022.

The chairman of the Lagos State Taskforce, CSP Shola Jejeloye, while reviewing the operational activities of the Agency for the year 2022, also said out of the 18,537 motorcycles that were

seized, 18,120 of them were crushed at the instance of the state mobile court

Jejeloye said the review of the activities of the Agency became necessary so that it would be able to identify areas that need improvements and to also identify new frontiers that would help facilitate the growth and development of the metropolis.

He said the offenders were all charged to court accordingly.

"It was quite a herculean task enforcing the ban on the operations of okada in Lagos but we were up to the task. We carried out sting operations on various highways and other restricted routes to ensure that their activities were truncated.

"A total of 156 riders and 122 passengers were made to face the mobile court for patronizing the unwanted okada operators," Jejeloye stated.

Student rakes in N80,000 monthly from spices trade

A final year student of Modibbo Adama University, Yola in Adamawa State, Raudah Sheik-Jimeta says she is raking in at least N80,000 monthly from the sales of local seasoning and spices.

Sheik-Jimeta, who stated this on telephone interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday, said she produced variety of spices sourced from local produce.

"I started dealing in spices like chili powder, ginger and garlic paste,

"Daddawa" processed from locust beans, pap and dumpling powder locally called "Garin-danwake".

"I began the business in 2020 during the COVID lockdown with N30,000 seed capital because I really wanted to be self-reliant, so that I can help myself and family," she said.

Sheik-Jimeta, an Information Technology student, said her spouse and sister motivated her to joined the trade, adding that she managed time effectively combining studies

and business.

"I enjoy high patronage from women who followed my products advert on social media platforms as well as friends and family members.

"I made brisk businesses during Ramadan fast and festive periods," she said, adding that she engaged two persons as the sales outreach expanded to other states.

"My dream is to become a household name, providing jobs for youth and women across the country," she said. (NAN)

QUICK READ

4 die, 3 sustain injuries in lone accident in Niger

Four persons died while three others sustained injuries in a lone accident on Sunday at Nami village, Agai Local Government Area of Niger.

The Sector Commander of the FRSC in Niger, Mr Kumar Tsukwam, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Minna on Monday that the accident occurred at about 10 pm on Sunday night.

He said that an articulated vehicle was loaded with chemicals with 49 male passengers seating on top from Lagos, heading to Kano State.

"Forty nine male persons were involved in the accident; four of them died, while three others sustained injuries and 42 escaped unhurt.

"The injured victims were rescued and taken to Lapai General Hospital, while the dead were deposited at the same hospital mortuary in Lapai." (NAN)

Osun records 81 deaths in 313 road crashes in 2022

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

The Federal Road Safety Commission has said 81 people were killed in 313 road traffic crashes in Osun State between January and November 2022.

The FRSC Sector Commander in the state, Paul John Okpe, in an interview with City & Crime in Osogbo, said 244 people sustained various degrees of injuries in the crashes.

He noted that the majority of the crashes occurred due to traffic violations by drivers travelling from Lagos, Ibadan to Abuja, and other parts of the North.

He advised drivers to observe a 30-minute rest period after every four hours drive.

Police begin investigation into couple's death on New Year's Day

The police command in Ogun has begun investigation into the death of a couple, Mr Kehinde and Mrs Bukola Fatimoye, at Ibara GRA in Abeokuta, on the New Year's Day.

SP Abimbola Oyeyemi, the state Police Public Relations Officer, made the disclosure in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday in Abeokuta.

NAN reports that Kehinde and Bukola were burnt to death when suspected arsonists set their house ablaze on Jan. 1.

One of their children and their housekeeper were also alleged to have been kidnapped by those behind the suspected arson.

NAN gathered that the incident happened shortly after the couple returned from 'Cross Over Service' to usher in the new year.

NAN also learnt that Kehinde and Bukola were employees of the Central Bank of Nigeria and Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, respectively. (NAN)

**FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

P.M.B. 3045, KANO

**INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF COLLEGE REGISTRAR****INTRODUCTION**

The Governing Council of the College hereby advertises the vacancy for the post of College Registrar and applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill in the post.

DUTIES

- The Registrar is the Chief Administrative Officer of the College and is responsible to the Provost for the day to day administration of the College.
- He/she is a Principal Officer and the Head of Registry Department.
- He/she serves as Secretary to the Governing Council, Management Committee, Academic Board and other statutory Committees.
- He/she is responsible for keeping all the records of the Institution.

SALARY GRADE: CONSOLIDATED**QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS AND EXPERIENCES**

An applicant for the post of College Registrar should possess the following:-

- a) A Masters Degree from a recognized institution of higher learning plus at least fifteen (15) years cognate experience; or a Doctorate Degree with at least twelve (12) years cognate experience; preferably in the Registry of an Institution of Higher Learning
- b) Evidence of strong administrative leadership, initiative and creativity in policy formulation, good industrial human relations and positive managerial attributes;
- c) Evidence of membership of a reputable professional body(ies) in Nigeria.
- d) Be compliant in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and must command respect and be able to carry colleagues along;
- e) Be objective, fair minded, impartial and of proven integrity;
- f) Should not be less than 5 years as a Deputy Registrar in any Tertiary Institution in Nigeria and not more than fifty-nine (59) years of age at the time of assumption of duty.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT/CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The Registrar shall hold office for a period of five (5) years in the first instance beginning from the effective date of his/her appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment, and may be renewable, subject to satisfactory performance for another term of five years only.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates are requested to submit twenty (20) copies of their applications and Curriculum Vitae containing the necessary details in the following order:-

- i) Full names, Surname underlined.
- ii) Date and Place of Birth.
- iii) State of Origin and Local Government Area.
- iv) Nationality
- v) Marital Status.
- vi) Current Postal Address, including Telephone Numbers and e-mail Address.
- vii) Permanent Home Address.
- viii) Educational Institution Attended with Dates.
- ix) Academic/Professional Qualifications obtained with Dates.
- x) Membership of Professional Association/Bodies.
- xi) Previous Employer(s) and Posts held with Dates
- xii) Names and Address of Three (3) Referees who are to forward confidential reports on them, one of which must be the Current Employer. Such referees should be able to attest to the candidate's claims of administrative capacities and personal conduct.
- xiii) A Medical Report on Physical Fitness from a Government Hospital.

Candidates should note that all applications are to be forwarded in a sealed envelope to the Office of the Registrar, Federal College of Education, P.M.B. 3045, Kano not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication. In addition, candidates are requested to ask their referee(s) to send a Confidential Report on them to the same address above, before the closing date.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Signed
Hajiya Aisha Ibrahim Gashash mnim
Registrar,
Federal College of Education, Kano

**BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (SCE)****APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO PART-TIME DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for **SSCE O LEVEL or Its Equivalent (NON-UTME CANDIDATES), UTME and DIRECT ENTRY Admission** into the following Part-Time Degree Programmes for 2020/2021 Academic Session.

Department of Arts and Humanities

- B. A. Arabic
- B. A. English
- B. A. Hausa
- B. A. Islamic Studies

Department of Science

- B. Nursing Science (**D. E. Only**)
- B. Sc. Geography
- B. Sc. Mathematics

Department of Education

- B. A. (Ed) Adult Education
- B. A. (Ed) Arabic
- B. A. (Ed) English
- B. A. (Ed) Hausa
- B. A. (Ed) History
- B. A. (Ed) Islamic Studies
- B. Sc. Library and Information Science
- B. Sc. (Ed) Economics
- B. Sc. (Ed) Geography
- B. Sc. (Ed) Mathematics
- B. Sc. Health Education

Department of Social Science and Administration

- B. Sc. Accounting
- B. Sc. Banking and Finance
- B. Sc. Business Administration
- B. Sc. Criminology and Security Studies
- B. Sc. Economics
- B. Sc. International Relations
- B. Sc. Public Administration

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Admission into the programmes must satisfy the following conditions:

FIVE CREDITS 'O LEVEL' RESULTS WITHOUT JAMB – (NON-UTME CANDIDATES)

- a) Applicants with **SSCE O Level results or its equivalent WITHOUT JAMB RESULTS** are eligible to apply once they have a minimum of five 'O' Level credits in relevant subjects including English at not more than two sittings.

FIVE CREDITS 'O LEVEL' RESULTS WITH JAMB – (UTME CANDIDATES)

- b) Applicants with **JAMB Results can equally apply**. Those with a minimum of **180** JAMB scores who choose Bayero University, Kano as their first choice in the regular programme will be given priority.
- c) Applicants for admission into B. Sc. Accounting, B.Sc. Business Administration, B.Sc. Mathematics, B. Sc. (Ed) Mathematics, B. Sc. Health Education and B. Sc. (Ed) Economics must also have credits in '**O' Level Mathematics**.
- d) Holders of National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies Certificates (NBAIS) can only apply for B. A. Arabic and B. A. Islamic Studies.

DIRECT ENTRY ADMISSION

Applicants for Admission into the programmes must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) Possess a recognized Advanced Level qualification in the area relevant to the programme of choice. Such qualification(s) include(s) **National Diploma (ND), Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE), Interim Joint Matriculation Board (IJMB)** – (with a minimum of **6 points**), **Nursing Certificate, Diploma in Health Education, Diploma in Community Health, Diploma in Environmental Health, General Certificate of Education (GCE), 'A' Level** and any other relevant qualification(s).
- b) Possess a minimum of **five (5) 'O' Level Credits** in relevant subjects, including English.
- c) In addition, applicants for admission into B. Sc. Accounting, B.Sc. Business Administration, B.Sc. Mathematics, B. Sc. (Ed) Mathematics and B. Sc. (Ed) Economics must also have credits in '**O' Level Mathematics**. While candidates for B. Nursing Science must have **credits in English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics**.
- d) Similarly, applicants for admission into B. Sc. Health Education must have **credits in English, Mathematics, Biology and any other relevant science subject(s)**.
- e) Holders of National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies Certificates (NBAIS) can only apply for B. A. Arabic and B. A. Islamic Studies.
- f) Candidates applying for B. Sc. Public Administration should possess a credit in Government/History in addition.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Step - 1 An applicant **MUST** first visit **JAMB Online Application Platform for Part-Time Degree Programme**, select BUK, access the form, fill it and then make a non-refundable payment of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Naira only (N3,500:00)** into the JAMB'S Account from **Monday 2nd January 2023**.

NOTE: Applicants must fill in **New JAMB Forms** purposely meant for Part-Time Degree Programme to obtain JAMB Registration Number. **Old JAMB Forms/Registration Numbers will not be accepted.**

Step - 2 Applicant can then approach the University Portal - www.buk.edu.ng with effect from **Monday 2nd January 2023** and Click **PART-TIME APPLICATION FORM** at the homepage. Login **PROGRAMME SELECTED and GENDER**.

Step - 3 User should create account at the Portal. Username and Password will be provided.

Step - 4 After you login, fill in all the necessary sections provided by the Application Portal.

Step - 5 Generate your personalized invoice. The invoice is to be printed and taken to any Bank to make a payment of Processing Fee of **Ten Thousand Naira (N10, 000:00) only. Ensure you read the Payment Procedure carefully at the Payment Procedure Page.**

Step - 6 Review your form to ensure accuracy of all information you have provided.

Step - 7 Provide your JAMB number before printing acknowledgement slip. **Remember**, old JAMB numbers used for other admissions will not be accepted.

Step - 8 After completion, generate your Acknowledgement Slip. Print the Slip and keep it safe. The Slip will be needed during the collection of Admission Letter and during Registration.

Payment of the Processing Fee opens at Banks from **Tuesday 10th January 2023** and closes **Tuesday 28th February 2023**.

For inquiries or difficulties in applying, emails should be sent to application.pt@buk.edu.ng

SIGNED
Professor Salihu Lawal
Dean, School of Continuing Education (SCE)

BUSINESS

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

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

COMMODITIES PRICE (December 28, 2022)

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

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

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

DisCos earn N1.3tr from electricity bills in 23 months

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

An estimated 12.792 million registered consumers paid at least N1.367 trillion as charges for power supply to them by the 11 Distribution Companies (DisCos) within 23 months - from November 2020 to September 2022.

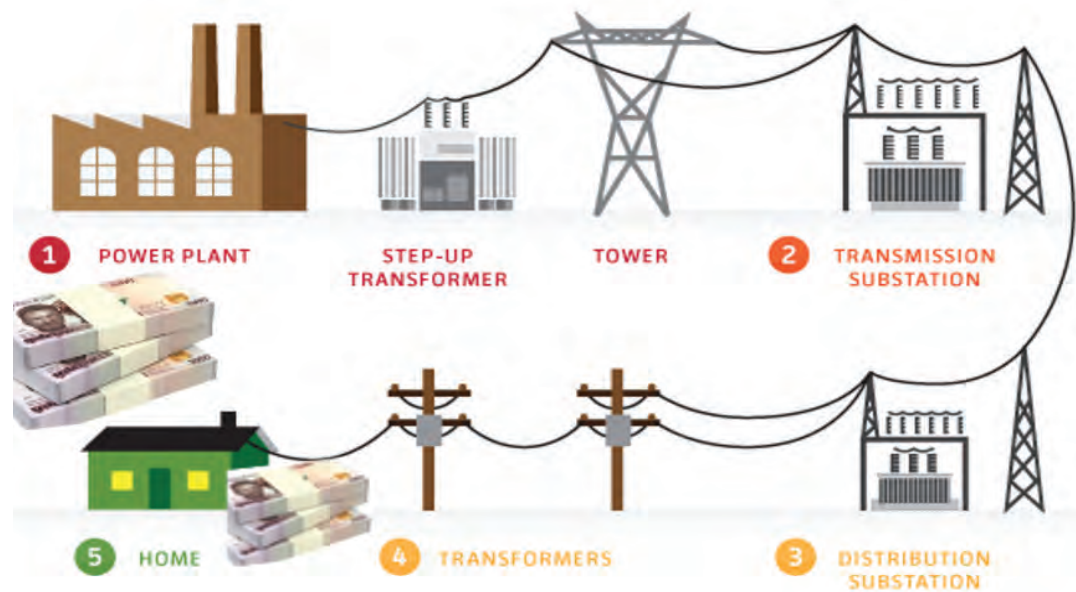
According to an analysis of data published by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), the customers owe N590.6 billion as debt of the entire N1.958tr bill during the period.

The Nigerian Electricity Market (NEM) has experienced a huge liquidity crisis with over N1.7 trillion market shortfall. The billing and revenue collection were done according to customers' bands with those in Band A (customers with over 20 hour daily electricity supply) getting the highest billing of N748.9bn and the highest revenue collection of N623.1bn accounting for about 45 per cent of the generated revenue. The customers however had N125.8bn as unpaid bills.

Band C (12 hours supply) had the second most billed customers with N412.5bn and the 11 DisCos receiving N255.5bn from the bill as N157bn was unpaid.

The third most billed customers were those on Band B (16 hours supply) with N377.1bn bill but the consumers paid N268.3bn leaving

• 12m customers owe N590bn debt



N108.8bn unpaid bill.

Band D (eight hours) customers received N289.4bn bill but paid N158.6bn with N130.8bn as outstanding. N129.7bn was billed to customers under Band E (five hours supply) but this group of electricity users paid N61.9bn for the 23 months and had a debt of N67.8bn to pay to the 11 DisCos.

The lowest customer category is the 'Lifeline' (mostly in rural areas) getting N801.3 million bill for the 23 months but ended up paying N450.5m, and owing N350.8m.

According to the Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO) 2022,

this set of customers who are considered to be poor, are cross-subsidised by payments from the five other customer categories.

While the billing for the five categories of electricity consumers grew significantly in 2022 from the figures earlier, the revenue collection also improved.

Analysis of the average billing trend shows that customers on Lifeline paid N15.29 per kilowatts hour (kwh) in 2022 being the lowest hourly billing but they paid N7.58/kwh and N8.24/kwh in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

The bill for band A reached N62.95/kwh in 2022 being the

highest charge but customers paid about N52.38/kwh leaving a N10.57 shortfall for every one hour of electricity consumption.

Band E customers that have a lower power supply of just five hours daily got N37.93/kwh in 2022 and paid N18.52/kwh leaving a N19.41/kwh hourly debt.

Generally, consumers were billed an average of N52.74/kwh in 2022 but paid N37.45/kwh as the power firms could not get a difference of N15.29/kwh for every hour of electricity supplied to the over 12m customers for most of last year.

FIRS takes tax clearance certificate online

By Faruk Shuaibu

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) has announced that taxpayers can now get their tax clearance certificates with a single click on Taxpro Max solution.

Daily Trust reports that the TaxPro Max is a tax administration solution introduced by FIRS in June 2021 as a one-stop-shop for taxpayer registration, tax returns filing, tax payment and tax clearance certificate requests, among other activities.

In a statement yesterday by the Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman, FIRS, Muhammed Nami, on (Media & Communication), Johannes Oluwatobi Wojuola, said generation of the certificates, which used to be issued within a period of 2 weeks will now be available on a single click by the taxpayer.

He said the innovation was on the heels of wide-scale technological reforms that the service has embarked on in its bid to achieve hundred per cent automation of its tax administration functions.

Nami noted that the new mode of certificate generation was in line with the objectives of the service to make the lives of taxpayers easier and ensure the ease of doing business in the country.

"One of our objectives as a service is to build a customer-centric institution. That means an institution that has the customer at the heart of its innovations and solutions.

"It is for this reason that we have tuned the operations of our TaxPro Max solution to be able to deliver tax clearance certificates in the shortest possible time to taxpayers as long as they do not have any liabilities. At the click of a button, a taxpayer will get their tax clearance certificates, as long as they have no outstanding liabilities," he said.



Geregu Power stocks gain 49%, 86 days after NGX listing

By Vincent Nwanma

Geregu Power Plc, the first power generating company to be quoted on the local bourse, ended the year with a star performance, gaining 49 per cent after being listed on the Nigerian Exchange for just 86 days.

The stock closed at N149 on the last trading day of the year, up from N100 at which it was listed on October 5, 2022, with 2.5 billion shares. At the closing price, the company's market capitalization has risen to N372.5bn, up from N250bn at listing.

The result came just days after the Fund for Export Development in Africa (FEDA) of the African Export-Import Bank announced it had received internal approval to take up

• Afrexim's involvement good for sector – Analyst

strategic stakes in the electric power generating power.

The statement quoted the CEO of FEDA, Marlène Ngoyi, as saying: "The proposed investment in Geregu Power demonstrates FEDA's ability to intervene in opportunities and sectors that are critical towards driving the structural transformation of trade on the continent. Geregu Power is a key player in Nigeria's power sector. FEDA is pleased to partner with the Company in its next phase of growth."

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Geregu, Femi Otedola declared that "as the pioneer Power Generation Company on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX), the interest shown by FEDA, is an

expression of its firm belief not only in the Company but also in the future of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI)".

The decision by Afreximbank is a good development and will encourage more investments, said Dr. Muda Yusuf, Director of Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise.

"For Afreximbank to come into Geregu means it has seen something worthy in the country's sector. We need more investments across the value chain," he said in an interview with Daily Trust.

This investment should also encourage the government to hands-off the transmission segment of the power sector, he said. The government-owned

Transmission Company of Nigeria could become more efficient if it goes to the private sector, Yusuf said.

"The power sector has more potential because of the huge deficit. But we need to get the ecosystem right through right pricing," he noted.

Geregu, a 435MW thermal power plant based in Ajaokuta, Kogi State. The plant is majority owned and operated by Amperion Power Distribution Company Limited and generating about 10% of Nigeria's power.

The Nigerian stock market All-Share Index closed the year at 51,251.06 points or a 19.98% growth for the local bourse. This is over three times the 6.07% recorded by the market last year.

From Abiodun Alade, Lagos

Banking sector: Resilience in the midst of headwinds

The banking sector remains resilient as our nation and indeed the world continue to endure incessant, mutating and perilous socio-economic shocks.

The expected recovery of the global economy from the COVID-19 shock was wiped away and replaced by new shocks from the Russian-Ukraine war and the unprecedented stalling of the Chinese economy.

These strong headwinds retarded growth momentum, worsened global conditions, amplified risks and uncertainties, and dampened global outlook.

Against the backdrop of the widespread slowdown in many economies and the risk of an imminent recession, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) repeatedly downgraded short-term global growth prospects, as nearly one-third of the world's economies is projected to contract next year.

As at January 2022, headline inflation in Nigeria was 15.60% and rose to a peak of 21.47% in November. Meanwhile, food inflation consistently outpaced headline inflation and core inflation during the year. For the basket of goods and services consumed by the average Nigerian, costs have accelerated by between 50% and 100% in 2022. The inflationary situation was the worst in recent history and the impact on citizens and the SMEs was very devastating. The World Bank reported that 5 million Nigerians have been pushed into poverty in 2022 amid a slump of purchasing power by 35% driven largely by surging inflation. In a sustained fight against inflationary pressures, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), raised the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR), by 500 basis points within four consecutive MPC meetings from 11.5% in April to 16.5% in November.

Accordingly, and like many other countries, Nigeria's GDP growth fell gradually from 5.03% in 2021q2 to 3.98% in 2021q4, 3.54% in 2022q2 and 2.25% in 2022q3. Nigeria's GDP is valued at over N200 trillion [in nominal terms] as at the third quarter of 2022. The World Bank projected a growth rate of 3.11% for 2022 and 2.9% in 2023.

Given the enormity of the macroeconomic headwinds and the numerous fiscal and monetary policy shocks, the Nigerian economy could be judged to have demonstrated remarkable resilience in 2022.

The Nigerian banking industry played a major role as it attracted \$1.47 billion as capital inflows in the first half of 2022, an increase of 109.8% compared to \$698.2 million



■ Minister of Finance Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed

received in the second half of the previous year and 46.5% higher than the \$1bn inflows recorded in the corresponding period of 2021.

The banking sector recorded the highest foreign inflow in the period under review compared to other sectors in the Nigerian economy, accounting for 47.1% of a total of \$3.11bn capital inflows between January and June 2022.

Despite contending with double-digit inflation and a hike in operating expenses, most Nigerian banks reported good profit in their half-year reports in 2022. An assessment of CBN's financial stability indicators showed that industry liquidity and non-performing loan ratios both improved by 130 basis points (up) and 75bps (down), respectively, to 42.6% and 4.95%.

Although, the Capital Adequacy Ratio at 14.1% underperformed the June 2021 level by 140bps, all the indicators beat the prudential guideline limits of 30% (LR), 5% (NPLs), and 13% (CAR), respectively, despite myriads of challenges in the business environment.

Forex shortage, RT 200 and Japa

The Nigerian foreign exchange market faced a serious crunch which strained the reserves and stifled the value of the naira. As noted by the governor of the CBN, Godwin Emefiele, the official foreign exchange receipt from crude oil sales (the country's main source of FOREX) into official reserves dried up steadily from above \$3bn monthly in 2014 to an absolute zero dollar.

The number of student visas issued to Nigerians by the UK alone also increased from an annual average of about 8,000 visas as at 2020 to nearly 66,000 in 2022, which implies an eight-fold surge to about \$2.5bn annually in study-related

foreign exchange outflow to the UK alone.

To diversify from dependence on oil inflows, and minimise the debilitating pressures in the foreign exchange market, the CBN with support from the Bankers' Committee launched the RT200 programme in February to stimulate non-oil exports with a \$200bn foreign exchange income target in three to five years.

Emefiele said Nigeria received \$4.987bn as non-oil export inflows under the programme this year, which is significantly higher than the \$3.190bn repatriated by non-oil exporters in 2021.

Nigerian banks were not exempted from the 'Japa syndrome' as it witnessed an exodus of tech talents in the year under review.

Naira depreciation, redesign, withdrawal limit

According to the World Bank, the official exchange rate depreciated by 5.2% in 2022, as at November; while the parallel market rate depreciated by 40%. Parallel market premium widened from 37% in January to 71% in November 2022. The bank said, "Nigeria exchange rate policy settings are stifling business activities, investment and growth, and amplifying macroeconomic risks."

At a point in November, the naira exchanged for over N900/\$1 and N1000/£1 in the parallel market.

This is despite the many policies by the CBN, including cracking down on AbokiFX, a popular forex publishing platform as well as discontinuance of foreign currencies sale to Bureaux de Change (BDC) operators in the country in 2021. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) also raided some BDC operators in Lagos, Abuja and Kano in a bid to tackle the rising

exchange rate but this did not stop the naira depreciation.

The CBN also redesigned three out of the existing eight banknotes which became legal tenders from December 15.

Undeterred by criticism, the CBN governor, Emefiele, was able to get President Muhammadu Buhari to unveil the redesigned naira notes on November 23.

While the CBN said new security features have been introduced, the obvious change was the colour of the notes.

The new N200 note has a red colour, the N500 note comes in green colour while N1000 note has a blue colour. Little wonders, many labelled the new notes as 'repainted', 'filtered' and 'restructured'.

However, the apex bank maintained that the failure of the country to redesign the country's currency for almost 20 years, exposed it to counterfeiting, hoarding of naira banknotes outside the banking system, and the shortage of clean and fit banknotes in circulation among others.

Weeks after announcing plans to reduce the weekly over-the-counter cash withdrawal limit for individuals to N100,000 and that of corporate organisations to N500,000, the CBN was forced to make an upward review to N500,000 and N5 million for individuals and corporate organisations respectively.

Emefiele, DSS and Terrorism financing

However, the most shocking news from the sector in 2022 was the suit filed at the Federal High Court Abuja by the Department of State Services accusing the CBN governor, Emefiele, of terrorism financing. Emefiele has not been seen in public since the drama started as it is alleged

that the secret police are on the lookout for the apex bank governor.

Experts' views and looking ahead

The 2022 Afrinvest Banking Sector Report has revealed that despite daunting economic challenges, commercial banks in the country recorded modest improvement in all regulatory indicators.

The report's assessment of CBN's financial stability indicators showed that Industry Liquidity (Liquidity Ratio) and Non-Performing Loan ratios both improved by 130 basis points (up) and 75bps (down), respectively, to 42.6% and 4.95%.

The Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise, CPPE, which called for a resetting of monetary policy, noted that the current Cash Reserve Ratio, CRR, has made it difficult for the banks to play their primary role of financial intermediation.

"The current CRR of 32.5% and MPR of 16.5% imposed on the Nigerian banks are among the highest globally. High CRR in particular has become a key impediment to financial intermediation by the banks. Even more disturbing is the fact that effective CRR is as high as 50% or more for some banks," it said in a report by its director, Dr Muda Yusuf, while calling for a reduction in CRR so that the banks can be better placed to play their primary role of financial intermediation in the economy.

Agusto & Co. in its 2022 banking report opined that, "Although the pandemic-related headwinds have abated to an extent, the heterodox regulatory practices and insecurity issues remain. Furthermore, the forthcoming elections and growing budget deficit have forced the FGN to modify several extant tax legislations, which would have a significant influence on the banking industry. Nevertheless, the financial services industry (dominated by the banking sector)'s contribution to the country's GDP has been resilient, rising year on year by 70 basis points to account for a higher 3.5% of Nigeria's GDP in 2021."

Looking ahead to 2023, banks will need to become more resilient and reinvent their business models to ride out the current volatile period and achieve long-term growth and profitability as attested to in McKinsey's Global Banking Annual Review for 2022.

ARM, TechnoVision offer N12m in startup hunt

By Zakariyya Adaramola

Any young Nigerian technology entrepreneur who is able to show smart and innovative ideas that make a significant positive impact on the lives of the people and communities around them will get N12 million funding from Asset & Resource Management Holding Company Limited (ARM) and TechnoVision

Communications Limited, the two companies said yesterday.

This initiative, according to a statement on Monday, is in line with the firms' commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with the aim of building a generation of change leaders, working together to build a better future.

"ARM in partnership with TechnoVision (TV) announces that the

2023 edition of the Deji Alli ARM Young Talent Award (DAAYTA) finalists pitch event will be held virtually on April 14th, 2023.

"The winner of the DAAYTA 2023 will receive funding of N12m (twelve million naira) over a period of one year to; develop their business plan, complete an entrepreneurial education at the Pan Atlantic University's Enterprise

Development Centre in Lagos, Nigeria; and finance a 5-month acceleration support to develop their venture via a reputable entrepreneurial hub also in Lagos", the statement added.

It said the notice officially opens up the call for applications for DAAYTA 2023 as ARM seeks the brightest and most innovative start-up business ideas in Nigeria to participate in this edition.

PLATEAU RESCUE UPDATE

Home of Peace and Tourism

Co-created content

EVERY TUESDAY

2023 New Year broadcast by H.E. Rt. Hon. (Dr) Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG, CON, Executive Governor of Plateau State delivered on 1st January 2023.

My dear Citizens of Plateau State,
1. It is with immense gratitude to God Almighty that I address you on the occasion of the New Year 2023. We are grateful to God for sparing our lives and giving us the privilege to be among the living to mark this special day. While we celebrate, we also take time out to pay tribute to those who have been called to glory in the last year 2022. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed continue to rest in peace.

2. For those of us still living, 2023 affords us the opportunity to look forward with expectations as we ask God to enable us discover and fulfill the purpose of our existence. We should make every day of 2023 count as we serve humanity in love, and work hard to build our State and country as we stand together to overcome all our challenges.

3. In the past 7 and half years, I have had the rare privilege and honour to serve you as Governor of this beautiful, blessed and cherished State which has the world-wide reputation as the Home of Peace, Hospitality and Tourism. These years have been very eventful just as they have been challenging.

4. While we look back at the challenges we have worked through, we certainly have many reasons to thank God for the progress we achieved in these years. We did not only ensure stability of the State in terms of peace, security and harmony, but substantially reversed the negative perception of our State as a place to be avoided.

5. Today, people are trooping into Plateau State to invest, reside, enjoy holidays or hold national and international conferences while taking advantage of our unique weather, hospitality and tourist attractions. We can proudly boast of a robust State where people of the 53 ethnic groups and different religions choose tolerance, dialogue, unity, vigilance and collaboration over hate, division, bigotry and sentiments.

6. During the year under review, Plateau State played host to 3 International Conferences and Workshops, well over 18 Local conferences, seminars and workshops as well as one International Golf Tournament. All these are indications that Plateau State has substantially regained its lost glory. These efforts are not that of the Government alone but an inclusive one comprising the good citizens of Plateau State with support from other stakeholders. For this, I remain highly indebted to you all.

7. Through our collaborative efforts, criminals and crises merchants are exposed and isolated for who they are, and are adequately dealt with according to the laws of the land. I take this opportunity to specially appreciate our citizens for supporting us to restore the fortunes of our State. We also thank most specially the security agencies, traditional rulers, religious leaders, civil society organisations, community development associations, youth and women groups for their active



■ Gov. Simon Bako Lalong

roles in rescuing Plateau.

8. As we look towards more progress in the New Year, we should remain steadfast as well as continue to THINK and ACT Plateau because the common good is always superior to our individual interests. That is the only way we can respond to threats against our collective aspirations and boost confidence in our State. Just last week, we received the good news of the approval by the United Nations for the establishment a Peace University in Plateau State to serve as a hub for teaching and research in Peace Building and conflict management.

9. My dear Compatriots, the past year has been a challenging one economically not only for us as a State but also as a nation and globally. Consequently, we were constrained in many ways from carrying out our capital and recurrent projects as robust as we planned. This was made worse by the dwindling resources accruing to the State from the Federation Account as a result of global economic issues. Nevertheless, we did our best in giving priority to critical projects and programmes which we are determined to commission before we leave office.

10. To the glory of God, we have completed many of them which will soon be commissioned. These include the General Hospital Mabudi, Langtang South Local Government; General Hospital Kwall, Kanke Local Government; General Hospital Riyom; High Court Headquarters Complex Jos; Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre Jos; Shendam Bye-pass, Internal Road Networks and Bridges; and the NUJ Secretariat Complex Jos.

11. Others are the Riyom and Shendam Water Treatment Plants; Construction and furnishing of 194 Junior Secondary and Primary schools as well as the resuscitated Pankshin and Langtang Water Treatment Plants. Other critical projects we also devoted our attention to last year which will

also be commissioned this year are the British-American Flyover and Dualisation to Lamingo Junction Roundabout; Kalong-Angwan Dadi Bridge (which is the longest bridge in Plateau State); Several Secondary schools; Procurement of Ultra-modern medical equipment for the State Specialists Hospital such as Superstar MRI Machine, 64 slices CT Scanner, 4D-Ultrasound Scanner and Digital X-Ray Machine among others.

12. Due to challenges with the previous contractor, the Legacy Projects which should have been completed and commissioned suffered a setback especially because of poor performance which led to termination and litigations. Gladly, we were able to successfully terminate the contract and re-award it to another contractor who has since resumed site and work is fastracking the completion.

13. God willing, we shall commission the projects which consist of 6 World class hospitals, 6 model Secondary and 9 Primary schools located across the 17 local Government Areas before the end of our administration.

14. To our most esteemed civil servants, I want to specially thank you for your support, patience and understanding in the preceding year which has been a difficult one in terms of State finances. Like I mentioned earlier, the sharp fall in funds accruing to the State from the Federation Account has hit all States negatively. In our own case, we have used other sources including deepening our IGR to be able to sustain payment of salaries, pensions and allowances. We remain up to date in payment of pensions to our retirees who served us with dignity, integrity and diligence.

15. Let me assure you that we will continue to do our best to keep the ALERTS flowing and also ensure that we do not leave any arrears by the time we leave office. As you are aware, this Administration in collaboration with the Federal

Mortgage Bank of Nigeria has provided home renovation loan to over 2,500 civil servants in the approximate sum of three million naira each across Ministries, Departments and Agencies to ease housing challenges they face. This is in addition to the assistance by Government to the Nigeria Labour Congress in the purchase of the land for the NLC Housing Project in Jebbu Miango, which I personally performed the ground breaking.

16. Government has taken note of the shortfall in manpower and has therefore approved the recruitment of qualified staff for the various MDAs and Tertiary Institutions to ensure that we have continuity in the bureaucracy for better performance and efficient implementation of Government projects and programmes in the service to the people.

17. To address the challenge of access to quality, affordable, and prompt healthcare by civil servants and our citizens in general, the Plateau State Health Insurance Management Agency, PLASCHEMA has continued to register thousands of enrollees who now get healthcare services across registered health facilities in the State.

18. As part of our commitment to social justice and inclusive Governance, we have kept faith with the policy of giving every part of the State a sense of belonging. Last year, we finalised the process and created 268 new Districts, 2 new Chiefdoms as well as restored 3 Chiefdoms scrapped by the previous administration. This is in addition to installing new traditional rulers to replace those who had died and the stools were vacant. I want to use this opportunity to advise the Chiefdoms which are yet to conclude the process of filling vacant stools to do so without further delay.

19. We have also initiated the process of considering the creation of New Development Areas in order to bring governance more closer to the people. We hope the citizens and stakeholders will give the process the needed support to ensure its success.

20. Following the long agitation for the return of schools established by Voluntary Associations particularly those run by Christian and Muslim religious organisations, the Rescue Administration which is a listening one has decided to grant this desire. Consequently, I have approved the process for the return of 32 mission schools in Plateau State earlier taken over by the Government to their original owners in the first phase of this programme which will commence this February. I have directed the Secretary to the Government to put in place a Technical Committee to ensure the successful transfer of these schools with immediate effect.

21. My dear Citizens, we are entering the New Year in the heat of campaigns for the 2023 General elections where the people will elect their new leaders. This is an opportunity for every

eligible citizen to exercise his or her constitutional rights of freely deciding those to lead them. We all have the duty to ensure that we fully participate in the process and conduct ourselves peacefully to ensure that we have a smooth transition.

22. Here on the Plateau, my administration has provided a level playing field for all political parties and candidates to freely canvass for votes by holding rallies, meetings and other engagements without hindrance. Despite being the DG of the APC Presidential Campaign Council and desiring victory for my party and its candidates, I have not used the instrument of power to give any undue advantage to my party or its candidates or even attempted to suppress the opposition.

23. This is because of my belief in democracy and the realization that the interest of Plateau State and its people should always be put above individual, group or party interests. While we struggle for power, we have to remember that power is transient and about service to the people. It is not about personal aggrandizement or parochial interests. At the end of every political contest, we shall remain brothers and sisters and citizens of this great State.

24. May I therefore appeal to those who have registered but yet to collect their PVCs to ensure they collect them immediately before the window closes. Already the collection is moving to the ward level and INEC is calling on all citizens to avail themselves of the opportunity. While we do that, let us renew our resolve to support the electoral umpire and security agencies by ensuring that we shun violence, hate speech and incitement using religion, ethnicity and other negative ideas.

25. I wish to thank the Legislative and Judicial Arms of Government for their support and collaboration in the discharge of our responsibilities. We shall continue to work together as we serve our people. A few days ago, I signed into law the 2023 Appropriation Bill timely passed by the House of Assembly. We shall begin implementation immediately as we march victoriously towards our last day in office.

26. Finally, I wish to appreciate the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Muhammadu Buhari, the National Assembly particularly our representatives in both Chambers for carrying Plateau State along in Federal Government projects, policies and programmes which has resulted in establishment of more Tertiary institutions and agencies in the State.

27. I wish us all a very prosperous and fruitful new year. God bless Plateau State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

*Rt. Hon. (Dr) Simon Bako Lalong, KSG, CON
Executive Governor of Plateau State,
1st January 2023.*

Utilization of Funds Purchased For The Week: 28/12/2022 to 30/12/2022

Bank: Wema Bank Plc

Date: 02/01/2023

Source of Foreign Exchange For The Week: 28/12/2022 to 30/12/2022

| S/N | SOURCE | AMOUNT | RATE | DATE |
|-----|---|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | OTHER SOURCE 1 | 35,000.00 | 445,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 2 | OTHER SOURCE 2 | 1,347.86 | 445,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 3 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SPOT | 315.20 | 600,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 4 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SPOT | 2,985.84 | 500,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 5 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SPOT | 40,674.24 | 500,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 6 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SPOT | 59,403.60 | 493,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 7 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SPOT | 2,975.40 | 491,200.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 8 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SPOT | 3,340.60 | 491,200.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 9 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SPOT | 2,255.04 | 491,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 10 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SPOT | 196,287.55 | 490,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 11 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 15 DAYS | 6,508.54 | 488,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 12 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 30 DAYS | 14,300.98 | 485,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 13 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 45 DAYS | 595,080.00 | 483,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 14 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 45 DAYS | 2,505.60 | 482,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 15 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 45 DAYS | 18,220.81 | 481,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 16 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 45 DAYS | 12,007.24 | 481,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |

| S/N | SOURCE | AMOUNT | RATE | DATE |
|-----|--|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 17 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 60 DAYS | 373,841.94 | 480,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 18 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 60 DAYS | 22,772.05 | 476,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 19 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 60 DAYS | 427,144.00 | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 20 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 75 DAYS | 101,094.97 | 478,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 21 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 75 DAYS | 16,704.00 | 474,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 22 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 90 DAYS | 4,862.70 | 470,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 23 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 90 DAYS | 101,280.22 | 470,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 24 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 90 DAYS | 5,984.04 | 466,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 25 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 90 DAYS | 208,800.00 | 465,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 26 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 90 DAYS | 204,937.20 | 463,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 27 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 120 DAYS | 20,827.80 | 460,700.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 28 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 150 DAYS | 333,997.30 | 460,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 29 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - FORWARD 180 DAYS | 244,035.87 | 460,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 30 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - INVISIBLE | 800,000.00 | 460,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 31 | CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA - SME | 1,100,000.00 | 460,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |

Utilization of Foreign Exchange Purchased For The Week: 28/12/2022 to 30/12/2022

| S/N | CUSTOMERS | AMOUNT | PURPOSE | RATE | DATE |
|-----|--|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | ISO 27001 SURVEILLANCE AUDIT -2022 | 450,000.00 | AUDIT FEES | 445,000.00 | 28-Dec-22 |
| 2 | AFROCOMMERCE (WA) LTD | 50,000.00 | BC | 461,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 3 | ASHERE AREI NIG LTD | 313.20 | LC | 600,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 4 | SAMKING CHEMICAL NIGERIA LIMITED | 271.44 | LC | 505,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 5 | SAMKING CHEMICAL NIGERIA LIMITED | 2,744.40 | BC | 505,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 6 | FLOYEM PHARMACEUTICALS AND CHEMICAL LIMITED | 2,505.60 | LC | 500,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 7 | GREENTECH INDUSTRIES LIMITED | 2,255.04 | LC | 500,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 8 | MBHI POWER LTD | 1,252.80 | LC | 500,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 9 | MBHI POWER LTD | 1,252.80 | LC | 500,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 10 | COOGE AGRO ALLIED VENTURES | 8,352.00 | LC | 500,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 11 | EZNIELLE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES | 4,176.00 | LC | 500,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 12 | MOREGRACE MULTI BUSINESS LINKS | 20,880.00 | LC | 500,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 13 | BESTON LIGHT LUMINARE LTD | 939.60 | LC | 493,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 14 | VIK INDUSTRIES LTD | 29,232.00 | LC | 493,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 15 | VIK INDUSTRIES LTD | 29,232.00 | LC | 493,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 16 | VIRAMSUN NIGERIA LIMITED | 2,975.40 | LC | 491,700.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 17 | VISTA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED | 3,340.60 | LC | 491,700.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 18 | ALON AND SONS NIG LTD | 375.84 | LC | 491,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 19 | STARPOINT COMMODITIES LTD | 939.60 | LC | 491,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 20 | STARPOINT COMMODITIES LTD | 939.60 | LC | 491,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 21 | AVON CROWNCAPS AND CONTAINERS LIMITED | 6,055.20 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 22 | AVON CROWNCAPS AND CONTAINERS LIMITED | 3,846.40 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 23 | AVON CROWNCAPS AND CONTAINERS LIMITED | 8,885.60 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 24 | BLUEPRINT BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES LTD | 78,300.00 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 25 | HARVESTFIELD INDUSTRIES LIMITED | 11,838.96 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 26 | MEGA VALUE GLOBAL INDUSTRIES LTD | 4,176.00 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 27 | OLAK ROOFING NIGERIA LIMITED | 1,300.48 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 28 | RHINE INDUSTRIES NIGERIA LTD | 1,461.60 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 29 | RHINE INDUSTRIES NIGERIA LTD | 6,200.69 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 30 | RHINE INDUSTRIES NIGERIA LTD | 19,520.22 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 31 | SAMSTAR NIG LTD | 12,528.00 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 32 | SWIFT AFRICA INDUSTRIES LIMITED | 1,252.80 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 33 | VITAL PRODUCTS PLUS LTD | 43,321.60 | LC | 490,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 34 | MONAPLEX INDUSTRIES NIG LTD | 68,904.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 35 | MONAPLEX INDUSTRIES NIG LTD | 1,252.80 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 36 | PALAZANDA NIG LTD | 811.13 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 37 | MALINI NIGERIA LTD | 20,880.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 38 | SOFTZONE SERVICES LIMITED | 1,916.56 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 39 | AKIN-YENI AKINBIYI NIGERIA LIMITED | 469.80 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 40 | CARLTON CREST RESOURCES AND LOGISTICS LIMITED | 1,227.12 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 41 | CARLTON CREST RESOURCES AND LOGISTICS LIMITED | 1,778.98 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 42 | DARAJU INDUSTRIES | 6,953.04 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 43 | DARAJU INDUSTRIES | 5,011.20 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 44 | DARAJU INDUSTRIES | 6,284.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 45 | ECOM UNIVERSAL SERVICES LTD | 6,485.33 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 46 | EUROCHEMCO VENTURES LIMITED | 6,424.71 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 47 | EUROCHEMCO VENTURES LIMITED | 6,364.94 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 48 | EUROCHEMCO VENTURES LIMITED | 18,425.30 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 49 | EUROCHEMCO VENTURES LIMITED | 13,925.84 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 50 | EUROCHEMCO VENTURES LIMITED | 12,681.21 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 51 | EUROCHEMCO VENTURES LIMITED | 7,847.01 | BC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 52 | AGRO MERITS LTD | 4,176.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 53 | CHEZ RESOURCES PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED | 14,616.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 54 | SCOA EQUIPMENT LTD | 6,284.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 55 | SCOA MOTORS LTD | 2,513.65 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 56 | TIGERLOGIC SOLUTIONS LTD | 3,132.00 | BC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 57 | CROP DOCTOR NIGERIA LIMITED | 3,132.00 | BC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 58 | CROP DOCTOR NIGERIA LIMITED | 2,088.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 59 | WHITFIELD VENTURES LIMITED | 3,340.80 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 60 | HARA FOAM AND CHEMICAL LTD | 4,345.50 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 61 | SID ENERGY RESOURCE LIMITED | 19,025.76 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 62 | SCUTECH SUPPORT SYSTEMS LIMITED | 72,349.20 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 63 | DALUX CHEMICAL IND LTD | 31,320.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 64 | JAWA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED | 4,566.42 | BC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 65 | JAWA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED | 4,698.00 | BC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 66 | JAWA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED | 9,396.00 | BC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 67 | JAWA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED | 32,886.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 68 | NIPLAS INDUSTRIES LIMITED | 23,877.22 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 69 | SACRAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED | 4,176.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 70 | SACRAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED | 4,176.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 71 | WEST COAST FISHERIES LIMITED | 290.56 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 72 | WEST COAST FISHERIES LIMITED | 313.20 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 73 | WOOLLEN AND SYNTHETIC TEXTILE MANUFACTURING CO LTD | 1,816.96 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 74 | DEFLO AGRO ALLIED VENTURES | 2,004.48 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 75 | MARVELOUS MIKE PRESS LIMITED | 1,232.92 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 76 | MARVELOUS MIKE PRESS LIMITED | 194.67 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 77 | SHV LILA POLYMERS LIMITED | 105,080.07 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 78 | SANKOTI CEMENT | 20,000.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 79 | HELLO PRODUCTS LIMITED | 2,088.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 80 | HELLO PRODUCTS LIMITED | 2,088.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 81 | HELLO PRODUCTS LIMITED | 2,088.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 82 | HELLO PRODUCTS LIMITED | 2,088.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 83 | HELLO PRODUCTS LIMITED | 2,088.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 84 | HELLO PRODUCTS LIMITED | 2,088.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 85 | HELLO PRODUCTS LIMITED | 2,088.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 86 | HELLO PRODUCTS LIMITED | 1,044.00 | LC | 460,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 87 | SUNPLAST INDUSTRIES LIMITED | 20,827.80 | LC | 461,200.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 88 | BHOJONS PLC | 20,880.00 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 89 | DARSEF ENTERPRISES LIMITED | 1,252.80 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 90 | DARSEF ENTERPRISES LIMITED | 1,252.80 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 91 | DARSEF ENTERPRISES LIMITED | 313.20 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 92 | GLOBAL ORGANICS LIMITED | 1,252.80 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 93 | GLOBAL ORGANICS LIMITED | 2,374.97 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 94 | GLOBAL ORGANICS LIMITED | 20,970.24 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 95 | GLOBAL ORGANICS LTD | 7,974.79 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 96 | GLOBAL ORGANICS LTD | 5,257.32 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 97 | GLOBE SPINNING MILLS (NIGERIA) LIMITED | 10,440.00 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 98 | PARCO ENTERPRISES NIG LTD | 20,880.00 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 99 | QUANTUM PLASTIC NIGERIA LIMITED | 1,095.18 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 100 | QUANTUM PLASTIC NIGERIA LIMITED | 517.89 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 101 | SHV LILA POLYMERS LIMITED | 12,347.4 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 102 | SHV LILA POLYMERS LIMITED | 1,899.13 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 103 | SHV LILA POLYMERS LIMITED | 1,159.51 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 104 | SHV LILA POLYMERS LIMITED | 1,159.51 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 105 | SHV LILA POLYMERS LIMITED | 1,615.34 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 106 | EXOXN PHARMA NIGERIA LIMITED | 4,511.45 | LC | 466,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 107 | EXOXN PHARMA NIGERIA LIMITED | 1,452.59 | LC | 466,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 108 | CONTINENTAL BROAD CASTING | 208,800.00 | LC | 465,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 109 | DE BENEDICTO OOOCHI INVESTMENT LTD | 313.20 | BC | 463,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 110 | ROOSEY ELECTRICAL LIMITED | 98,808.16 | BC | 463,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 111 | ROOSEY ELECTRICAL LIMITED | 105,819.84 | LC | 463,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 112 | COLEMAN TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES LTD | 2,081.81 | LC | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 113 | COLEMAN TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES LTD | 28,424.49 | LC | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 114 | COLEMAN TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES LTD | 13,914.60 | LC | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 115 | COLEMAN TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES LTD | 5,050.64 | LC | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 116 | SEVEN-UP BOTTLING COMPANY | 1,566.00 | LC | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 117 | SEVEN-UP BOTTLING COMPANY | 5,637.60 | LC | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 118 | SEVEN-UP BOTTLING COMPANY | 4,498.83 | LC | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 119 | WEST AFRICAN CERAMICS LIMITED | 40,000.00 | LC | 475,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 120 | APG GLOBIA ASSOCIATES NETWORK LTD | 6,264.00 | LC | 474,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 121 | MELVYN NICKSON NIGERIA LIMITED | 4,862.70 | BC | 474,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 122 | MELVYN NICKSON NIGERIA LIMITED | 5,777.30 | LC | 474,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 123 | MELVYN NICKSON NIGERIA LIMITED | 4,862.70 | LC | 470,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 124 | CHAB INVESTMENTS COMPANY LIMITED | 1,860.24 | BC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 125 | COSCHARIS TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED | 3,132.00 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 126 | INGLET MANUFACTURING NIGERIA LIMITED | 21,144.00 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 127 | KAY INDUSTRIES NIG LTD | 62.64 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 128 | KAY INDUSTRIES NIG LTD | 125.28 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 129 | KOMAC TRADING AND INVESTMENT NIGERIA LIMITED | 8,929.13 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 130 | KOMAC TRADING AND INVESTMENT NIGERIA LIMITED | 4,297.77 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |

| S/N | CUSTOMERS | AMOUNT | PURPOSE | RATE | DATE |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|
| 131 | MASULAS NIGERIA LIMITED | 20,233.00 | LC | 480,000.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 132 | NIGERIA DISTILLERIES LTD | 53,870.40 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 133 | NIGERIA DISTILLERIES LTD | 50,112.00 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 134 | NIGERIA DISTILLERIES LTD | 25,056.00 | LC | 480,500.00 | 30-Dec-22 |

Pension Matters



CO-CREATED CONTENT

Boosting retirees' pensions through the pension enhancement initiative

One of the most laudable initiatives introduced by the National Pension Commission (PenCom) is the periodic enhancement of pensions for retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS).

PenCom had, in a bid to boost retirees' monthly pensions, conducted a comprehensive analysis of the Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) balances of retirees under the Programmed Withdrawal (PW) mode in 2017. The outcome of the study indicated that the returns generated by the PFAs on the RSAs of the majority of the affected retirees were adequate to enhance their monthly pensions. Indeed, the study's outcome emanated from the conservative assumptions on returns on investment adopted by PenCom in the PW template for the computation of benefits. In reality, returns on

investments outweighed the assumptions, creating a reserve for retirees. Thus, the RSAs of most retirees had experienced significant growth over the years due to the high returns posted by PFAs despite the monthly pension payouts.

The Maiden Pension Enhancement, conducted in December 2017, covered employees who retired on PW mode between July 2007 and December 2014. The analysis undertaken by PenCom revealed that 64,076 retirees had sufficient growth in their RSAs to warrant an upward review of their monthly pensions. The eligible retirees benefited from an enhanced monthly pension totalling N303 million. Further to the successful maiden pension enhancement exercise, PenCom obtained the necessary approvals to conduct the enhancement every three years.

The second edition of the Pension Enhancement was conducted in February 2020. The exercise covered employees who retired on programmed withdrawal between July 2007 and December 2017, and 86,108 retirees whose RSAs recorded sufficient growth benefited from the enhancement. The eligible retirees benefited from an aggregate enhanced monthly pension of N444 million. A remarkable development noted from the 2nd edition was that out of the 86,108 retirees eligible for the enhancement, 40,084 had benefited from the maiden exercise, while 46,024 RSAs were newly enhanced. The implication is that under the CPS, a retiree's pension could be increased several times as long as there is sufficient growth in the RSA due to return on investment.

Significantly, PenCom



DG of PenCom, Aisha Dahir-Umar

has announced 1 February 2023 as the commencement date for the third edition of Pension Enhancement under the CPS. The exercise will be concluded by 31 July 2023. The exercise is for existing retirees under programmed withdrawal who have accumulated significant growth in their RSAs. Based on the analysis of retirees' data, PenCom determined that 111,187 retirees qualify

for the third edition of pension enhancement. When implemented from February 2023, the 111,187 retirees' pension would increase by N392.19 million monthly from N6.83 billion to N7.22 billion. The Commission encouraged all eligible retirees to contact their PFAs to complete all required documentation.

During the previous pension enhancements in 2017 and 2020, PFAs reported difficulty in contacting some retirees due to changes in residential address. It is therefore, important for retirees to update their PFAs with their latest contact details.

Meanwhile, implementing Pension Enhancement

by PenCom is a significant indicator that the CPS provides better retirement opportunities. Pension Enhancement is a means of adjusting the periodic income of retirees against the erosion of their pension by inflation. It also solves the problem of low pensions. Pension Enhancement is another clear departure of the CPS from the Defined Benefits scheme of the past, where retirees were stuck with a fixed amount of pension for life.

It is imperative to state that PenCom assures its stakeholders of the safety of pension funds and that reasonable returns on investment are being realised for the benefit of retirees.

PenCom exists for the effective regulation and supervision of the Nigerian Pension Industry to ensure that retirement benefits are paid as and when due

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Wema Bank Plc RC 575

Utilization of Funds Purchased For The Week: 28/12/2022 to 30/12/2022

Page 2

Bank: Wema Bank Plc

Date: 02/01/2023

Utilization of Foreign Exchange Purchased For The Week: 28/12/2022 to 30/12/2022

| S/N | CUSTOMERS | AMOUNT | PURPOSE | RATE | DATE |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|-----------|
| 261 | SADIQ OLUWOLE OBANOYEN | 3,615.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 262 | MOSHOD ADEKUNLE ADEFISAN | 1,571.07 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 263 | HERITAGE CALEB AZEEZ | 10,610.51 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 264 | OLATUNDE AYODEJI ADEPOJU | 14,518.91 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 265 | AJIBOLA IBRAHEEM AKAMO | 10,028.27 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 266 | ADEYEMI OLAYIWOLA OYEBANJO | 6,824.34 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 267 | OLUWOLE AKINLEYE | 1,783.00 | MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 268 | OGHOGHO WINNIFRED IDEHEN | 8,867.97 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 269 | ADEJOKE FOLASADE BELLO | 4,893.64 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 270 | RHODA THOMPSON AKABUOKWU | 4,317.99 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 271 | IBIYINKA OMOLARA OSOTIMEHIN | 7,364.40 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 272 | TEMITOPE STANLEY ADEGBOYEGA | 3,682.20 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 273 | KALTUME IBRAHIM MANZUMA | 3,682.20 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 274 | KEYNA AMARACHI NWACHUKWU | 7,364.40 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 275 | ONYEMECHI PETER AJUNAM | 4,050.42 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 276 | LOUIS CHUKWUTEM NWADOHELJ | 3,682.20 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 277 | SUNDAY KAYODE JEGEDE | 6,772.79 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 278 | MARY ADEWUMI OLUGBEMI-BELLO | 4,000.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 279 | BISI JOSEPH ADESINA | 2,577.54 | UPKEEP | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 280 | PRINCESS AMARACHI NWAFOR | 8,591.80 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 281 | LUKMAN OLUWASEGUN BABATUNDE | 1,841.10 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 282 | JAMES OYETOLA AWOBODE | 4,909.60 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 283 | BETTY UKAMAKA OFOJAMA | 15,000.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 284 | MORADEYO OLARIYIKE FASANU | 8,223.58 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 285 | ZAINAB ABIOLA TJANI | 4,602.75 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 286 | KEHINDE DAMILARE AHMED | 4,295.90 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |

| S/N | CUSTOMERS | AMOUNT | PURPOSE | RATE | DATE |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 287 | ABIOLA FOLASHADE ALLI | 8,960.02 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 288 | BOSEDE OLUFUNKE OGUNBOYE | 4,812.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 289 | ADEOLA OMOYAYO ADEBAGBO | 3,682.20 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 290 | NKECHI OKOJERE | 6,137.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 291 | TAIWO OLUBUSOLA JOHNSON | 4,831.33 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 292 | AKANIMO NYA | 2,454.80 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 293 | EBUDOLA REBECCA ADEGOKE | 9,205.50 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 294 | IFEOLUWA OMOWUMI DUROJAYE | 6,443.85 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 295 | ABDULMALIK AYOMIDE ADEBAYO | 7,300.07 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 296 | EHITARE MICHAEL ABIIBA | 4,909.60 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 297 | OLUWASEUN DEBORAH ADETITUN | 11,046.60 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 298 | OSUNTOKUN EZEKIEL OLUWAYO | 5,325.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 299 | HABIB ABDULKADIR | 7,074.77 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 300 | JUMOKE JULIANAH ADEOBA | 2,454.80 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 301 | KOLAWOLE SALAMI | 15,000.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 302 | OLUFEMI SIMILOLUWA ODUNEYE | 7,978.10 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 303 | CYNTHIA UDHUNIME EZEKWE | 1,350.14 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 304 | ANIFAT ORE SULAIMAN | 2,454.80 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 305 | CHINYERE FRANCES NMEMA | 3,068.50 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 306 | MIRACLE IFEANYI EZE | 7,978.10 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 307 | SMALYEM INTERGLOBAL NIG LTD | 12,274.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 308 | SIKIRU TJANI | 9,500.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 309 | SMALYEM INTERGLOBAL NIG LTD | 12,274.00 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 310 | OLAWALE OLUSEYI DAIRO | 9,266.87 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 311 | RACHAEL LULU BRIGGS | 11,046.60 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 312 | AMINAT AJIBOLA AHMED | 2,314.80 | EDUCATION | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |
| 313 | PTA / BTA | 217,000.00 | PTA / BTA | 462.0000 | 30-Dec-22 |

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'Ditching meat, animal products this New Year could cause depression, broken bones'

A New Year's resolution to go vegan comes with a higher risk of broken bones, mental illness and miscarriages within months, a top doctor has warned.

Some 600,000 people in the UK already follow the diet, which excludes meat, dairy, eggs, and all other animal products. And figures suggest that one in eight Britons aged 18 to 24 plans to take up the diet for January – the so-called vanguard trend.

But according to Dr Julian Owen, consultant trauma and orthopaedic surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, veganism can lead to a potentially dangerous vitamin deficiency within months.

This is because animal products contain Vitamin B12, a nutrient that is crucial to healthy bodily function, but plant-based foods contain little-to-none of it.

Dr Owen, who chairs a worldwide group of experts who research the benefits of Vitamin B12, says that anyone planning to go vegan should be prepared to take a daily supplement.

He added that "This is a vitamin that is fundamental to the function of the human body, and it is almost entirely absent from a vegan diet. That is incredibly worrying.

"If supplements are not taken, after six months of going vegan, people can start to experience neurological symptoms such as anxiety, depression and even psychosis – symptoms of Vitamin B12 deficiency."

Research shows Vitamin B12 is essential for the proper function of blood vessels and brain tissue. A deficiency can also trigger anaemia, a condition where there are abnormally low levels of red blood cells in the body, leading to symptoms such as extreme tiredness and vision problems.

"There's lots of enthusiasm for veganism, but also a huge lack of education about the need for Vitamin B12," says Dr Owen.

Veganism is rapidly increasing in popularity in the UK, mainly driven by concerns about the environment and animal welfare. Research shows that between 2007 and 2018 the number rose by 260 per cent, from 150,000 people to 542,000.

The trend has been promoted by celebrities such as Madonna – who revealed she was raising her children vegan – but a number of studies have suggested that the diet can have negative health impacts, particularly in young people.

In 2018, a University College London study warned that a



lack of nutrients in a vegan diet, such as calcium, zinc and high-quality protein, could leave children malnourished and with 'irreversible' nerve damage.

Last year experts raised the alarm over the increasing popularity of dairy alternatives such as oat and almond milk – which are now drunk by a third of Britons – after Government figures revealed that nearly half of all girls aged 11 to 18 had an iron deficiency.

Dairy milk is an important source of iron, needed to make red blood cells which carry oxygen around the body. Countries such as Spain and

Germany already actively warn parents against putting their children on a vegan diet.

In a paper published last month in the European Journal of Nutrition, Dr Owen and his colleagues also warned that vegan diets are particularly dangerous for pregnant women, who are more likely to have low B12 levels in the first place.

Studies show that Vitamin B12 deficiency is associated with pregnancy complications, low birth weight, pre-eclampsia and miscarriages.

The paper suggests that vegans undergo regular blood tests to monitor B12 levels, alongside

taking supplements. It also advises anyone who is planning on becoming pregnant or is older than 60 to consult a doctor before going vegan.

However, experts point out that a vegan diet, when combined with supplements, has a number of health benefits. Studies show that vegans are less likely to suffer from heart disease, diabetes and cancer than meat eaters.

"A responsible vegan diet can be healthy," says Dr Owen. "But right now, charities promoting the trend are not informing people about the essential need for B12. That needs to change."

Mail Online

Pharmaceutical coys seek implementation of drug production policies

From Abiodun Alade, Lagos

Pharmaceutical companies have enjoined the government to implement policies that will encourage local production of drugs.

The Chief Executive Officer of Sygen Pharmaceutical Limited, Charles Ogunwuyi, who gave the charge said there is need to drive the total well-being of communities.

He said, "Sygen Pharmaceutical was established to grant access to high-quality medicines that yield successful outcomes and improve the quality of life of patients in our community; through our innovative approach to enhancing healthcare outcomes.

"At Sygen, we look beyond the functionality of providing medicines and seek to drive the total well-being of communities in a way that is vital to society.

"There is a need in the pharmaceutical industry to shift the focus from humans as patients to people living in thriving communities.

"Sygen Pharmaceutical puts this in practice with the goal of promoting communal well-being and thriving communities."

He said the company has made over \$20m investment since it started operation in 2019, adding that Sygen decided to go into drug manufacturing instead of importation of drugs in order to bridge the huge gap in the sector.

He said Sygen Pharma plans to drive innovation in the pharmaceutical industry with the aim of promoting overall communal well-being for all Nigerians by creating access to high-quality medicines that yield successful outcomes and improve patients' quality of life in the communities it operates.

He stressed that in its bid to expand its pharmaceutical product portfolio and reduce the country's dependence on imported medicines, Sygen Pharma subsequently acquired the assets of Nigerian German Chemicals Plc (NGC), a company that had operated in Nigeria for almost 60 years and has a range of legacy brands with strong residual equity in its product portfolio.

He said in addition to improving the portfolio of branded products acquired from NGC, Sygen will continue to grow its product portfolio across various therapeutic areas.

Nurses: Why there should be referral centres for rape, violence cases

By Vincent Yusuf

The National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), FCT chapter, has advised the federal and state governments to set up referral centres for rape and gender violence cases across the country.

The chairman of the FCT branch, Comrade Deborah Yusuf, stated this while marking the end of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

She said though victims of rape and gender violence access general treatment in the available hospitals, a referral centre would enable stakeholders to have a more coordinated response and intervention as well as verifiable statistics on the issues.

She said, "If there is a rape case in Gwarimpa, certainly the victim will access the facility there, but we want to have statistics because some of these victims don't want to speak out for fear of the unknown because by the time they speak out, don't forget they are going back to that same environment, so if we have a referral centre where people can be taken care of, even assistance can be given

to them.

"Because if you are raped, you don't want to go back to that same environment, so globally now they have a centre that at least they will be kept there, put in school and government will take full responsibility.

"But in Nigeria, we are not yet there, so what we want now is to collaborate with the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives to have referral centre where they can be able to access care, psychotherapy, to have statistics and most importantly to follow up."

Yusuf said women and girls are targets of violence in society.

"Women are always weak because we are not masculine and they look at us as being powerless but then we are telling the men that they shouldn't resort to that because there are so many ways of resolving issues, especially family issues, not really punching the women because we are not punching bags.

"This happened because some of the men feel that they are insecure and they have inferiority complex so they resort to at least using their hand or whatever to kick the

women.

"Even as nurses, we are targeted from our relations and equally from our professional colleagues that are working in the hospital, so we are saying no to it.

"We equally encourage women to speak out, they shouldn't die in silence because the best thing is to speak out and not to die in silence because according to statistics, over eight million women in Nigeria experience one violence or the other especially those within the age range of 25 to 39.

"It can be verbal assault, it can also be physical assault, it can be socio-economic assault and they come from men, some are from boyfriends, some from even husbands and some at work," she said.

She said women should be given a sense of belonging and not pushed to the background.

"Gone are the days when women are pushed to the background because women too should be there when decisions are being taken. We are tired of being in the 'other room,' we want to be in the board room, we want to be part of the decision-making," she said.



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

The Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning,
Mrs. (Dr) Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed

Hereby invites

All Heads of Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies;
Private Sector Organizations and Associations; Captains of Industry;
Development Partners; Civil Society Organizations; Media Practitioners
and other relevant stakeholders.

**TO A PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND
BREAKDOWN OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023
APPROPRIATION ACT**

Date:

Time:

Wednesday, 4th January, 2023

10:00am Prompt

Venue:

**MAIN AUDITORIUM, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget &
National Planning Abuja (Physical) & Zoom Webinar (Virtual).**

Meeting ID: 84089437739

Passcode:fmfbnp

Signed:

Ben Akabueze
Director General,
Budget Office of the Federation

LAW

“There is no greater tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice.”
— Montesque

Ex-CJN's sudden exit, demand for current CJN's resignation shaped judiciary in 2022

By Adelanwa Bamgboye (Lagos) & John C. Azu

The sudden resignation of the former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Tanko Muhammad, on June 27, 2022 was the climax of the major events that shaped the mixed bag of the judiciary in 2022.

Ex-CJN resigns

As part of the intrigues that culminated in Justice Muhammad's resignation, he was said to have resigned voluntarily on health grounds, while sources claimed that presidential powers forced him to resign over allegations of “financial impropriety” made in a letter jointly written by 14 justices of the Supreme Court.

Justice Muhammad had assumed the office in equally controversial circumstances after the presidency forced the dismissal of his predecessor, Justice Walter Onnoghen, on January 25, 2019 over allegations of false assets declaration.

Following Justice Muhammad's resignation, President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurated Justice Olukayode Ariwoola on October 12, 2022 as the 17th indigenous CJN.

Justice Ariwoola began his tenure on a high by pledging to enhance justice administration and the welfare of judges.

However, the CJN was greeted with a fresh controversy in November after his comments at the inauguration of two buildings in Port Harcourt, Rivers State on November 24 and 25, where he stated that he was happy that his state governor, Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, was a member of the G-5 governors, also known as the Integrity Group.

Although the Director of Information in the Supreme Court, Dr Festus Akande, warned against dragging the CJN into the “dragnet” of politics over his comments, several political groups called for his resignation.

A civil society organisation, the Coalition of Civil Societies



Justice Olukayode Ariwoola of Nigeria (CCSN) on November 8, 2022, marched to the office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, demanding the CJN's resignation over alleged partisanship.

3 law enforcement chiefs remanded

On November 8, an FCT High Court sentenced the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Abulrasheed Bawa, to jail for contempt over non-compliance with an order to release seized properties of a former director of operations of the Nigerian Airforce, Rufus Ojuawo.

Similarly, on November 29, an FCT High Court sentenced the Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, to three months imprisonment over contempt of court in a previous reinstating a former police officer, Patrick Okoli, into the force.

On December 1, a Federal High Court in Minna ordered the remand of the Chief of Army Staff, General Farouk Yahaya, alongside the Commandant Training and Doctrine Command, of the Nigerian Army, Major General Olugbenga Olabanji, for contempt in a case between Adamu Makama and 42 others against the Niger State Government.

The respective law enforcement



Former CJN, Justice Tanko Mohammed officers subsequently appealed and successfully vacated the orders made by the courts.

FG appeals Kanu's release order

Following the order of a Court of Appeal in Abuja made on October 13, 2022, for the release of the leader of the outlawed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu, the federal government failed to comply with the order, instead, the office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice brought a stay of execution before the appellate court to enable it to appeal the verdict before the Supreme Court.

A three-member panel of the Court of Appeal had on October 14 ordered Kanu's release and struck out the seven counts of treasonable felony and terrorism brought against him before the Federal High Court over what the panel said was his unlawful rendition from Kenya in July 2021.

DCP Kyari's drug case, remand

Former Deputy Commissioner of Police Abba Kyari's trial alongside four police officers over alleged drug dealing before a Federal High Court in Abuja drew much controversy and drama.

While the two civilians, Patrick Umeibe and Emeka Alphonsus, who were indicted alongside

Kyari, ACP Sunday Ubuwa, ASP Bawa James, Inspectors Simon Agirigba, John Nuhu and ASP John Umoru, said to be at large, pleaded guilty and were jailed for two years each, the police officers' cases have dragged on.

Kyari has since applied to be discharged of the offences, arguing that it was done in the course of his official duties and that he be removed from the correctional centre in Kuje for security reasons.

Appeal Court endorse ASUU strike deal

The Court of Appeal in Abuja in October 2022 ordered the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to call off its eight months' strike following the National Industrial Court order on an application by the Federal Ministry of Labour seeking to call off the strike.

The three-member panel of the appellate court led by Justice Hama Akawu Barka directed ASUU to resume work as a condition to entertain the appeal the union filed against the federal government, which is still pending before it.

Evans, Akpan, jailed

In February, a Lagos High Court in Ikeja sentenced kidnap kingpin, Chukwudumeme Onwuamadike, popularly known as Evans, to life imprisonment, alongside his two co-defendants, Uche Amadi and Okwuchukwu Nwachukwu, for the kidnap of several Nigerians and taking billions of naira in ransom.

Justice Hakeem Oshodi, however, discharged and acquitted the other co-defendants, Ogechi Uchechukwu; Chilaka Ifeanyi, an ex-soldier; and Victor Aduba, also an ex-soldier on the grounds that there was no evidence linking them to the crimes.

In September, another Lagos Special Offences Court, Ikeja, sentenced Evans, alongside his accomplice, Victor Aduba, to 21 years imprisonment, for kidnapping a businessman, Sylvanus Ahamonou, and collecting \$420,000 ransom from

his family, and for the offences of kidnapping and unlawful possession of firearms.

In August, an Akwa Ibom High Court in Uyo presided by Justice Bassey Nkanam sentenced Uduak Akpan, 21, to 26 years imprisonment for the murder of a female job seeker, Iniobong Umoren, 26.

In July, Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo sentenced actor Olanrewaju James, alias Baba Ijesha, for child sexual molestation of a five-year-old.

NBA, BOB bicker over call to bar

On December 9, 2022, the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Yakubu Maikyau (SAN), boycotted the call to bar ceremony of the Nigerian Law School over the failure of the chairman of the Body of Benchers (BoB), Wole Olanipekun (SAN), to recuse himself from the event.

This followed the ethical controversy generated by the email soliciting to hijack the brief of Henry Ajumogobia (SAN) by SAIPEM Contracting Co. Ltd with the Rivers State Government by a partner in the chambers of Olanipekun and Co., Adekunbi Ogunde.

During the ceremony, Olanipekun maintained that the BoB is an independent body constituted by law for the induction of new wigs.

Okupe sentenced, pays N30m fine

On December 19, 2022, the former Senior Special Assistant to President Goodluck Jonathan, Dr Doyin Okupe, was sentenced to two years imprisonment or the option of fine by a Federal High Court in Abuja for allegedly receiving N240 million in cash from former NSA, Col. Sambo Dasuki, above the threshold permitted by law.

Okupe, who before his resignation following the conviction, was the director general of the Labour Party presidential campaign, paid the N13 million fine option and appealed the court's verdict.

NBA new branches raise the bar



Mr Cecil Osakwe Esq

By John Chuks Azu

In the past few years, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has expanded its branches in states of the federation, which have created a new forum for the professional development of lawyers.

For instance, from only one branch, the Unity Bar in 2015, the NBA has added new branches in the FCT such as

Bwari, Gwagwalada, Garki and Nyanya-Karu.

In Lagos State, from the Lagos Branch, there are new branches in Ikeja, Ikorodu, Badagry, and Epe.

The new branches have brought the total number of branches under the association to 128.

Apart from ensuring the smooth administration of justice in their jurisdictions, the new

branches contribute to human rights, the promotion of the rule of law and good governance.

Expounding on the mandate of the newest branch of the NBA in the FCT, the Garki branch, its chairman, Obioma Ezenwobodo, expressed determination to take the objectives of the national body forward with the new body.

Speaking during the branch's 2022 dinner and awards night in December, Ezenwobodo said

the branch would stand with the national chairman on national issues and advance the rule of law in the country.

Thrilled by the administrative acumen of the executive of the new branch, a long-standing member of the NBA, Cecil Osakwe, who was recognised for excellence during the event, said he decided to return to bar activities due to the efforts of the new bar.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

COMMITTEE ON POWER

INVITATION TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMMEND ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR REFORM ACT, 2005 TO PROVIDE THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL POWER TRAINING INSTITUTE AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE SECTOR FOR EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1528)

Further to the earlier Public Hearing conducted on the above Bill and the need to take a second and holistic look at the Electric Power Sector Reform Act, 2005, in view of the increasing challenges affecting the Power Sector in Nigeria, the Committee on Power wishes to invite stakeholders to a One (1) Day Public Hearing as follows:

Date: Thursday, 5th January, 2023

Time: 3 PM

Venue: Conference Room 0.34, Ground Floor, New Building Extension, House of Representatives Wing, National Assembly. Abuja.

INVITED STAKEHOLDERS

- Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF)
- Hon. Minister of Power and his management team
- Chairman, Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC)
- Managing Director/CEO, Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN)
- MD/CEO, Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET)
- Managing Director/CEO, Nigeria Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA)
- Managing Director/CEO, Nigeria Electricity Liability Management Ltd (NELMCO)
- DG, National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN)
- Managing Director/CEO, Rural Electrification Agency (REA)
- Managing Director/CEO, Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC)
- Managing Directors of Electricity Distribution Companies of Nigeria (DISCOs)
- Managing Directors of Generation Companies of Nigeria (GENCOs)
- Hydro-electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC)
- FGN Power Company Limited (FGNPOWERCO)
- The President, National Union Electricity Employees (NUEE)
- All interested stakeholders
- Members of the general public

Invited stakeholders are expected to submit Thirty (30) hard and soft copies of their memoranda to the Committee's Secretariat at Committee Room 20, 2nd Floor, White House, House of Representatives Wing, National Assembly Complex, Abuja on or before Wednesday 4th January, 2023.

For further enquiry, please contact the Committee Clerk, **Ibrahim Sidi on 08039739147**
or E-Mail: sidiibrahim2002@yahoo.com

Signed:
Hon. (Engr.) Magaji Da'u Aliyu
Chairman

Major events that shaped science, technology and communications sectors in 2022

By Zakariyya Adaramola

Earlier in the then-new year, 2022, the Nigerian Communications Commission confirmed that MTN Nigeria and Mafab Communications Limited had paid \$273.6m each for the Fifth Generation spectrum licence.

The Executive Vice Chairman of the NCC, Umar Danbatta, confirmed the payment in February as the deadline set for the two winners of the spectrum auction elapsed.

The “Provisional winners of the 3.5 Gigahertz spectrum licence, MTN Communications Nigeria Plc and Mafab Communications Limited, have made their full payment of \$273.6m each for the 5G Spectrum license to the Nigerian Communications Commission”, Danbatta said via a press statement in February.

Also in the year, the Minister of Science Technology and Innovation (STI), Senator Adeleke Mamora, said despite less funding and other challenges, the ministry made enormous achievements since he took over as minister on July 14, 2022.

The minister said this in Abuja during an interactive session with reporters on the achievements of the ministry in the period under review.

He also solicited for more funding for Research and Development (R&D) in the country to boost technological advancement.

“Research activities require a lot of funding and there has to be a way to make that funding possible. The African Union (AU) had set up a 2% of GDP for member countries for R&D and the truth is that until and unless we give priority to R&D, it will be difficult for us to get to where we want to be in terms of socio-economic development. We need R&D to move forward,” he said.

Mamora commended President Muhammadu Buhari for committing 0.5% of Nigeria’s GDP to Research and Development which, he said, is an improvement from previous years.

The minister also said as a result of the funding constraints, the ministry had prioritised dropping of wastages and avoiding duplication.

Also, the executive vice chairman/chief executive, National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), Prof. Mohammed Sani Haruna, disclosed during the year that the agency’s target is to contribute 50 megawatts of solar energy to Nigeria’s electricity by 2023.

Prof. Haruna said the agency already had achieved about



■ Ministry of Science and Technology and Innovation, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu

21 megawatts per annum with installed capacity through its NASENI Solar Energy Limited (NSEL), a manufacturing plant located in Karshi, Abuja.

He said the plant is now implementing its plan to double that capacity to move its production capacity to 50 megawatts to bridge the gap of over 80 per cent of imported substandard solar products which have flooded Nigerian markets.

The federal government, during the year, approved a national policy on welding and welding-related fields and its urgent implementation as part of the efforts to fast track industrialisation and sustainable development.

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr (Sen.) Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora, revealed the policy approval in a statement by the ministry.

The policy, according to the minister, will arrest the present situation where many Nigerians have to outsource welding jobs due to the emphasis placed on foreign welding certification.

He stated that the recently approved policy is in line with the implementation of the Presidential Executive Order NO.5 which will boost local content in production.

This, he added, will give the desired credence to Nigeria’s certification and accreditation outcomes.

Also, the federal government presented patent certificates of registration to 19 Nigerian researchers, investors and innovations to encourage them to make their works world standard in the area of innovation and research activities.

Dr Mamora reiterated that intellectual property in the form of technological innovation has today become the basis of

international power structures.

“The speedy industrialisation of the country and its economic growth depends largely on the efforts of our researchers. Our motivation system managers should be conversant with intellectual property issues,” he also stated.

He said to strengthen the weak intellectual properties (IP) regulation, NATOP collaborated with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2006 and also established intellectual property technology transfer offices to encourage IP awareness in Nigeria.

Data governance will ensure maximum value derivation from digital economy - DG NITDA

As data affects how we make decisions on the path to creating a sustainable future, especially in the post-COVID-19 era and the emerging challenges, the Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa, has said the governance of data and how Nigeria as a country seeks to position herself in this agenda is key to ensuring that maximum value is derived, and provide the needed support for the thriving innovation ecosystem.

Speaking on the Draft, Inuwa noted that the strategy seeks to create an enabling environment for access to data to develop the digital economy, adding that it also supports the development of data infrastructures, data for the public good, open government data, data privacy and protection, and upskilling Nigerians in both public and private sectors.”

Also during the course of the year’s activities, NCC detected at various times dangerous malware that could steal the financial information of Nigerian phone users.

The recent one being

Xenomorph, which installs Trojans in banking apps on the Android platform to steal login details, raid bank accounts, and read the user’s SMS, has been flagged by the Nigerian Communications Commission’s Computer Security Incident Response Team (NCC-CSIRT).

But the team, in an advisory, suggests that owners of compromised devices take the extreme measure of doing factory resetting of infected devices.

The NCC-CSIRT, citing Zscaler ThreatLabz, said, “The Todo: Day Manager hijacks your login info from banking apps, and can even read your SMS messages.

“It installs a banking trojan malware called Xenomorph that allows the app to intercept your two-factor verification codes (typically delivered over text) to raid your logins - and bank account.

“Xenomorph performs overlay attacks by exploiting accessibility permissions in Android, resulting in the overlaying of fraudulent login screens on banking apps aimed at exfiltrating credentials.

“The Android app makes itself intentionally difficult to delete. You need to search your phone for it immediately and uninstall it”, the advisory released by NCC’s spokesman, Reuben Mouka, said.

Also, the Director-General of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Mr. Aliyu Aziz, said the national database has hit over 93.5m National Identity Number (NIN) enrollments.

“The unified ID system approach as well as the ecosystem model have had a tremendous positive impact on the enrollment figure. Currently, the National Identity Database has over 90 million (93.5m) records, which is a

sharp contrast from just 7 million when I assumed office in 2015.

“The primary aim of the strategic roadmap for digital identification in Nigeria is to simplify the approach to identification through a simple data collection process and a centralised unique identification system for Nigeria and legal residents. This is a sharp contrast to the fragmented multi-issuing ID agencies of the past,” Aziz said.

He said there was the need to put in place deliberate and long-term plans to chart new pathways that would prioritise national projects.

But as the year rolls to a close, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Olorunnimbe Mamora, announced that government would establish some science parks across the country.

The minister further stated that the importance of the collaboration between the ministry and some agencies and universities has already made some states and government agencies indicate interest in establishing their own science parks, which is a welcome development.

In this regard, the minister also stated that the “technology foresight initiative which is our focus today will provide suitable methodologies to promote sustainable and innovative development, fostering economic benefit at national and regional levels.

Nigerians therefore must embrace technology foresight for policy, planning and ultimately for the socio-economic development of the country.

Dr Mamora also said some of the achievements of the initiative that come through foresight policy include; the production of a feasibility report and business plan by UNESCO, stressing that the master plan for the project has been produced and is currently being implemented.

Also, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) called for joint efforts with service providers and other telecommunication stakeholders to mitigate cybercrimes, online fraud and other risk management.

The commission said: “The information and communication technologies sector is inherently filled with several business and technology risks.

“It is therefore important that regulatory risks be minimised to ensure that services are not disrupted, and consumers obtain the best and latest services that are globally available.”



Travelers for Christmas and New Year holidays returning at Ojota in Lagos yesterday

Photo: Benedict Uwalaka

Consumers reject NAICOM's directive on 3rd party insurance, call for reversal

The Insurance Consumers Association of Nigeria (INSCAN) has called on the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) to reverse its directive on the increase of third Party Motor Insurance Premium in Nigeria. This is contained in a letter signed by its National Coordinator, Chief Yemi Soladoye, and made available to newsmen on Sunday in Ibadan.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that NAICOM had recently issued a policy directive on the increase of third party motor insurance premium in Nigeria by 200 per cent.

"We hereby write with respect to your Circular No.: NAICOM /DPR/CIR.46/2022 dated Dec. 22, 2022, increasing the third party motor insurance premium in Nigeria by 200-400 per cent

for different categories of motor vehicles.

"And by implication, giving only one week notice to the insuring public of Nigeria to comply.

"We demand the reversal of the directive as it amounts to deliberate breach of the Fundamental Principle of Utmost Good Faith and other decent regulatory principles that guide insurance practice," it said.

The association said NAICOM failed to understand the full implications of its directive, saying those at the receiving end were insurance consumers who provided the accrued income to the entire Insurance Industry.

The INSCAN said that NAICOM's reliance on the comparison of what was paid as premium in other parts of

the world as basis for premium increment burden on Nigerians was tantamount to daylight robbery on consumers.

"Although, you threatened to sanction your Insurance Operators that fail to comply with your directive come Jan. 1, yet, the truth is that operators and NAICOM will benefit from the windfall accrued from the directive.

"The insurance consumers are, in the real sense of it, the ones being sanctioned," it said.

It said the almost 20 million Motor Insurance Consumers in Nigeria deserved more than a week notice for compliance, describing the duration as a great insult to the collective intelligence of Nigerians.

The association said it had read over 500 public comments by Nigerians on the directive, saying the reputation slowly

built for the Nigeria Insurance Industry was being eroded by the series of condemnations.

"How much has your commission paid out to victims and customers of Proscribed Insurance Companies over the past 20 years as required under Sec. 78 of the Insurance Act 2003 to justify astronomical increase in Premium amount?

"Where is the report of an ad hoc committee required to be set up under Sec. 52 of the Insurance Act 2003, stating the imperative of increasing Insurance Premium by a whopping 200 per cent?

"We also know that the referred Sec. 52 of that Insurance Law does not confer arbitrary powers on you because Insurance is a business affected by Public Policy and otherwise it becomes legalised robbery," it said. NAN

Fire claims 166 lives in Kano in 2022

From Zahraddeen Yakubu Shuaibu, Kano

The Kano State Fire Service says it has saved 1,035 lives and property worth N905 million from 867 fire incidents recorded in the state from January to December, 2022.

The Public Relations Officer of the service, Saminu Yusuf Abdullahi, stated this in a

statement issued in Kano.

Abdullahi, however, said 166 persons lost their lives, while property worth N358 million were destroyed by fire during the period under review.

"The service responded to 736 rescue calls and 208 false alarms from residents of the state," he said.

He also said the service attended to 575 road accidents,

while six trapped animals were also rescued.

The spokesman attributed the fire incidents to careless handling of cooking gas and the use of inferior electrical appliances.

He advised the general public to avoid storing petrol at home or any unsafe place due to fuel scarcity.

"Those who warm up themselves at market place or

in the street during harmattan should put out the fire with enough water to avoid unforeseen circumstances.

"Parents should be vigilant to monitor their wards, especially those swimming in ponds and playing in dangerous places," he said.

Abdullahi also advised the residents of the state to call fire service in case of emergency.

Diri signs N389.37bn Bayelsa budget

From Bassey Willie, Yenagoa

Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State has signed the 2023 Appropriation Bill of N389.37 billion into law.

He also signed a bill on the state's Contributory Pension Scheme.

Presenting the two bills for assent at the Government House in Yenagoa, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Abraham Ingobere, explained that the state and local

government workers would be required to contribute 8% of their salaries toward their retirement while the state government and local government councils as their employers would contribute 10% on their behalf.

Also, he noted that political office holders are expected to contribute 10% of their salaries while the state government and local government councils contribute 15% on their behalf upon their retirement or

disengagement from the service.

On the 2023 Appropriation Law, Mr. Ingobere said the initial amount presented to the assembly for consideration was N385.21 billion but after consultation with ministries, departments and agencies, the figure was increased by N4 billion, thereby bringing the total amount to N389.37 billion for the 2023 fiscal year.

While assenting to the bills, Governor Diri said the Contributory Pension Law would

put an end to the long delay and harrowing experience retirees go through before receiving their gratuities and other entitlements.

The governor stressed that the pension scheme had to be backed by law because of its importance, which he noted would outlive his administration.

According to him, the scheme covers all employees of the state as well as political office holders both at the state and local government levels.

HEDA seeks actions on illicit financial flow

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

The Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) has decried the shrinking civic space, which it said characterised the year 2022, saying, "We hope that there will be a freer civic space in 2023."

Chairman of HEDA, Mr. Olanrewaju Suraju disclosed this in a report after a courtesy visit to the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed.

The HEDA also called for effective action on Illicit Financial Flow (IFF) in the New Year 2023 as it impacts negatively on Africa's ability to address climate change and plan for transition to clean energy.

The visit was part of strategic engagement on clean energy.

In the statement to also commemorate the Year 2023 issued in Lagos, HEDA recounted various activities it carried out in 2022 aimed at addressing the problems of climate change and the threats it posed to sustainable development.

My critics have mischievous intentions – Obaseki

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

Governor Godwin Obaseki has said critics of his government are people who have mischievous intentions in Edo State.

The governor, who stated this while speaking with journalists in Benin, said reforming education would create a new future for children in the state.

Obaseki said he would like to be remembered by Edo people as the governor who transformed the state education sector.

"I want to be remembered in one, two or three generations from now by Edo child who benefitted from the world-class education delivered in our public schools. He or she will look back and say 'Thank God, we had a governor like Governor Obaseki who made it possible.

"Critics of my government were those who had mischievous intentions.

"We have very violent critics and they do not criticise on the issues. That is the problem. They are angry that we have changed the status quo, the old order.

"People just cannot walk into Government House to tell lies to the governor or intimidate the governor to get money.

"So, of course, they say the government is doing nothing because we have decided to work for the many, instead of the few," he said.

SPORT



■ Dakkada FC players giving supplications to God for a successful league season

Dakkada FC beckons on God as NPFL23 season looms

By Jide Olusola

The Uyo-based team Dakkada FC has held a special thanksgiving ceremony with the subject “The Chosen Ones of God,” adapted from 1Corinthians 1:27-29, ahead of the start of the 2022-2023 Nigeria Professional Football League season.

High-profile dignitaries attended the ceremony, which was conducted in the Apostolic Church in the Afaha Oku neighborhood on the Oku Village Road in Uyo.

The senior pastor, pastor A. A. Okon, praised the team for trusting God with the next season in his sermon, “The Safety

of Everything with God,” and provided scriptural proof that God wouldn’t let them down. He blessed them and prayed for them specifically.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of Dakkada, Coach Aniedi Dickson, said that the club’s decision to hold the thanksgiving service was borne out of the demonstration of God’s love, blessing and faithfulness towards them over the past few years.

Dakkada who have been drawn into Group B will begin their campaign with a trip to Bayelsa United when the 2022/2023 NPFL gets underway this Sunday, January 8, 2023.

In the same vein, Akwa United head coach, Deji Ayeni is confident

with his team’s level of preparation ahead of the league kick-off.

He made this known after his team’s goalless draw against defending champions, Rivers United in Uyo.

“We played a series of matches anyway and the game wasn’t bad, it’s expected the way they played being defending champions,” Ayeni said of the tie.

“If you watch very well, it’s a two-sided game with the presence of doggedness, resilience, determination and seriousness. So, I believe at least that with this, it’s going to be a positive response for us when the league starts properly next week by the grace of God.”

“We are going to get it right, everything including all the

mistakes, we will be able to correct it before the league kick-starts.”

Similarly, Stanley Eguma, head coach of Rivers United is confident of his preparedness ahead of the league season kick-off as he also gives his take on the abridged format of the competition.

Eguma made this known in his post match pressers following his team’s 0-0 friendly game against Akwa United in Uyo.

“It was a very good game, very good test for both teams, for a long time, we’ve been yearning for the start of the league and what we saw today is reminiscent of what you will see in the league,” he said.

Awoniyi ecstatic over first Premier League award

By Jide Olusola

Nottingham Forest striker, Taiwo Awoniyi is over the moon after he was awarded his first ever Premier League Man of the Match Award.

Awoniyi played a starring role against a below-par Chelsea side as Nottingham Forest gave its Premier League survival hopes a boost with a 1-1 draw against Chelsea, whose troubles on the road continued.

Forest has beaten Liverpool and Tottenham at the City Ground this season and produced an impressive performance against the 2021 European champion.

After falling behind to Raheem Sterling’s opener for Chelsea against the run of play, the hosts put in a fine second-half display, which was rewarded with Serge Aurier’s equaliser just after the hour mark.

Forest arguably deserved to win as Morgan Gibbs-White hit the crossbar, but this will give Steve Cooper’s team great encouragement in its bid to beat the drop this season.

Chelsea did at least avoid a fourth straight away defeat but will require huge improvement to close the seven-point gap on the top four.

The Super Eagles striker made this known via his verified twitter handle yesterday saying he was thankful for his award but sad his team didn’t win the game

“Thankful to have gotten my first ever premier league MOTM award but also disappointed a spirited performance from the team didn’t end with three points. We keep pushing,” he tweeted.

Forest will seek to move away from relegation zone when they visit Southampton at St Mary Stadium tomorrow.

Gusau: Pele’s contributions to football are ineffable

Ahead of today’s burial of football’s indisputable King, Edson Arantes dos Nascimento, popularly known as Pele, President of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau has described the potentate’s contributions to football as ineffable.

King Pele, who won three FIFA World Cup titles and scored a total of 1,279 goals in 1,363 games, died on Thursday in a hospital in São Paulo, Brazil and his remains will be interred today.

“I have read so many condolence messages and tributes to the man since he left us, but the truth is that Pele’s contributions to the game of football are ineffable. He did so many things to raise the profile and scale of the game and each and everyone of us can only say a little of what he did.



“ I remember that he came to Nigeria five times and identified strongly with black people all over the world. He was a universal figure yet he remained humble, likeable and approachable. With his skill and talent, he took the game of football to a totally different level, captivated global audiences and gave joy to billions. May his soul rest in peace.”

Pele’s first visit to Nigeria was

in January 1969, during which his Brazilian club Santos FC played a friendly with a Nigeria XI that ended 2-2, and then returned in February 1969 for a Santos FC Vs Midwestern XI friendly courtesy of the then Military Administrator of Midwestern State, Colonel Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia, who sponsored the return of the club from a tour of East Africa to the tune of £6,000. The match at then Ogbe Stadium ended in a 2-1 win for Santos.

“The Greatest’ made another stop in Nigeria in 1976 on a tour sponsored by Pepsi Cola, and again in 1978 on another sponsored tour that included another Brazilian club, Fluminense. His last trip to Nigeria was in October 2000, when he met with then Nigeria Minister of Sports, Damishi Tonson Sango.

Djokovic welcomed back to Australia

Novak Djokovic received a positive welcome back to Australia as he made a rare doubles appearance at the Adelaide International.

The Serb was deported prior to the 2022 Australian Open because of his Covid-19 vaccination status.

Djokovic’s three-year visa ban was overturned in November, allowing him to enter the country.

He and Canada’s Vasek Pospisil were beaten 4-6-6-3 10-5 by Tomislav Brkic and Gonzalo Escobar on his return.

The 21-time Grand Slam champion enjoyed overwhelming support from the crowd throughout the match, greeted by cheers and chants of “Novak, Novak” as he made his way on to court.

The 35-year-old, currently



ranked world number five, stayed behind after the defeat to sign autographs and take photographs with fans.

He is top seed in the singles in Adelaide and will face Frenchman Constant Lestienne in the first round on

Tuesday as he continues his build-up to the Australian Open, the first major of the season, which starts on 16 January.

Djokovic is a nine-time champion in Melbourne and is just one Grand Slam title shy of Rafael Nadal’s men’s record of 22.

Elsewhere in the Adelaide men’s singles on Monday, British number three Jack Draper beat South Korea’s Kwon Soon-woo 6-2 6-1 to progress to the second round.

Pele's mum to have last goodbye with son after being tragically unaware Brazil hero died

The funeral of legendary Brazilian footballer Pele will take place in Santos, with the footballer's mother, Celeste, unaware of the three-time World Cup winner's death.

Pele's mother, Celeste, will have an opportunity to say a final goodbye to her son, after initially being tragically unaware the Brazilian legend had died.

The footballer, who won three World Cups with Brazil, passed away in late December. He had been receiving treatment at Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo and his daughter, Kely Nascimento, posted an emotional tribute after her father's passing.

Pele's wake will take place at Estadio Urbano Caldeira (also known as Vila Belmiro), the home of Santos, the club where he spent the majority of his iconic playing career. After that, his coffin will travel through the streets of Santos, passing the neighbourhood of his 100-year-old mother to allow her to say goodbye.

Maria Lucia do Nascimento, Pele's sister cares for her mother and revealed Celeste was unaware of Pele's death. "We talk but



she doesn't know the situation. She's in her own world," Maria Lucia said.

"She opens her eyes when I mention his name and say, 'we're going to pray for him', but she's not really conscious of what I'm saying."

Celeste turned 100 in November, with Pele sharing a message on social media to mark the occasion. "Today, we celebrate 100

years of Dona Celeste's life," he wrote at the time.

"From a young age, she taught me the value of love and peace. I have well over a hundred reasons to be thankful for being her son. I share these photos with you, with great emotion to celebrate this day. Thank you for every day by your side, Mom."

Pele's funeral will begin at Santos' stadium, with fans waiting up to 14 hours to join the front of the queue. The coffin will remain there for 24 hours before a parade will take the body of the footballer through the streets of Santos.

On Tuesday, it will travel through the Canal 6 neighbourhood where Celeste lives. Pele's final place will be the Memorial Necropole Ecumenica, a vertical cemetery that will allow him to overlook Santos' stadium, with a private funeral ceremony due to be attended by family members only.

"We wanted to come today because this will all be sealed off by the police tomorrow," one visitor to the cemetery told The Mirror. It was Pele's final wish to be buried there, with his father Dondinho - himself a professional footballer with Santos - also buried in the family vault after his death in 1996.

"We came to pay our respects and show the children Pele's final resting place and what the city of Santos meant to him," the visitor added. "And it overlooks the Vila Belmiro stadium where he graced the pitch on so many occasions."

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Lagos Office: No. 10, Aromu Road, (Tosin Ladoja House), Agege, Lagos - Ikeja, Lagos
Kano Office: Plot 50, Behind Kano International Trade Fair Complex, Off Zoo Road, Kano
Kaduna Office: Abubakar Zaka House, AD Maiduguri City Center, Kaduna
- 4 Costing:**
Change of Name - N3,000
Loss of Documents - N9,450
Registration of Trustees - N15,500

- LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**
- COMPANY REGISTRATION**
- CHANGE OF NAME**
- LEGAL NOTICE**

I formerly known as ALIYU USMAN now wish to be known as ALIYU IYA IDRIS. All former documents remain valid authority concern and general public should take note.

AMARACHI I formerly known as IGBOANUSI AMARACHI HAPPINESS now wish to be known and addressed as AMARACHI ANUSI IGBOANUSI. All former documents remain valid and general public should take note.

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

JIMOH: That I was formerly known, called and addressed as OSAJE OPEYEMI JIMOH. That heretofore, I wish to be known, called and addressed as JIMOH OPEYEMI HOPE. That during the issuance of BIN, my surname was wrongly quoted as OSAJE and to enable me to add my middle name HOPE. That all documents bearing my former names remain valid, and the Authorities Concerned and General public should please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS
This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Certificate of Occupancy (Residential) No. LKN/RES/2000/738 of Plot No. 33, TP/KAS/239. Situated At Farawa Village, Kumbotso Local Government bearing the name of ABBA SHUGABA was reported missing at Sharada area, and all effort to trace it prove abortive. Therefore, Bureau for Land Management, Kano State should please take note.

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

JUMMAI: I formerly known and address as DINI AMINA Now wish to be known and address as BELLO JUMMAI. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

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

AWWAL: I, formerly known and addressed as MOHAMMEDAWAAL ADEBAYO ABDULSALAM as it appears on my Birth Certificate, now wish to be known and addressed as AWWAL ADEBAYO ABDUSALAM. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

END OF SORROW ISLAMIC FOUNDATION
THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'F' OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO. 3 OF 2020.
THE TRUSTEES ARE:
1. ALEROLEYIN MURITALA
2. ALEROLEYIN SUKURAT OMOYUNMI
3. ADEBOJE MOSHOOD ADEYEMI
4. WAHAB OLABAMIDI NURUDEEN
5. SULAIMON HALEEMOT KEHINDE
6. JIMOH RASAK ABOLORE
7. KAREEM ABUBAKAR OLAYIWOLA
8. AKEEM RUKAYAT ABIOLA
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
1. TO WIN THE SOUL FOR THE ALMIGHTY GOD
2. TO PROMOTE THE TEACHING OF ISLAM THROUGH MASS MOBILIZATION
3. TO SPREAD THE AWARENESS AND PURPOSE OF GOD'S CREATION OF HUMAN BEING
4. TO BRING TOGETHER MUSLIMS FAITHFUL FOR COUNSELLING, FELLOWSHIP, CORRECTION, COMFORTS AND DISCIPLINE
5. TO PREACH LOVE, FRIENDSHIP, TOLERANCE AND LINTY AMONG MEMBERS
6. TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN BRANCHES
7. TO REDISTRIBUTE HUMANITARIAN GESTURE TO THE LESS PRIVILEGE AND THE NEEDY THROUGH DONATION OR ANY OTHER MEANS
8. TO PRINT AND PUBLISH ISLAMIC MATERIALS FOR THE SPREAD OF TEACHING OF PROPHEET MUHAMMED (PBUH) AND ALMIGHTY GOD.
ANY OBJECTION TO THE 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 WITH IN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.
SIGNED
ALHAJI ALEROLEYIN MURITALA

I formerly known and addressed as FATSUMA ALI MOHAMMED now wish to be known and addressed as FATSUMA ALI D.O.B 25/4/1984. All former document remain valid. General public authority concerned to take note.

I was formerly known as SHAFIU UMAR D.O.B 02-02-1987 now wish to be known and addressed as SHAFIU UMAR and my corrected DATE OF BIRTH IS 02-02-1991. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should take note.

I formerly known as MUSTAPHA ABDULKARIM now wish to be called and addressed as MUSA SAIDU. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note.

OGUNJOBI: I, formerly known and addressed as OYEWOLE ABIOLA TEMITOPE. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as OGUNJOBI ABIOLA TEMITOPE. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

I formerly known and addressed as HASHIMU SALEH now wish to be known and addressed as HASHIMU SALE. All former document remain valid. General public authority concerned to take note.

MRS I, formally known as MSS MUHAMMAD BARAATU now wish to be known and addressed as MRS BARAATU MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

SADIYA: I formerly known as HALIMA IBRAHIM now wish to be known and addressed as SADIYA IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. General Public should please take note.

JAMES: I, formerly known and addressed as JAMES BUKOLA OLUDAYO. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as JAMES SIKIRAT ATINUKE. That my correct date of birth is 7th day of June, 1985 and not 7th day of June, 1980. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

MRS. MOSES = I, formerly known as MISS. IGWE NDIAMAKA MARYANN . Now wish to be known and address as MRS. MOSES NDIAMAKA MARYANN . All former documents remain valid. The general public please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as DEBORAH JUMBO TAMUNOIMIM AND JUMBO DEBORAH TAMUNOIMIM. , now wish to be called and addressed as JUMBO DEBORAH LOVEDAY. All document bearing former names remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as EDNA BABA IBI now wish to be known and addressed as EDNA ENOCH BABA IBI. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

KAMAL: I Formerly known and address as KAMAL ABDUSSALAM with now to be known and address as KAMAL ABDUSSALAM GWARZO. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

BUKKY: I formerly known as BUKKY FIDELIS OMOUGA now wish to be called and addressed as BUKKY BOSE OWONIYI. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

EYITAYO: I, formerly known and addressed as MISS OWOLABI OLAIDE PROSPER. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs EYITAYO OLAIDE PROSPER. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as IBRUME DEBORAH RUTH now wish to be called and addressed as EGBODION DEBORAH RUTH. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known as BASHIR HARUNA now wish to be called and addresses BASHIR HARUNA BABANGIDA. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

JOHN: I, formerly known and addressed as IMBYASHIMA ORYIMA now wish to be addressed as IMBYASHIMA ORYIMA JOHN. All former documents remain valid. STANBIC BANK PLC and general public should please take note.

UDOH: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss ODOTOLA ADEWUNMI DAMILOLA. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs UDOH ADEWUNMI DAMILOLA. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

THAT I WAS FORMERLY KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS UDOOH WASILAT. THAT I NOW WANT TO BE KNOWN AND CALLED AS AHMADU YUNUSA WASILAT MY D.O.B WAS WRONGLY WRITTEN AS 13-03-1994 MY REAL D.O.B IS 15-11-1994 ALL MY FORMER DOCUMENTS BEARING MY NAME REMAIN VALID ALL FINANCIAL IN INSTITUTION AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF THIS DEPOSITION .

I formerly known as Yahaya Adamu Null now wish to be called and addresses YAHAYA ADAMU MUHAMMAD. all former document remain valid authority concern and general public should take to note.

LAWAL TSOHO MUHAMMEDI formerly known as LAWAL MUHAMED now wish to be known and address as LAWAL TSOHO MUHAMMEDI All former documents remain valid. The authorities concerned and general public should take note.

AKINLADE: I, formerly known and addressed as OLUODOTUN ADEKUNLE AKINLADE. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as AKINLADE OLUODOTUN SUNDAY. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

SEVER: I formerly known as TOR-ANYIIN FAITH NGUVAN now wish to be known and addressed as SEVER FAITH NGUVAN. All other documents remain valid. The authorities concerned and the general public should take note.

I formerly known as RABI GARBA SANI 16-03-1995 now wish to be called and addresses RABI SANI ABUBAKAR 16-04-1996 all former document remain valid authority concern and general public should take to note.

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

ADEFALA: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss JUNAIID TINUOLA KABIRAT. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs ADEFALA TINUOLA KABIRAT. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

I, Formerly Known And Addressed As CHUKWUDI KENNETH AHAIBE , Now Wish To Be Known And Addressed IZUCHUKWU KENNETH CHUKWUDI AHAIBE. All Documents Bearing my former name still Remain Valid, General Public please Take Note.

Requirement for Change of Name Women: Marriage Certifi cate or Court Affi davit; Men: Court Affi davit

I, formerly known and addressed as OSENI UMARU now wish to be known and addressed as UMARU HUSSAINI. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known as : Surname- Maimuna First name- Aminu now wish to be called and addressed as Surname- Aminu First name- Maimuna. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

KHALID: I formerly known as KHALID MUSA now wish to be known as KHALID ADAMU MUSA All former documents remain valid Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

MRS. DIKE = I, formerly known as MISS. NWACHUKWU CHIMDINMA JENNIFER . Now wish to be known and address as MRS. DIKE CHIMDINMA NNAMDI . All former documents remain valid. The general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME CONFIRMATION OF NAMES: This is to confirm that GODFREY IKANONE, GODFREY OGHENECHUKO IKANONE, GODFREY OGHENE IKANONE, GODFREY OGHENEBROHIE CYRIL and SHINE OEFFRODE refer to one and same person but now wish to be known, called and addressed as SHINE CYRIL O'EFFRODE. All former Documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as 1. RABU ALHAJI HABIBU 2. RABU ABUBAKAR 3. RABU A. HABIB 4. RABU HABIB now wish to be known and addressed as RABU HABIBU MAKUDAWA All former documents remain valid. Authority concern to please take note.

I formerly known as IBRAHIM AMINAT KEHINDE and IBRAHIM KEHINDE now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM AMINA. All former documents remain valid. Stanbic IBTC, general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

HASSAN: I, formerly known as HASSAN IBRAHIM now wish to be known and addressed as HASSAN TASIU. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

MRS. CHIMA OBI = I, formerly known as MISS. KENNETH CHIKA HAPPINESS . Now wish to be known and address as MRS. CHIMA OBI CHIKA HAPPINESS . All former documents remain valid. The general public please take note.

MRS. OSEIMIEBI: I, formally known and addressed as *MISS SARAH OBINNA VINCENT*, now wish to be known and addressed as *MRS. SARAH OSEIMIEBI WELLINGTON TAMUNO* All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The public should please take note.

WAKAMAN

with
Tunde Asaju
tundeasaju@dailytrust.com

Welcome to 2023, Africa's year of elections

As the world ushers in 2023, citizens of 26 African nations would be cleaning their thumbs in preparation for change or the endorsement of more of the same. Sixteen African states would hold parliamentary and general elections while 15 nations would hold gubernatorial and other local elections. Nigeria's neighbour, Republique Populaire du Benin kicks off with parliamentary polls barely a week into the New Year on January 8.

Mali holds a referendum this year ahead of its general elections in one year. It is one of the many West African states under the power of armed soldiers.

Crisis-torn Central African Republic (CAR) is expected to kick off the general electoral calendar this month, followed by Nigeria, which holds general elections in February. Sierra Leone and crisis-torn Sudan go to polls in the middle of the year. Libya, a prosperous nation destroyed by Western envy and spite is hoping to truly put the past behind and enrol in the college of democracy planned by democracy's global supervisors. With luck, Libya hopes to realign as a nation with a successful transition that would produce a leader acceptable to all Libyans and the so-called international community.

Nigerians are faced with the uphill task of finding a more suitable replacement to their lacklustre born-again general, Muhammadu Buhari. If you ask the god of elections, s/he'll likely predict a three-horse race between Atiku Abubakar, a former vice president; Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the powerful godfather of Lagos and southwestern politics, and Peter Obi, a former governor and former vice-presidential candidate.

If polls were won on social media, Obi would be Nigeria's next president. However, surprises are in the offing in an election in which money, tribe and religious politics play important parts. Nigeria's general election is bound to produce upsets and possible outcry.

Sierra Leone turned the page on its civil war and reposed faith in Julius Maada Wonie Bio, an ex-military dictator as president. The 58-year-old hopes to regain the confidence of his compatriots to continue in power at the polls.

Sierra Leone is blighted by its natural resources including diamonds, coltan, tantalite, gold and chromite among many, but its citizens remain incredibly poor and its infrastructure largely decimated. If

he succeeds at the polls, Bio would either consolidate his gains or lose the support of his citizenry angling for development.

In Zimbabwe, Emerson Mnangagwa, the man who goes with the unenviable sobriquet of the Crocodile, hopes to convince his compatriots that Nelson Chamisa and his deputy Constantino Chiwenga are not worthy of the electorate's trust. At 80, Mnangagwa, who pushed Robert Mugabe out of office, may retain his position as the oldest president in the southern hemisphere. The elections will be held in the second half of this year.

In Central Africa's Gabon, 63-year-old Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba remains the sole candidate of the Gabonese Democratic Party, known by its French acronym PDG. Relatively younger than most African presidents, Ali has suffered a stroke and is largely infirm. But in Gabon, there is no credible opposition to the Bongo Dynasty that has ruled the country since 1967.

In former Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) the country known as the bastion of the man with the longest name in African political history - Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga - teeters on the brink. From the Mobutu dynasty, the new DRC fell into the hands of the Kabila Dynasty where it remained till 2019 when Joseph Kabila eased out in a power deal to Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo with whom he has now fallen out.

The power tussle in the Congo is likely to show why the grass suffers when two elephants fight. It is unlikely to change the bottom line for the average Congolese or resolve the war in the north of the country.

Like Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Gabon and many other mineral-rich nations of Africa, Congo's globally-on-demand mineral resources have remained its undoing rather than a blessing. It has not benefitted the average Congolese, attracted the presence of foreign buccaneers and left the nation's flora and fauna in ruins.

This year, Tshisekedi hopes to prove to his opponents, Moise Katumbi, a former governor and businessman and one-time premier and senator Augustin Matata Ponyo as well as Martin Fayulu why he deserves the voter's trust. Already, the opposition has declared a lack of trust in the ability of the incumbent to run an all-inclusive electoral or transition process.

In the poli-tricks of this poll, Rwanda's born-again dictator Paul Kagame is involved and aligns with the opposition.

The world's democracy umpires tend to take sides with Kagame who is often brandished as a poster-boy for democracy when all the evidence proves that, left alone, Kagame would shoot at his own shadows.

Many would remember Madagascar; the country that pulled off the biggest magical hoax over COVID-19 with its claim to finding a herbal cure to the virus. Several African nations, including Tanzania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Congo-Brazzaville bought into that scam spearheaded by Andry Rajoelina, the country's president. Malagasy's citizens would be checking the political landscape either for a replacement to Rajoelina or any of the mushroom opposition leaders.

Liberians go to the poll this year hoping to either renew the mandate of ex-football star, George Opong Weah, or his challengers. Weah's coalition government collapsed as the elections drew near just as the trust his citizens had in him. Last year, he abandoned ship for a much-criticised global tour that earned him the sobriquet - absentee president.

Two prominent Liberian politicians are challenging Weah's presidency. They include 76-year-old former vice president Joseph Boakai, of the Unity Party and businessman Alex Cummings of the Alternative National Congress (ANC). With these elections slated for October, Weah has a very limited time to prove that he still has what it takes to make change happen.

The two Sudan were poised for elections this year until the South broke its promise. In the Sudan proper where opposition to the Bashir dictatorship led to his overthrow, there is no tranquillity on the streets as the military plays yoyo with politicians for a credible transition. Seven frontline political parties are famed as contestants if a central electoral body could be formed to organise a credible transition.

In South Sudan, where Salva Kiir Mayardit has held sway since independence in 2011, an electoral timetable did not favour polls this year leading to a postponement. Quondam friends and eternal rivals, Kiir and Riek Machar have sustained a fragile power-sharing agreement that balances the swing of political uncertainty.

Both Sudan appear jinxed in political transition yet both nations hope to find the lost track to manifest destiny. The problem is that there are too many rivers to cross and the boat of entente lists far away from those who need it.

Nigeria's northern neighbour, Chad hopes to consolidate its democracy. Years of unrest led to the installation of Idris Derby Itno as a benign dictator. He became a casualty of a war exacerbated by his dictatorship. Rather than break with the past, Chad's political wheeler dealers installed his son -Mahammat Derby Itno - as his successor. Itno promises a transition, but nobody believes the 39-year-old son of a gun.

SPORT REPORT

Lukaku hopes to convince Chelsea to extend his stay at Inter



■ Lukaku

Inter Milan striker Romelu Lukaku said he is hoping to put his injuries and Belgium's premature World Cup exit behind him and return to form for the Italian club in a bid to discuss a permanent move from Chelsea.

Lukaku missed a huge chunk of games in the first half of the season due to hamstring and thigh injuries which affected his return to the national team as Belgium crashed out of the World Cup in the group stage.

The 29-year-old is on loan from Chelsea and sealing a permanent move back to Inter could be difficult as the Premier League side looks to recoup the 97.5 million pounds (\$117.50 million) they paid the Serie A club in August 2021.

Venus starts 30th season on WTA Tour with win



■ Venus

Venus Williams started her 30th year on the WTA Tour with a victory over fellow American Katie Volynets at the ASB Classic in Auckland, New Zealand.

The 42-year-old beat Volynets, who is half her age, 7-6 (7-4) 6-2 and will play China's Lin Zhu next.

Former world number one Williams made her Tour debut in October 1994.

She entered four tournaments as a wildcard in 2021, the only year since 1994 in which she did not win a singles match.

Her victory over Volynets - who turned 21 on New Year's Eve - was interrupted by rain during the first-set tie-break, which her opponent was leading.

But Volynets faded as the match stretched into the evening, with Williams wrapping up her first singles win since Wimbledon in 2021.