



2,095
DAYS since Chibok schoolgirls were abducted



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Electricity tariff not yet increased – FG P 3

Iran-U.S. tensions push oil price above \$70/barrel P 15

Presidency: Buhari won't hand pick his successor P 41

Gov nabs soldiers, police extorting travellers

...passengers forced to sleep in the open

From Uthman Abubakar, Ibrahim Sawab, Tunji Omirin (Maiduguri) & Ibrahim Baba Saleh (Damaturu)

Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State yesterday caught some soldiers and policemen forcing travellers who did not have the

national identity card to pay N1,000. The governor was on his way to Jakana, a village 45km from Maiduguri where terrorists launched an attack on

Saturday. While on the way, the governor met
— *Contd on page 5*



■ Borno State Governor Babagana Umara Zulum at the Jimtilo military checkpoint along the Maiduguri-Damaturu Expressway in the state yesterday to assess the alleged maltreatment of travellers by the security personnel

596 dead workers on Bauchi govt payroll P 6

Many passengers abducted as gunmen ambush 2 vehicles P 4

Major events that will shape judiciary in 2020 P 31

>> PAGETWO

Compiled by
JAMIL H. SALIM

WEATHER

ABUJA SUNNY 36 21 MAX MIN	KADUNA SUNNY 33 17 MAX MIN	KANO SUNNY 29 14 MAX MIN	MAIDUGURI SUNNY 31 15 MAX MIN	JOS SUNNY 28 13 MAX MIN
SOKOTO SUNNY 32 19 MAX MIN	IBADAN SUNNY 37 20 MAX MIN	ENUGU SUNNY 38 21 MAX MIN	P/HARCOURT PARTLY CLOUDY 31 17 MAX MIN	LAGOS SUNNY 34 23 MAX MIN

(Temperature in centigrade)

AFRICAN SAYINGS >>

Nobody gathers firewood to roast a thin goat.

(Kenya)

Source: BBC collection of listeners' proverbs

FOOD FOR THOUGHT >>

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

- C.S. Lewis



PHOTO OF THE DAY >>



Men perform the traditional Horo dance at the Tundzha River in Kalofer, Bulgaria yesterday, as part of Epiphany celebrations. As a tradition, an eastern Orthodox priest throws a cross in the river and it is believed that the one who retrieves it will be healthy throughout the year as well as all those who dance in the icy waters

Photo: Nikolay Doychinov/AFP via Getty Images

PRAYER TIMES

CITIES	FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
ABUJA	5:36	12:39	3:55	6:24	7:28
ENUGU	5:38	12:37	3:53	6:19	7:23
KADUNA	5:35	12:38	3:54	6:22	7:26
KANO	5:30	12:33	3:51	6:17	7:22
KATSINA	5:32	12:39	3:55	6:26	7:30
LAGOS	5:53	12:55	4:10	6:37	7:42
MAIDUGURI	5:13	12:16	3:32	6:00	7:04
P/HARCOURT	5:49	12:47	4:03	6:24	7:28
SOKOTO	5:43	12:47	4:03	6:32	7:36

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna

STOCK INDEX AS AT MONDAY 6, 2020

GAINERS	FCMB	CORNERST	UNITYBNK	WEMABANK	COURTVILLE
OPEN	2.09	0.58	0.73	0.74	0.26
CLOSE	0.19	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.02
CHANGE	10.00	9.43	8.96	8.82	8.33
LOSERS	PZ	NIGERINS	UNIONDAC	CHIPLC	FIDSON
OPEN	5.10	0.20	0.20	0.33	2.55
CLOSE	-0.55	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.15
CHANGE	-9.73	-9.09	-9.09	-8.33	-5.56

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Electricity tariff not yet increased – FG

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Federal Government, through the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), yesterday declared that the electricity tariff would not be increased without consultations.

NERC Chairman Prof. James Momoh, at a news conference in Abuja, clarified that what the commission had done was a tariff review usually done twice a year.

He said consultations with members of the public would determine if there would be an increase or not.

Momoh had, in the orders he signed for the 11 power distribution companies (DisCos) last Friday, said based on the December 2019 tariff review, the electricity tariff was expected to increase by April 1.

But yesterday, Momoh said in the next three months, the commission would engage the public for consultation.

"We've given the report card of what we saw based on all indices for doing the review. We did not say it is binding tomorrow morning. We said we're going to the second thing: consultation.

"The order is simply a

- NERC to hold public consultations
- We'll enforce hike in April – Discos

communication of what we have done as a regulator looking at what it takes to increase or decrease tariff. If at the end of our meeting back and front, we say increase there is increase. If we say no increase, no increase.

"It is going to be based on our engagement at the public forum. We are going to issue a press statement one more time about this document in a layman language.

"I'm a customer too. As customers, we'll pay our bills. But if you suddenly change it, I need to know why. It must be for the good of everybody. Don't forget, service must improve," he said.

He said the NERC would soon put a ceiling on the amount Discos could charge customers still not metered and were given estimated bills.

"We will do everything to ensure that DisCos provide meters to our customers," Momoh assured.

The NERC had said the review considered changes in macroeconomic indices

like inflation at 11.3 percent, exchange rate at N309.9 to a dollar and gas price of \$3.30 per standard cubic foot.

The orders for the 11 Discos had shown that electricity consumers in Abuja ought to pay average N54.3 per kilowatt hour (kwh) as cost reflective tariff effective January 1, 2020. But NERC said the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company should continue collecting N32.7. Hence, residential 2 (R2) customers' bill remains at N24.30/kwh till April; but that the AEDC must remit 42% as payment for monthly bulk energy to the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc.

Benin Disco customers will pay average N32.5/kwh instead of the new N56.4 cost reflective amount. Residential customers will continue to pay N31.26/kwh, but that the company must remit 35.7% for bulk energy henceforth.

In Lagos, Ikeja Disco customers ought to pay N44.6/kwh, but are allowed to pay

N27.3/kwh for now. While its residential customers continue to pay N21.30/kwh, the disCo must remit 49% bulk energy payment.

For Eko Disco, customers will pay N28.3/kwh average instead of N47.0/kwh cost reflective amount. Residential customers will continue to pay N24/kwh and the must remit 43% bulk energy settlement to NBET.

Kano Disco customers ought to pay N52.7/kwh average, but are allowed to pay N30.1/kwh. The Disco collects N22.50/kwh from residential customers for now and must pay 38% of its monthly bulk energy bill.

Enugu Disco averagely collects N35.3/kwh from customers instead of N54.4/kwh. Residential customers there pay N30.93/kwh and the DisCo must pay 42% monthly bulk energy invoice to NBET.

For Yola Disco, customers ought to pay N57.4/kwh in future but are currently allowed to pay N26.8/kwh. The company bills residential customers N23.25/kwh

and it must pay 12% of its monthly energy invoice or face sanctions.

Meanwhile, the Association of Nigerian Electricity Distributors, the Discos yesterday said the new electricity tariffs shall become enforceable from April 1, explaining that the new tariffs ordered by the NERC would cater for revenue shortfalls in the sector in a statement, the spokesperson of the association, Sunday Oduntan, said: "The tariffs shall remain the same as they presently are (i.e. 2015 levels) until April 01, 2020 when there will be a slight increment to cater for tariff shortfalls which shall be gradually passed on to the consumer until this is fully completed by the end of 2021.

"In view of the foregoing, we state emphatically that there shall be no change or increase in the existing electricity tariff until April 1, 2020 when the new adjusted tariffs shall begin to gradually reflect the dynamism of our macro-economy."



■ Students cross the road at Moshalashi in Ipaja, Lagos yesterday, as schools resumed from the Xmas and New Year holidays

Photo: NAN

Presidency to SERAP: No law mandates Buhari to declare asset publicly

By Idowu Isamotu

The Presidency says the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has no legal justification to ask President Muhammadu Buhari and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo as well as state governors and their deputies to declare their assets publicly.

Presidential spokesman, Femi Adesina, was last night on a Channels Television programme, Politics Today, reacting to a 7-day ultimatum given by the SERAP on public assets declaration.

Adesina said there is no section of Nigerian laws that mandates the president and his deputy to declare their asset publicly.

According to him, declaring assets publicly is a personal decision and voluntary.

"I can say for a fact that he (Buhari) has declared his assets because I am privy to it. And SERAP asking the president to declare publicly and I ask: On the basis of which law? The president would do what the law requires of him, and what the law requires is, he should declare his assets which he has done.

"Declaring publicly is not in our laws. It can only be a voluntary thing. So, if anybody is compelling somebody to declare publicly, I don't know, on the basis of what law? If the FOI Act is invoked, it would be left with the Code of Conduct Bureau to release because the FOI Act will not be for the president. The president has declared and it is already deposited with the CCB. So, it is the CCB to respond to the FOI Act if it is invoked," Adesina said.

Land disputes delaying Ogoniland clean-up – FG

The Federal Government says it is committed to cleaning up the hydrocarbon impact on communities in Ogoniland in spite of challenges being faced in the exercise.

Dr Marvin Dekil, Project Coordinator, Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project, disclosed this to the News Agency of Nigeria on the sidelines of the 2020 Ogoni Day celebration in Bori, Rivers yesterday.

HYPREP, under the Federal Ministry of Environment has the mandate to clean up decades-long oil spills in four Ogoni local government areas in Rivers such as

Eleme, Gokana, Khana and Tai.

Dekil said that in spite of government's commitment to the project, the remediation exercise was hampered by land disputes, leadership tussles and communal clashes.

"The tussle over land and chieftaincy stool has been a major cause of delay in the implementation of the UN Environment Report at the many clean-up sites.

"This has to change for us to make progress by way of unfettered access to all contaminated sites.

"We equally appeal that HYPREP be spared land and chieftaincy

disputes as we do not have an interest in any land and chieftaincy stool," he pleaded.

According to him, the Federal Government is also worried by the re-pollution of the affected Ogoni communities, blamed on activities of oil thieves in the area.

"So, another area that we expect stakeholders to assist us deliver on our mandate is the issue of re-pollution.

"Our efforts to clean Ogoniland will amount to nothing if after investing so much resources and time it is again re-polluted by activities of illegal bunkers and refiners." (NAN)

CRIME

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Many passengers abducted as gunmen ambush 2 vehicles in Katsina

From Habibu Umar Aminu, Katsina

Many passengers have been kidnapped in Katsina State when gunmen ambushed two Peugeot J5 buses Sunday night.

The buses were said to be returning from a weekly market at neighbouring Jibia town on their way to Batsari town. They were attacked around Ruma village.

While locals alleged that about 40 persons were kidnapped, the police command in the state said only seven persons were abducted.

Sources said the bandits had blocked the road and moved all the passengers numbering between 38 and 40 into the bush.

However, spokesman of the state police

command, SP Gambo Isah, said, "The command wishes to clarify rumours being circulated in the social media that yesterday (Sunday) in the evening bandits kidnapped 40 persons along Jibia-Batsari road.

"What truly happened was that yesterday 5/01/2020 at about 18:00hrs, bandits numbering over 60 and armed with AK 47 rifles blocked Jibia-Batsari road, exactly at Ruma village, forcefully stopped two J5 motor vehicles and took the occupants of the vehicles into the bush."

"Search party led by Operation Puff Adder went after the hoodlums but succeeded in rescuing all the victims with the exception of seven others. The police, in collaboration with community members are combing the

bush with a view to rescue the remaining seven persons not seen."

He gave the names of those still in captivity as: Maazu Yasore, Alhaji Nuhu, Kabiru Hashimu, Dan Asibi Tela, Sani Kokari, Nura Shambal and Ali Dan Maituwo.

In a related development, the command has confirmed the attacked on Tsauri community were one Yasir Usman was killed. Locals said gunmen stormed the village in Kurfi LGA at about 7.30pm on Sunday shooting sporadically as people ran for safety.

The deceased was reportedly buried Monday morning after a funeral prayer held at his family house in Goruba road in Katsina municipal.

Gunmen kill 4 naval personnel, abduct three expatriates

From Basse Willie, Yenagoa

Gunmen suspected to be militants have killed four Navy ratings and abducted three expatriates working for a dredging company at Agge River in Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

It was gathered that the three foreigners abducted include two Russians and one Indian.

Sources from Agge community however said the attack happened at the Agge axis which belonged to Warri in Delta State and that the Navy ratings were from the NNS in Delta command.

A source from the community, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the incident happened last Friday night, and that the four navy ratings were allegedly killed during a heavy gun battle that lasted for hours.

Another resident of the community, who declined to be named, said one of the gunmen also died during the shootout.

It was gathered that the incident has created serious tension in the area as military personnel were reportedly preparing for an attack to bring the perpetrators to book.

The neighbouring communities in Warri, Delta State, were also said to be leaving in fear that their villages may be brought down as the military was said to be gathering intelligence on the matter.

So far, no militant group has claimed responsibility on the act nor demanded any ransom for those abducted.

Police spokesman in Bayelsa State, SP Asinin Butswat, in a response to a text message from our reporter, said: "The attack was on Navy personnel, get confirmation from the navy please."

Also, the spokesman for the Joint Military Taskforce saddled with the responsibility of protecting oil facilities in Niger Delta, 'Operation Delta Safe', Major Jonah Unuakhalu, when contacted promised to get back but had not as at the time of filing this report.

The spokesperson for the Central Naval Command of the Nigerian Navy, Patricia Dike, could not be reached as her phone number was not



Officials of the IGP's Intelligence Response Team explaining alleged crimes committed by suspects to their Commander, Deputy Commissioner of Police Abba Kyari, in Abuja recently

Man, 19, allegedly kills other in fight over seat

A 19-year-old man, Umar Shuaibu, on Monday appeared before an Ebute-Meta Chief Magistrate Court, Lagos State, over alleged murder of one Mr Yusuf Abubakar with whom he fought over a seat.

The police, who brought the defendant on a count charge of murder, said he hit Abubakar on the stomach during the fight. The defendant's plea was not taken as the chief magistrate, Mr O.O. Olatunji, said he needed the advice of the state director of public prosecution.

Olatunji ordered that the defendant should be remanded, and adjourned the case till February 5, for mention. The prosecutor, Insp. Unemhinin Paul, had told the court that the defendant committed the crime on December 30, 2019, at 1:30p.m. at Railway Compound, Ebute Meta, Lagos.

He alleged that the defendant and the deceased fought while struggling for a chair, adding that the defendant punched the deceased in the stomach, causing his death. (NAN)

Soldier stabs colleague, civilian to death in Osun

From Hameed Oyegbade (Osogbo) & Clement A. Oloyede (Abuja)

There was tension in Osun State as residents panicked when a soldier with the name tag Blessed Olodi from the Engineer Construction Regiment (ECR) military base in Ede went berserk, killing one of his colleagues and one other person.

The soldier was said to have stabbed his colleague and a woman, identified as one Mrs Iyabo.

Sources told our

correspondent that the remains of the deceased have been deposited at the morgue of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital.

Residents of Ede community said the soldier suddenly unleashed violence on people on January 2 and that his wife and four others, including a lance corporal were also wounded in the attack.

The victims, said to be severely injured, are receiving treatment at the intensive care unit of the hospital.

According to witnesses, the soldier was eventually disarmed by a team of soldiers and detained.

It was gathered that the soldier was on medical leave from the 17 Field Engineer Regiment operating in the North East.

Olodi was said to have attended a course at the Nigerian Army School of Military Engineers, Makurdi, before returning to Ede.

When contacted, the spokesperson for Osun State

Police Command, Folasade Odoro, said she was busy. She also did not reply to a text message sent to her by our correspondent.

However, when contacted, the spokesman of the 2 Division of the Nigerian Army in Ibadan, Oyo State, which oversees Blessed's unit, Colonel H.I. Muhammed, told our reporter on phone that the incident was still under investigation and that findings would be made known to the appropriate authority when concluded.

Woman allegedly pushes co-wife, baby into well

From Tijjani Ibrahim, Kano

A 30-year-old housewife, Hauwa Lawan, has been arrested by the Kano State Police Command for allegedly pushing her co-wife along with an 18-month-old baby into a well in Rano Local Government Area of the state.

Daily Trust learnt that the victim, Zuwaira Lawan, died shortly after she was rushed to a hospital, where she was taken

by the police who responded to a distress call on the incident. But her baby, Mustapha Sani, is said to have survived the incident.

The suspect was said to have fled the town immediately after the act.

Confirming the incident, spokesman of the police in the state, DSP Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, said the suspect was trailed and arrested following an order by the state

Commissioner of Police, Habu Sani Ahmadu.

He said the police received the report on Friday that "the suspect had a misunderstanding with the victim in the course of which they started fighting in the house. The suspect pushed her co-wife along with the baby, whom she was carrying on her back."

He added that "the commissioner of police in the

state, Mr Habu Sani, ordered that the fleeing suspect be arrested within 24 hours. Operation Puff-Adder swung into action and arrested the suspect on Saturday at about 1:17 am.

"The victims were evacuated from the well and rushed to Rano General Hospital, where Zuwaira was confirmed dead, while her son is alive and has been discharged from the hospital."

Gov nabs soldiers, police extorting travellers

— Contd from page 1

thousands of stranded commuters allegedly being extorted by security operatives at Jimtilo, a village in the outskirts of Maiduguri, along the Damaturu-Kano

road.

Yesterday's incident in which soldiers and policemen blocked the highway for several hours, and forced the governor to stop, had caused heavy gridlock of buses and heavy trucks that were either

going into, or out of Maiduguri to Damaturu, Kano, Kaduna, Jos, Abuja and other parts of the country.

Daily Trust reports that of all the five entry routes to the Borno State capital, the Maiduguri-Damaturu road is

the relatively safest from Boko Haram ambush, hence the heavy traffic during the day.

Though the military and other security operatives, last year reopened the Maiduguri-Bama-Biu road, Maiduguri-Dambo, Biu-Gombe road,

Maiduguri-Dikwa, Gaboru-Ngala road and Maiduguri-Monguno-Baga road, passengers and drivers are up till now sceptical of plying them because of activities of ISWAP and Boko Haram insurgents.



■ Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum (backing the camera) ensure movement of traffic at the Jakana military checkpoint in the state yesterday, after motorists were left stranded for hours

How Zulum caught security operatives unawares

Our correspondents report that for the past 10 years, nobody will access Maiduguri without being thoroughly checked by soldiers and policemen at Jimtilo, a heavily guarded checkpoint surrounded by a long trench that also encircles the state capital.

When he arrived the checkpoint yesterday which is few metres away from the Borno State University, the governor met a long stretch of vehicles and travellers stranded on both sides of the road.

Credible sources said the governor was earlier hinted that people including women and children had been trapped at the checkpoint for many hours.

As soon as he alighted from his vehicle, the governor said in anger: "This is unacceptable. How can you subject people to this kind of torture all in the name of National ID card? And you are all here collecting N500 and N1000 from poor travellers who don't have national ID card."

But one of the soldiers manning the checkpoint who tried to give a different perspective as to why they stopped the travellers met a brick wall as the governor was angry.

"No, this is not right," the governor said. "The government has not created an enabling environment for our people to get their national ID cards and you

are here collecting N500 and N1000 as fine for not having what the federal government has not provided for all," he added.

Our correspondents recalled that the military had in September last year issued a statement that travellers going to some states in the North East, especially Borno, Yobe and Adamawa must show their ID card to prove their personalities as a way of curtailing free movement of terrorists.

Though the military high command simply said identification card, troops in the volatile region seized the opportunity to insist on National ID Card which many passengers do not possess. In the process, the security operatives compelled commuters to pay money in order to be allowed to proceed on their journeys.

The governor, while at Jimtilo, said he had received several reports about the alleged extortion at the Maiduguri checkpoint.

He therefore asked one of his aides to call the Theatre Commander, Major General Olusegun Adeniyi.

"Theatre Commander where are you?" the governor asked soon after the phone call was placed.

"Right now I am at the checkpoint near state university and we have thousands of people stranded and your people are here collecting money from people because they

don't have National ID Card. Why?"

Nobody heard what the army general told the governor, but after discussing for some time, Zulum directed the security personnel to open the gates on both sides to allow all travellers to move.

The Theatre Commander later arrived at the check point.

On arrival, he told the governor that the hold-up was because of an attack that happened earlier in the day and assured that he will investigate the allegation levelled against his troops manning the checkpoint.

But the governor countered saying, "I saw them with my eyes, I spoke with people that were asked to give money.

"You must know that the government and people of Borno State are behind you and your men, but you must call your soldiers to order, you must check their excesses," the governor said.

"What happened today is quite unusual because I came here (Jimtilo) around 10am and some people told me they were asked to park by the road side since around 8.40am," said Bakura Baana, a commercial vehicle driver.

"We are taking a patient to UMTH but here we are... We know they normally close around 5.30pm or when there was an attack or there is fear of an impending attack. However, today they didn't say anything," he said.

How travellers passed the night at Jimtilo village over the years

Daily Trust reports that when a state of emergency was declared in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in 2013 following the escalation of Boko Haram crisis, governors of the affected states had at one time or the order declared curfew as a way of restricting movement for certain hours.

Up till today, the curfew persists in Borno and Yobe states as people are not allowed to move around from 10pm up till 6am. The governors of the two states had over time changed the timing depending on circumstances.

In Borno, however, the military and the police normally closed the Jimtilo gate around 5 or 6pm every day, thereby forcing travelers, especially those going to Maiduguri from distant places, to pass the night in the open at the checkpoint.

"This has been the tradition for over eight years," said Yagana Bukar, a nurse in one of the

hospitals in Maiduguri who frequents Damaturu.

"They lock the gate even when there is no attack...Only prominent people that have connection would be allowed to get into Maiduguri after 6pm even though the time for curfew is 10pm.

"I strongly feel this is dangerous because anything can happen. If the terrorists can attack travellers on the highway, do you think they will not come to Jimtilo and kill innocent vulnerable people," she asked.

A driver who does not want his name mentioned said there is need to look at the "rule" which compels people to pass the night in the open at a volatile location.

"It takes more than 12 hours to arrive here from Abuja, so even when you leave by 7am, it will take you up to 7pm to get to Maiduguri. Many people break their journeys in Damaturu and proceed the next day," he said.



■ Motorists and passengers stranded over the closure of Maiduguri-Damaturu Highway by the military

Passengers also stranded in Yobe

Our correspondents report that beside the gridlock at Jimtilo, hundreds of commuters were also trapped at Kukareta, a border village between Borno and Yobe.

"After running into a bad traffic jam at Jimtilo, we were also stopped for five hours at Kukareta," said Mohammed Abubakar, one of the passengers traveling out of Maiduguri.

"We were there at Kukareta awaiting the military's green light until five o'clock in the evening when we were allowed

to pass and continue our journey. "During our 5-hour stopover at Kukareta, no vehicle was allowed to travel toward Maiduguri or out," he said.

A driver, Musa Sajo, called on the federal government to look at the situation in order to ease the pains of travellers.

"We agree that the troops are there to protect us but they also need a serious oversight to check their excesses. I pray they take the war to the Boko Haram in their enclaves so that we see the end of this war," he said.

596 dead workers on Bauchi govt payroll

From Hassan Ibrahim, Bauchi

The Committee constituted by Bauchi State government to investigate the non-possession of Bank Verification Number (BVN) by civil servants has

uncovered 596 dead workers on the state's payroll.

No fewer than 4,578 civil servants and pensioners have also failed to appear before the committee on BVN verification, the chairman of the committee, Senator

Adamu Ibrahim Gumba, who disclosed yesterday.

Addressing newsmen on the conclusion of the committee's assignment, he said the committee has given adequate opportunities for the identified workers and pensioners to

appear for verification, but they failed to do so.

Gumba said already, the committee has verified 5,508 pensioners and workers in active service, adding that they would receive October, November and December

backlog salaries. He said the committee worked to assist the government flush out ghost workers on its payroll, adding that it "discovered 596 dead workers but who are still on the payroll of the government."

El-Rufai bans gas retail shops in high-risk areas

From Mohammed I. Yaba, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai on Monday ordered the closure of gas retail shops within residential and high-risk areas with immediate effect.

He announced the decision after inspecting the scene of a fatal gas explosion that occurred on Saturday leaving six people dead.

Samuel Aruwan, Commissioner, Internal Security and Home Affairs who disclosed this in a statement said with that directive, all retail gas refill shops operating in the said areas are to shut down.

"Similarly, ministries and agencies concerned with public safety have also been directed to review high risk businesses in residential areas and come up with a relocation plan with immediate effect," he said.

Gas explosion: We lost one of our brightest minds - NGF

From Lami Sadiq, Jos

The Northern Governors Forum has expressed shock over the death of the Chairman, Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Professor Simon Mallam, his son, and three others following a gas explosion at Sabon Tasha area of Kaduna on Saturday.

Chairman of the forum and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong, described the incident as unfortunate and painful, stressing that the North has lost one of its brightest minds "who has contributed enormously to the development of our people."

In a statement signed by the Governor's Director of Press and Public Affairs, Dr. Makut Simon Macham, the chairman described the loss of Prof. Mallam as a major setback to Nigeria's quest for energy sufficiency given his vast knowledge and experience as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The NGF called for stringent supervision of gas handling in Nigeria so as to curtail such recurring incidents.



■ Governor Nasir El-Rufai being briefed during his visit to the gas explosion scene yesterday at Sabon Tasha in the state, where the Chairman, Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Prof Simon Mallam and others died on Saturday

Photo: KDSG

NSCDC treats 30 violence against children cases in 2019

From Mohammed I. Yaba, Kaduna

Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Kaduna State Command through its Anti-Human Trafficking Unit received and treated 30 cases of violence against children in the state in the year 2019.

This was contained in the 2019 Annual Report issued by the Command's Spokesman ASC Orndiir Terzungwe on behalf of the State Commandant Babangida

Abdullahi Dutsinma.

The report indicates that some of the cases were traced to communities from eight Local Government Areas of the State.

A breakdown of the report shows that out of the total number of reports received, cases of child trafficking for labour exploitation were mostly traced to Jigawa, Katsina and Kaduna States.

He further disclosed that 16 survivors were rescued and

reunited with their families within the period under review.

He also noted that three suspects held in connection with cases of child trafficking and labour were handed over to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), for further investigation.

On sexual violence, he said two defendants were remanded in prison custody while their case files were

referred to the Ministry of Justice for legal advice.

"Cases of domestic violence were referred to Ministry of Justice's Citizens Right for mediation, just as cases of physical violence were treated out of court and survivors were reunited with their biological parents for further care and supervision by the State Ministry of Human Services and Social Development," he said.

Nasarawa develops 4-year education plan

From Ibraheem H. Muhammad, Lafia

The Nasarawa State government has developed a four-year development plan to reposition the education sector for improved teaching and learning.

The Commissioner of Education, Science and Technology, Hajiya Fatu Sabo, disclosed this on Monday in Lafia at the opening ceremony of a five-day workshop for the education sector development plan.

The workshop was organised to train Directors, Deputy Directors and other staff of the ministry from all departments in order to realize the development plan.

She said that the governor has put machinery in place to ensure

that the state is among the third most developed states in all sectors in the next few years, adding that the development plan would focus the attention of government on the increasing access to education for the girl-child, and taking out-of-school children off the streets.

Also, the provision of effective and functional technical and vocational education to ensure that students at all levels were equipped with skills to become self reliant after graduation constitutes part of the agenda, she said.

She said in spite of allocating 26 per cent of the N108 billion of the 2020 budget of the state to education, the ministry still wants to explore other avenues to get support from international partners.

CAN, bishops knock Mbaka over Imo guber prophecy

From Jude A. Owuamanam, Owerri

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and religious leaders in Imo State have expressed reservations over the recent prediction by renowned Catholic Priest, Rev. Fr. Ejike Mbaka, that Governor Emeka Ihedioha will lose his seat to the opposition All Progressives Congress.

Mbaka in his New Year message had predicted that the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Hope Uzodinma, will upturn and take over from Emeka Ihedioha as Governor of Imo State.

CAN in its reaction said

it is opposed to politically motivated prophecies while the Bishops Conference of Nigeria said the Catholic Church is not into fortune telling.

CAN leader, Senior Apostle Godson Ibeji, said that the cleric's prophecy was without substance, wondering why a matter before the Supreme Court would be tossed around.

The National Youth Council of Nights, Imo State chapter, in a statement in Owerri by its state chairman, Isdore Chukwuemeka, advised Mbaka not to unduly inflame the polity saying "We advise Fr. Mbaka to leave Governor Emeka Ihedioha alone."

EYE ON BORNO

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Zulum flags off Borno's first flyover

Borno State Governor Babagana Umara Zulum yesterday in Maiduguri flagged off the construction of the first flyover in the state aimed at easing traffic congestion at the Customs Roundabout.

The roundabout, around a major market, connects three routes, including Maiduguri to Dikwa-Ngala Road to neighbouring countries of Cameroon and Chad.

The contract for the project of the 2.4 kilometres flyover was awarded to a Chinese construction firm, Eighteenth Engineering International Limited, at the cost of N4.2 billion out of which 30 percent mobilization fee has already been released.

The project, Zulum and the contractors separately assured, would be completed by middle of next year.

The governor announced that construction of another flyover would commence early next year around the Post Office Roundabout in Maiduguri.

The state government is opening up the state capital as part of responses to the increase in the number of motorists caused by a population growth largely instigated by forced migration of families who have permanently settled in Maiduguri due to displacement by insurgents.

The new routes are also



■ Governor Babagana Zulum with an executive of a Chinese construction firm during the flag off in Maiduguri yesterday

expected to enhance flow of traffic on matters of security and emergencies.

Governor Zulum, while flagging off the project, said he intended to complete and start many roads this year as provided for in the budget he recently signed.

He gave his commitment to making sure that the Maiduguri-Bama-Banki, Maiduguri-Dikwa-Ngala, and Damboa-Chibok-Mbalala Roads were delivered under his current term in office.

Ongoing and soon-to-start township

roads will also be delivered around Jiddari-Polo, Mala, Kyariri and Zannari areas of Maiduguri metropolis as well as in different parts of Biu, Monguno, Askira, Ngala and Gwoza Local Government Areas of the state.

Monthly Report: 'Zulum undertook 25 activities in December'

Borno State Governor Professor Babagana Umara Zulum carried out 25 major activities in December 2019, a monthly report released by his team has listed. The governor's Special Adviser on Public Relations and Strategy, Malam Isa Gusau, said in a report that some of the engagements included humanitarian activities in four local government areas, listed as one activity.

The report categorized Zulum's activities under sectors.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR SME OWNERS

In December, 2019, Governor Babagana Umara Zulum began his activities with the disbursement of cash support to 533 owners of Small and Medium Enterprises involved in local tie and dye businesses.

EDUCATION

On education, Professor Zulum, in December, presented his first budget to the Borno State Assembly. He announced the highest allocation of N23 billion for educational projects and activities for the 2020 fiscal year.

Also in December, Professor Zulum inspected more than 20 primary schools in Bama town and in villages of Askira-Uba Local Government Area. He ordered reconstruction works in some of the schools visited.

In Bama, where he visited 16 primary schools, Zulum took staff roll call and suspended 200 teachers who were absent from class for more than one year. The governor announced university scholarship for two ladies he found in one of the schools, teaching as volunteers.

In December, Professor Zulum handed over a mega school in Maiduguri to the Federal Government Girls, Monguno. The move is pending complete stability of Monguno.

GOVERNANCE

On governance, Professor Zulum, in December, swore in a new head of service to redirect the civil service.

Also in December, Zulum made surprise visits to government offices and took roll call of workers at the state secretariat in order to combat the culture of absenteeism.

Still in December, Professor Zulum signed the 2020 Appropriation Bill into law after timely passage by the state assembly.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

On social protection, Professor Zulum, in December, went out on the streets to directly offer economic support to traders and vulnerable families in low income communities in the metropolis. He offered support to citizens from different local government areas.

FOOD, CASH AID FOR 60,887 IN KALA-BALGE, BAMA, KONDUGA, GWOZA

Also in December, Professor Zulum was at different times in Kala-Balge, Bama, Konduga and Gwoza Local Government Areas where he distributed cash support, variety of food items and clothing to a total of 60,887 vulnerable citizens as part of social protection.

In Kala-Balge, 15,000 widows received cash support. In Bama, 12,887 displaced citizens received food aid; 17,000 vulnerable persons got food and clothing in Konduga; while 16,000 also received food and clothing in Gwoza.

Zulum was also in Askira-Uba Local Government Area where he offered support to victims of insurgency attacks and ordered the commencement of eight developmental projects in towns and villages of Askira-Uba. The governor was also in Gwoza for far-reaching food and other interventions to vulnerable citizens.

LIVELIHOODS

On livelihoods, Professor Zulum, in December, visited headquarters of the Bank of Industry in Abuja. He met the bank's chief executive and made demand for far-reaching livelihood support to Borno citizens affected by insurgency

attacks.

The governor was also at the Federal Ministry of Finance to attend a high level meeting over Borno's restoration.

TRANSPORT REGULATION

On transport regulation, Professor Zulum, in December, 2019, invited and hosted association leaders and operators of tricycles popularly known as Keke NAPEP. He explained government's plan for new regulatory measures aimed at containing potential threats on security and social vices.

FALLEN HEROES

Also in December, Professor Zulum launched the 2020 Armed Forces Remembrance with a donation of N10m in support of families of fallen heroes.

SECURITY

On security, Zulum, in December, 2019, visited the Nigeria Police Training College in Maiduguri. He offered financial support to 864 police recruits undergoing training at the college. The recruits comprised 350 Borno indigenes and 513 indigenes of Kano.

Also in December, Zulum was at Dusuman village in Jere Local Government Area following security breach by insurgents. The governor released four surveillance vehicles to strengthen hunters and civilian JTF helping the military to secure the community.

Still on security, Professor Zulum, in December, met with the Minister of Defence, the Chief of Army Staff and the Chief of Air Staff in Maiduguri. The Defence Minister said Borno was lucky to have a governor so dedicated to security.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

On development cooperation, Professor Zulum, in December, received the Egyptian Ambassador to Nigeria for development partnership in the areas of healthcare, education and mechanized

agriculture.

REGULATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

To strengthen the regulation of humanitarian activities, Professor Zulum, in December, created an agency for Coordination of Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Responses in Borno State.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

On inter-governmental affairs, Professor Zulum, in December, received the chairman and board members of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

To fight human trafficking, Professor Zulum, in December, launched a 42-member task force that is to work with the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) towards fighting human trafficking in Borno State.

HEALTHCARE--FREE DIALYSIS FOR KIDNEY PATIENTS

On healthcare, Professor Zulum, in December, visited a kidney dialysis centre at the Borno State Specialist Hospital in Maiduguri. The governor directed free dialysis for kidney failure patients who paid as much as N30,000 per dialysis session, which they often underwent once every week.

The governor also commissioned a primary healthcare centre in Pulka town.

NATIONAL ECONOMY

On national economy, Professor Zulum, in December, attended a meeting of the National Economic Council which was chaired by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo at the State House in Abuja.

URBAN & RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

On infrastructure, Governor Zulum, in December, intensified efforts to open up major communities with roads and drainages in the state capital, ending the year 2019 with series of developmental activities across all sectors in Borno State.

Iran: Reconsider travelling to Nigeria, US cautions citizens

By Abdullateef Salau

The United States has advised her citizens to review their travel plans to and within Nigeria.

The travel advisory followed the killing of Iran's top military commander Qassem Soleimani by American forces.

Soleimani was killed by an air strike at Baghdad airport early on Friday. At least six others were reportedly killed, including Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi

al-Muhandis, an adviser to Soleimani.

Iran had vowed a "vigorous revenge" on those responsible for the killing.

The US Mission in Nigeria said though it had no specific threat information, it warned American nationals to be aware of their surroundings and alter their travel routes and times.

It asked them to stay alert in public places, including schools, hospitals, government facilities, places of worship, tourist locations,

and transportation hubs.

A statement on its website, dated January 3, 2020, said "Due to recent world events, U.S. citizens should review their personal security measures.

"While we have no specific threat information, it is prudent to remind ourselves of the following personal security actions to follow on a regular basis.

"Actions To Take: Be aware of your surroundings; Keep a low profile; Stay alert in public places,

including schools, hospitals, government facilities, places of worship, tourist locations, and transportation hubs.

"Review and alter travel routes and times to reduce time and place predictability; Avoid crowds and demonstrations; Exercise caution when walking or driving at night; Carry proper ID; Review your personal security plans; Monitor local media for updates; Review the Travel Advisory for Nigeria."

Shi'ites protest Iranian general's killing in Abuja, burn US flag

By Terkula Itigi & John Chuks Azu

Members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria, popularly known as Shi'ites, protested in Abuja yesterday over the killing of a top Iranian General, Qassem Soleimani.

The Shiites also demanded the release of their leader, Sheikh Ibraheem El-Zakzaky and his wife, Zeenat, from detention.

The placard-carrying protesters also burnt a flag of the United States of America, chanting, "Death to America."

One of the members of the group, Saminu Azare, said: "We went past the police stationed at the junction chanting against the US action in Iran. The police did not stop us, and we were just minding our business. They can't stop us from carrying out our constitutional right".

The spokesman of the IMN, Ibrahim Musa, said that a second protest was held at the National Human Rights Commission by 4pm yesterday.

He, however, denied reports that his members blocked the Abuja-Keffi Expressway.

He explained that they burnt the American flag because of the country's silence over their leader's continued detention.

"American senators wrote a letter to the Federal Government to release Omoyele Sowore. And Dasuki was also released. But they have not said anything about Sheikh Zakzaky. It shows that America is behind his continued detention. Sheikh Zakzaky is an international issue. That is why we are not happy with America," he said.

...Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs urges restraint

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) on Monday appealed to Muslim youths in the country to exercise restraint over the death of top Iranian military commander, Gen. Qasem Soleimani, in Iraq.

In a statement in Abuja by Head of Media of the council, Mr Ibrahim Aselemi, the body appealed to the youths not to allow their emotions becloud their judgment to ensure peace at all times.

According to NSCIA, the issue between the USA and Iran can only be resolved through diplomatic dialogue.

"The attention of NSCIA has been drawn to a planned peaceful protest by some Muslim youths in the country to vent their anger over the killing of Iranian top military commander, Gen. Qasem Soleimani in Iraq.

"Although protest are integral part of civil democracy all over the world, however NSCIA believes that the timing is wrong," the council said.

News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Soleimani was killed on Sunday by a US Military airstrike in Baghdad.

The development has generated tensions between Washington and Tehran and in other parts of the world. (NAN)



■ Illegal structures demolished along Bishop Aniofu Furniture Makers Business Areas in Uwan, Enugu yesterday

Photo: NAN

I'll join Buhari's critics if Iwo is denied FCE – Oluwo

From Hameed Oyegbade

The Oluwo of Iwo, Oba Abdulrasheed Akanbi, says he will join critics of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration if Iwo is deprived of the federal college of education recently approved for Osun State.

Oluwo, in a statement on Monday, alleged that taking the proposed higher institution to another town other than Iwo "is tantamount to betrayal of unalloyed support" he had given Buhari's government since he became Oluwo in 2016.

He said he was among the few

top traditional rulers in Nigeria who publicly identified with Buhari during his trying period.

Oluwo recalled how he organised special prayers, in his palace, for the president when he was receiving treatment in London.

He urged the national leader of the All Progressives Congress, Ahmed Bola Tinubu; Vice President Yemi Osinbajo; a former governor of Osun State, Chief Bisi Akande; the Minister of Interior, Rauf Aaregbesola and the governor of Osun State, Gboyega Oyetola "to ensure justice is done on this matter and give my town the federal college

of education".

Oluwo cited what he called "the long history" of Iwo with progressive political parties from the First Republic era of the late sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, to the Second Republic of the Late Chief Bola Ige and the Alliance for Democracy of Chief Bisi Akande, saying "there is no reason not to compensate Iwo's loyalty.

"The history is there to know that Iwo is home for the progressives. During the 1983 elections, my people stuck out their necks for Chief Bola Ige and lost some of them during the clash which followed."

W/Bank, IDB, AfDB offer \$364m for malaria drug production in Nigeria

The coordinator of the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP), Audu Mohammed, says the Federal Government will empower local manufacturers to produce malaria drugs.

He told the News Agency of Nigeria that the NMEP had applied for fund from the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the African Development Bank to support manufacturers and buy malaria life-saving commodities

He said: "The World Bank has promised to give us about \$200 million; the Islamic Development Bank, \$100 million and African Development Bank, \$64 million.

"We want to use part of the innovation fund to empower local manufacturers to produce malaria drugs.

"Most of the malaria drugs are imported because our local manufacturers have challenges; they need to have WHO global manufacturing

practice, which only 46 manufacturers have in the country.

"They also need to be pre-qualified by WHO.

"However, we are now working with WHO to empower many of our manufacturers to have that prequalification; by so doing, we will also patronise them to buy these commodities as local content.

"This will enable us to employ more youths in the manufacturing industry and we will also

be exporting drugs to other countries when our capacity improves," he said.

Mohammed called on corporate bodies to support the effort of the government to eliminate malaria, saying "you do not wait for donors before you address your problems.

"We want to call on National Assembly, states and philanthropists to increase funding for malaria because the more you have domestic funding, the more you can address your problem." (NAN)

Gunmen kill 3 vigilante members in Rivers

From Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt

Gunmen yesterday killed three members of a local vigilante group, Odegu Security and Advisory Planning Committee (OSPAC), at Rumuodogo 1 community in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

It was learnt that a motorcycle rider, believed to

have conveyed the vigilante members to the area, was also killed.

The deceased were said to have gone to Rumuodogo 1 in search of a cult leader whom they had earlier declared wanted for failing to shun cultism.

When contacted, the spokesman of the state police command, Nnamdi Omoni, said he was yet to be briefed about the incident.

Abia police confirm arrest of 5 kidnap suspects

The Abia police command has confirmed the arrest of five men in connection with the alleged abduction of a boy from Umuoba, the headquarters of Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area of the state.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr Ene Okon, confirmed the arrest in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria in Aba on Monday.

Okon said that the suspects had also confessed to the crime.

"I am aware of the arrest of five kidnap suspects, who have confessed to their kidnap escapades," he said.

He said that the suspects, who were arrested by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, were undergoing interrogation.

The suspects were identified as Ejike Nwankocha, 42, who claimed to be a native doctor; David Alfred, 23; Augustine Ejike, 24; Alexander Azubunne, 24 and Chide Monye, 23. (NAN)

BMO rejects UN hunger crisis report in Nigeria

By Idowu Isamotu

The Buhari Media Organisation has rejected a report by the United Nations World Food Programme that without a rapid response and greater investment, Nigeria is at a risk of sliding into a hunger crisis this year.

The WFP had listed Nigeria alongside Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Haiti, Central Sahel (Mali, Burkina Western Niger), Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, Southern Africa, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Libya, Bolivia and Ethiopia.

In a statement by Niyi Akinsiju and Cassidy

Madueke, Chairman and Secretary of the pro-Buhari group respectively, the BMO described the report as a "hollow and presumptuous" which did not reflect true situation in the country.

"We acknowledge WFP's humanitarian assistance in a part of North-East Nigeria, but we are shocked that it listed the country among 'potential flashpoints' to look out for in the New Year'.

"There is no doubt that the UN agency and its partners require greater investment in view of the scope of work they need to handle across the world in 2020, but we won't accept a situation where Nigeria is painted in a bad

light.

"Yes, there is a crisis in a part of the North East which was referenced in the report titled 'WFP Global Hotspots 2020: Potential flashpoints to look out for in New Year', but there has not been a recent upsurge in violence in the region of the magnitude reflected in the report.

"Besides, the crisis has been largely restricted to a part of Borno, which is just one out of 36 states making up the country and we do not see how that could be interpreted to mean that Nigeria may face a hunger crisis with the type of bumper harvests it has recorded in recent years," the statement read.

UBA announces appointments to board, Africa operations

By Zakariyya Adaramola

United Bank for Africa Plc yesterday announced that Oliver Alawuba had been appointed as CEO of UBA Africa, overseeing the bank's 20 African country operations, except Nigeria.

He succeeds Victor Osadolor, who retires from the Group Board, after 9 years of service working at UBA.

Alawuba was once the CEO of UBA Ghana and rose to become Regional CEO, UBA Africa before returning to Nigeria to run UBA's East Bank. Under his leadership, UBA's Nigerian East Bank division became the fastest growing regional bank in the Group.

The board further appointed Senegalese national, Abdoul-Aziz Dia as Executive Director for Treasury and International Banking, subject to the approval of the

Central Bank of Nigeria. Aziz becomes the first non-Nigerian Group Executive Director of the Bank, bringing a wealth of multi geographical experience to the Group. Mr Dia will be responsible for UBA's global network of operations in New York, London and Paris, together with Group Treasury, where UBA offers a sophisticated suite of products to multinationals, international institutions and African clients.

Chukwuma Nweke, currently the Executive Director Operations, was confirmed by the board as the Group Executive Director, Retail and Payments, demonstrating the Group's commitment to its retail offering.

The board also announced the appointment of Chiugo Ndubisi as Group Executive Director and the Group Chief Operating Officer, subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Nigeria.



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OPINION

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2019: Hope, optimism and fresh opportunities

President Buhari's 2020 New Year letter to Nigerians started out by saying that "today marks a new decade. It is a time of hope, optimism and fresh possibilities". Unfortunately its narrow scope made it difficult to inspire hope and optimism and once again exposed the limitations of his speech writers. Once again the opportunity was lost for the President's speech writers to portray him as a man with an instinctive feel for the people who could stir the soul of the nation and arrest the attention of the rest of the world. Two factors stand out clearly in the letter.

Firstly, at no time was any reference made to the All Progressives Congress (APC) Party under whose platform the President contested and won election elections, the document was replete with the word "I" rather than "my Party" or "my Administration". This is hardly surprising because every Nigerian leader without exception has regarded themselves as being the central figure in a story of their own design, rather than being the bit player in an extended story of the nation's development which they really are. Secondly, the letter said that "elections are the cornerstone of democracy", confirming that Nigerian leaders understand democracy as being the mere conduct of elections rather than the entrenchment of equality of opportunity and equality before the law as well as observation of basic human rights.

The letter referred to building on the foundations this government has laid on security, diversification of the economy and tackling the curse of corruption. The president's speech writers are either unaware or living in denial of the fact that these foundations are shaky as the security situation is getting progressively worse, the economy is still very much dependent on oil, and corruption remains unabated with new revelations of ongoing high-level corruption becoming an almost daily affair. Although President Buhari's presentations are usually devoid of significant sound bites, significantly his 2020 letter contained a promise not to try and manipulate the Constitution to seek a third term in office in 2023. However some Nigerians are skeptical because he was previously on record in 2011 as saying that he would only serve one term of office if ever elected.

Also of significance is the fact that the letter said that this administration would now respect the rule of law. There is little doubt that they have fallen short in this respect having been characterized by different acts of human rights violations and failure to obey court orders. Basically what Nigerians have learnt over the last four years is that they are free to exercise their voice only if it is in support of government! A political party which came to power on a mantra of change must accept that meaningful positive change can never come about in a barren controlled atmosphere.

As far as the economy is concerned there is a lot of confusion as regards the role of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council of

"respected and independent thinkers". Many commentators think that the council should advise the Finance Minister or Central Bank Governor rather than a President who has limited knowledge of the subject matter. The irrefutable truth is that 80% of Nigerians live below the line and urgent remedial action is required. Living below the "poverty line" means not being able to live in decent homes, or afford decent health care, or afford to eat more than one nutritious meal per day. Due to this pervasive poverty many Nigerians including children live on the streets. On 29th December 2019 Mohammed Bello Mustapha presented a paper on the state of the nation at the Garba Gadi Foundation Lecture.

This was two days before President Buhari delivered his letter to Nigerians in New Year's Day. The two documents were markedly different. Bello Mustapha pointed out many ills of Nigerian society which the President's letter didn't address. He complained about party politics in Nigeria being high-jacked and ordinary Nigerians completely blocked from participation in the political process by the monetization of the process for seeking political offices. He concluded that because becoming a party candidate is a cash and carry affair there is little hope that truly compassionate and people oriented leaders will ever emerge from the process. Bello also highlighted the fact that the 1999 Constitution (otherwise referred to as the Military Decree for Civilian Administration) hinders development.

He pointed out that even though the document started out with the words "we the people" it removed all powers from the people and handed them to the Executive at State and Federal levels. Bello correctly surmised that the biggest challenge to the nation isn't a case of North versus South, nor Christian versus Muslim, but rather a case of fighting poverty. He warned that time is running out for the nation to urgently address and find a solution to the ravaging menace and "rampaging evil" of street children in the North. He described the estimated 11 million street children in the North as a "disaster waiting to happen" and "a time bomb waiting to explode" constituting a population which would make them the 7th largest country in Africa!

The whole area of human capital development was glossed over by the President. The fact remains as Bello pointed out that many of those from the North in high places today attended good public schools and were educated with little or no expense to their parents. These people now preside over a system that alienates and discriminates against the majority of their own people who occupy the lower social classes. As many great leaders have proved, soaring speeches can have a galvanizing effect on a nation. Going into his fifth year of office it's now clear that our President loves his speech writers despite their evident flaws and there will be no great speeches or letters to inspire hope or optimism before he leaves office in 2023.

On reforms at Rural Electrification Agency

By Ejike Nduka

The President, Muhammadu Buhari, in his second tenure took a bold step by appointing a seasoned electrical engineer, Engr. Saleh Mamman, as Minister of Power. Since the assumption of office of Engr. Saleh Mamman, as Minister of Power, he has been relentless and dogged in a quest to transform the sector which has been confronted with hydra-headed challenges for several years. As a keen follower of happenings within and around the power sector and in particular the Rural Electrification Projects, which remains an integral part of the power sector, I salute the courage of the Minister for the recent institutional changes ongoing at the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), which is one of the strategic parastatals in the ministry. That is why I find it nauseating reading sponsored articles and stories aimed at tarnishing the image and good intentions of the Hon. Minister who is putting things straight for the benefit of common Nigerians who have been denied the essential services of adequate electrification by a few cabal at the REA.

Specifically, worrisome is a report on page 41 of the Nation Newspaper of Friday, January 3, 2020 and Peoples Daily of January 6, 2020 which sought to interrogate the well thought out wisdom and decision of the minister to rejig some of the Directorate and the narrative that the former Minister of Power never interfered with the operations of the REA. This is not true, and to put the record straight, the former Minister against Civil Service rules of promotion, promoted the most junior Assistant Director to the post of a Director.

Simply put, it is either corruption is fighting back or a cabal which has been holding sway in the scheme of dubious deals and antics are at work and bent on frustrating the effort of the Minister whose interest is to correct age long anomalies.

For those who are not in the know, before the Minister came on board, the REA for some years now have been held by the jugular and being suffocated by a cabal mostly directors who operate as 'lords' with claims that they must decide whatever happens at the agency to the detriment of the advancement of the sector. This same cabal with 'enormous wealth' at their disposal even as civil servants, determine how the budget is

prepared without the input of other management staff. Even the 2020 budget of the agency just passed is believed to be manipulated by the 'powerful cabal' who are a handful of Executive Directors and Directors.

They sponsor negative reports and articles against the new MD, manipulate and tinker with the Bill of Quantity to suit their nefarious plans, change the Tenders Board Approval (highest decision making body on approval of contracts) to favour fronts and cronies, approve payments of contracts before job done and give out contracts to unqualified contractors from a particular zone of the country. The principle of Federal Character is not in the books of these vicious men and women and so it is not unusual that they are fighting back the way they are doing using every means possible against the Minister who having gone through the books and peruse numerous petitions have decided to play by the anti-corruption stance of President Buhari. If not, why complain about redeployments which is a normal routine exercise in government? Is it not clear to discerning minds that their motive is to cling and continue business as usual?

For me, the clean-up and searchlight by the Minister should be extended to other departments and agencies in the power ministry because the cabal have also hijacked the Budget and Finance Departments. Of the truth, after contract award, they manipulate and change the BOQ being awarded and what is being awarded in most cases is not what is being paid for. They have positioned their children and cronies as fronts. The resolve of the Minister to effect the very necessary and needed changes to curtail these vicious hawks from diverting public funds have been the reason for calling him unprintable names. The question is, why is the entire REA on fire because of the routine redeployment of just two directors? Is this not a pointer to the fact that corruption is fighting back and there is a sinister ploy of cover up by this evil cabal?

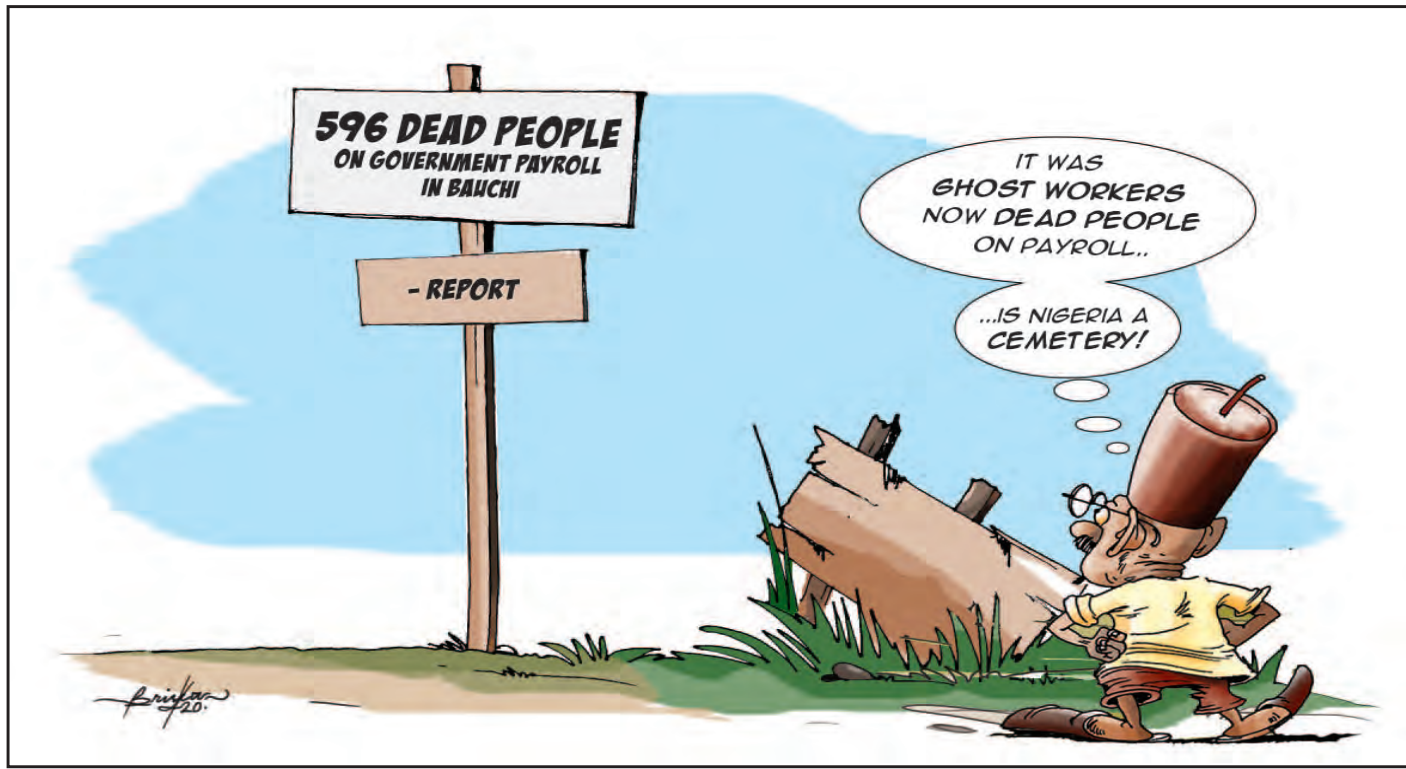
I urge the Minister not to bulge or be intimidated by these people and should in fact intensify and extend the changes to all the departments in the agency which have been strategically manned and manipulated by stooges and fronts of this group to syphon taxpayers' money.

Mr Nduka, sent this piece from Ogui Road, Achara, Enugu

Letter to the Editor

e-mail letters@dailytrust.com text 08131800030

CARTOON by AKILA JIBRIN



Fight against sex for grades in tertiary institutions

The issue of sex for grades in tertiary institutions across West Africa has been disheartening to say the least. It is a corrupt practice usually by lecturers of these institutions, who demand for sex in order to pass their students. They go as far as intentionally failing the student knowing that the student will be at their mercy, thereby taking advantage of the student's helpless situation.

Year after year, there have been allegations of sexual harassment by lecturers in these institutions, especially in federal universities. Students of these universities usually resort to social media to complain about their experiences of sexual harassment by their lecturers and when asked to report the incidences, they

say that the school doesn't do anything, saying that those lecturers have families to feed and cater for and losing their job could be disastrous for them.

Tertiary institutions can put in place some measures in order to eradicate the issue of sex for grades. This could include exams being marked and graded by a lecturer different from the one who takes the class. This way, the scripts are marked and graded without any form of sentiment, partiality or the sort.

The institutions should also set up a disciplinary committees which would come up with the appropriate punishment for any offence committed by the staff. This committee should be independent and free from external

control or influence. A rating portal on the institution's site could also be provided, where students can anonymously rate their lecturers on the scale of 10 or 100. This way, if a particular lecturer has a generally poor rating, the institution could easily look into the problem and conduct investigation to find what exactly is going on.

The students should also avoid going to the offices of lecturers; a student support administration should be provided where students can submit complaints about their grades. The administration should handle these cases.

Yisau Abdussalam, Babcock University
abdussalamyisau64@gmail.com

Tears of Kano primary school teachers

I write to deliver the heartfelt complaints of Kano State primary school teachers to Governor Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje with respect to recent minimum wage payments. Dr. Ganduje should know that the payment has brought disquiet and displeasure to the numerous primary school teachers.

As the majority of civil servants were laughing, commending, and extending multitudes of compliments to Gov. Ganduje for this prompt payment of the new minimum wage, it has become imperative to say, primary school teachers are left in pains, anguish and tears. Failure to solve it will no doubt

affect the morale of these teachers with resultant effects of not making the desired impact to the students' education.

Also, it is interesting to hear that workers in some sectors of Kano State civil service received the increase of N6000, N15,000 up to N20,000 in their respective salaries, while in contrast, singling primary school teachers with paltry amounts. I am so hurt by this misfortune omission, hence my bringing it to public scrutiny. Many primary school teachers have complained of the fact that some civil servants got huge amounts while in a bewildering contrast, leaving them with

meagre share that can't assuage their grief for salary increment.

It is painful to hear that some teachers have been paid below N1000, while some received N2000, and based on what I heard from some sections of the media, not anyone with higher than N3000 as his minimum wage increase. Worse still is, some are yet to receive even the small increase of the minimum wage. Therefore, as concerned citizens, we are still yet to come to terms with the kind of salary scale used to arrive at these minimal figures.

Abbas Datti, Kano abbasdatti873@gmail.com

Negative activism, a threat to Nigeria

Negative activism is posing a threat to the nation's corporate existence and it is unfortunate that some people have taken politics and activism to the negative end.

It is therefore high time that Nigerians reflected on the period prior to the 2015 general elections, and score this administration based on its performance so far instead of criticizing all its policies under the guise of observing the rule of law.

From an activist's point of view, there is need to look into how far have we come, where are we now and what are our hopes and aspirations in this new year and beyond, bearing in mind some indices and indicators to score the government and see where to urge it on and what is needed to be improved.

The present administration has done well in decimating security threats posed by the activities of insurgents, IPOB, bandits as well as the farmer-herder problem, noting however that, there is more to be done as problems of such magnitude could not be dealt with overnight.

In the area of the economy, the group said, government has done well in boosting local production and subdued too much importation of goods and services which is good for the national economy to improve standard of living.

There is need for human right activists to focus on developmental issues and understand the fact that the country needed to survive first before all other things.

Take for instance the case of Sowore. Here is a person who is openly calling for a revolution. Should the government relax until the whole Nigeria ceases to exist?

In the US, there is a limit to activism. In whatever side of the divide you are, there are core American values that they don't deviate from, especially when their national survival is at stake.

Civil societies should have a limit; they should be positive. And where they go negative and use the rule of law for their negative purpose, that protection that the law gives, should be reexamined.

Dr Ahmad J. Suleiman, Director Research, Productions, Ambassador of Peace and Social Welfare

Text us on 08131800030 & 08112661608



Jazakallah Khairan Lagos Muslims

The Muslim Ummah, in Lagos State, have done an exemplary service to Islamic activity worthy of emulation by Muslims in nationwide. They single-handedly hosted the just concluded 34th Qur'anic Recitation Competition. It was first of its kind in the history of the competition, without the hosting state bearing the expenses. In view of that, I pray for the reward of the gesture to be enjoyed in the hereafter.

Abba Dankande 08066011920

Attention National Education Commission (NEC)

I find it absolutely necessary to draw the attention of NEC to raise the standard of Gumel College of Education to federal college of education status. The institution came into being before Jigawa State was carved out of Kano in August 1991. It has numerous building facilities such as

lecture halls, offices, hostels, large library to mention just a few, it is one of the oldest educational institutions in the northern states that graduated millions of teachers. Therefore it deserves upgrading to a higher institution.

Sule Musa Dutse, Jigawa State 08060743251

PDP and its dirty opposition

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is always at its usual self i.e. a party which anchors dirty opposition and uncivilised politicking. Since its defeat in the year 2015 general elections, this party spares no time in its daily attack and assault on the person of the President and his revered office. The PDP in its crude and blind opposition, has never seen anything good in APC nor has this party ever commended any good work of the Buhari administration despite its dynamic breakthroughs in various strategic fields of Nigeria's development. For instance, Pres. Buhari has categorically stated that he

will never re-contest any election again come year 2023, but instead of the opposition PDP to congratulate the president, they went wild politicising the issue and dwelling into irrelevancies and casting aspersions as well as doubts into the president's patriotic national broadcast. So PDP and its apologists should know that reasonable Nigerians will never forget the sordid theft of their treasury in the 16 years of PDP maladministration.

Shu'aibu Mu'azu Jahun 07032948770

Help find GDSS Nguru class tutor, mate

I will like to use this medium to ask for help to find the whereabouts of my agricultural science tutor, Mr. Adebayo, while I was in JSS 1 in 1989 to 1990, in the then government junior day secondary school Nguru, Yobe State during his NYSC service year. I also want to re-establish contact with my class mate, Ibrahim D. Buba, of the same school.

Sanusi Tanko 0806593009

EDITORIALNo. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent,
Off Solomon Lar Way, Utako
District, Abuja**Trump's dangerous
brinkmanship in the M/East**

President Donald Trump smarting from his recent impeachment for his serial infractions of the American constitution decided to order the assassination of Iranian General Qassem Solimani along with several others last Friday in a drone attack at the Baghdad International Airport.

The reason given by Trump and his spokesmen is that the assassinated Iranian General had been responsible for planning the deaths of American citizens and was in the process of planning more of such attacks which became necessary for his life to be terminated. Already, three Americans have been killed as a result of an attack in Kenya.

To put it in proper perspective, the assassination of General Solimani was against all known tenets and nuances of International law which the US often cites to justify its actions abroad. The slain General was a serving officer of the armed forces of a sovereign state. He was not an irregular and certainly not an operative of a non-state group. He was on routine visit to a neighbouring fraternal state Iraq with which Iran shares centuries old ties. So far, despite all the baleful rhetoric flying back and forth between Iran on the one hand and the US and its Middle Eastern allies on the other, both sides are thankfully not at war. Thus far both sides have been careful to restrict the sabre rattling between them to a manageable, nuanced level knowing full well the consequences that would surely follow the raising of the ante in the Middle East and the world as a whole.

It should be noted that President Trump acted without the knowledge and authorisation of the US congress whose Speaker Nancy Pelosi condemned him for acting in such manner. It was clearly an action President Trump undertook in conjunction with those who arrogate to themselves the right to determine what to do in the international arena or not regardless of the laid down nuances of International law.

Expectedly, condemnations of this act have followed thick and fast. From the United Nations where the frequent illegal international actions of America are always met with muted statements of regret, the Secretary-General was unequivocal in his condemnation. Even close allies of the US like Britain and France who often sheepishly refrain from condemning US actions of this nature abroad had cause to call for restraint and de-escalation on the part of the US, a euphemism for non-approval of President Trump's action. This is in addition to the outright condemnation by Russia and China, two major powers who themselves have borne the brunt of American desperate acts of brinkmanship.

We join the world in stating that there can be no justification whatsoever for what President Trump did. It is dangerous, reckless, hare-brained and utterly condemnable in the strongest of terms. It is without doubt a dangerous escalation and crossing of the dangerous red lines of the ever fragile and volatile situation in the Middle East. If President Trump thought that American lives will be saved or protected by this act, it can only be reiterated that he is grossly mistaken. The voices of moderation and restraint within Iran will now be emboldened to call for a response which will likely tip the scales towards an all-out war in the Middle East and possibly in the world.

President Trump's action is no doubt a continuation of his disregard for acting within the confines of the law in his own country America for which he was impeached. He has now shifted this typically aberrant and belligerent behaviour into the international arena where he believes with American power and influence he can escape any censure. There cannot be any other way to explain this other than to attribute it to a desire by President Trump to shift attention from his domestic woes to the international arena. By doing this he hopes to rally Americans round the flag of patriotism with which he intends to ride into the American presidential elections this year. However, within the context of this latest action, this can only be described as dangerous and dubious brinkmanship.

Just as the American political establishment having had enough of his serial infractions of the American constitution decided to impeach him, we call on responsible leaders and statesmen around the world to totally condemn President Trump. There should be a strong consensus around the world of the clear and present danger that a President Trump acting ultra vires of the laid down laws of his country and those of International law and order poses to both America and the world and to stop him before he endangers the world.

For us in Nigeria, the situation calls for the utmost vigilance and alertness. In this regard while joining other countries in calling for restraint in the Middle East, the Federal Government must not allow the possible fallout from the developments there to rebound negatively in the country.

Corrigendum

In our editorial "LG Chairmen: S/tCourt rationalises governors' power" published Friday, January 3, 2020, we stated that the S/Court in a judgment by a panel headed by Judge Olubolade Joe stripped state governors of power over LG funds. We have since discovered that the source of the story is false.

The S/Court Judges did not sit on December 11, 2019 to pass such judgment. We apologize for this error.

Editor

MANNIR DAN ALI: Chief Executive Officer

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ISWAP: Where are the North East tycoons?

By Sani Mohammed

"I can't but say it is an awkward sight to see one's native land receding through the growing waters; it unmans one quiet, especially when life is rather new."

- Lord Byron

There is no place like one's native land or country. It is one's best alluring place of shelter or retirement in life and even in death, after all worldly adventures. All the niceties life has bestowed on you streams from the blessings and protection of one's place of ancestry.

Ordinarily, everyone sacrifices everything including his personal life, where possible to protect or glorify his native land. Jamaican legend, Eric Donaldson reminded humanity decades ago about the beauty of one's land of birth; in the song titled, 'This is the land of my birth'.

And the lyrics pays glowing and positive salutations to virtues of Jamaica, his homeland. It is pregnable with lessons for Nigerians, especially the tycoons of the Northeast region.

The Northeast region has been infested with Boko Haram and the latter-day infusion by the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) terrorism for more than a decade. It was caused by the insensitivity and greed for political power by some politicians in the region.

However, the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has been able to arrest the scourge of Boko Haram terrorism substantially in the past four years. But it is not yet uhuru!

The people of the Northeast are still on the verge of savouring total liberation from Boko Haram as remnants of the terrorists are still on the prowl. Ostensibly, the Boko Haram/ISWAP influence in the region is not as bad as obtainable in the past.

What is incontrovertible and every Nigerian can attest to is that insurgency in the Northeast has caused appalling magnitude of devastations, destructions and ruination of cities, communities and villages in the Northeast. It has reduced most parts of the region to rubbles.

Schools, markets, shopping malls, hospitals, farms, private houses and lots more have tasted the arson and violence of Boko Haram terrorists. With the restoration of reasonable peace and security, the scars of war inform begglingly that the Northeast is in dire need of reconciliation, reconstruction and rebuilding. The surviving victims of Boko Haram/ISWAP deserve compassion.

The Buhari presidency has launched initiatives in this direction, prominent among them is the establishment of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) as answer to the development needs of the war-torn region. The President invested an initial N10 billion start-off funds into NEDC. But by every nuance of assessment, it is like a drop of water in the ocean. Government will continue to sustain it.

Surprisingly though, leaders of the Northeast region, very influential in business and leadership are contented with the posture of aloofness in the rebuilding process of this region. Almost everyone of them has not sensed the compelling need to assist the Federal Government to finally obviate the residues of terrorism in their native land.

The indifference these wealthy businessmen and women have advertised on the insecurity and destruction of their land by Boko Haram confounds infinitely. How Boko Haram metamorphosed into ISWAP is what should concern them.

Nevertheless disappointingly, the tycoons of the Northeast are the least pricked [TNNP1] by a humanitarian instinct. Like King Nero, who fiddled while Rome burned, the tycoons in the Northeast prefer to indulge in merriment elsewhere while their land burns to ashes.

The Northeast region parades over 10 billionaires on world's top ranking of richest

or influential men. Personalities like Gen. Theophilus Danjuma (rtd), former Vice President Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Alhaji Mele Kyari, Alhaji Mohammed Indimi, Ambassador Babagana Kangibe, Sen. Ali Modu Sherrif, Gen. Bulbwa Marwa among others hail from this region. It is shameful that they are unconcerned with the plight of their traumatised and ruined people.

Cory Booker once said, "Patriotism is love of country. But you can't love your country without loving your countrymen and countrywomen. We don't always have to agree, but we must empower each other, we must find the common ground, we must build bridges across our differences to pursue the common good."

But regrettably, these billionaires and influential men from the Northeast are more comfortable to pleasantly watch their country homes burn without any assistance to the people. It is hard to believe, much as it runs against any vestige of wisdom or brotherhood.

Some of these tycoons have business investments in the same region. But even the demands of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has not invoked any empathy in them to deploy such instruments to assist their distressed kith and kin nor bring peace to the Northeast?

It is strange that these Northeast tycoons have not deemed it necessary to also intervene in the rebuilding and reconstruction process of the ravaged Northeast in any way to give back to their constituents, a small portion of their enormous endowments. This does not happen in other climes.

The traumatized people of the Northeast are deserted at the hour of need by their own people. Why has none of the tycoons thought of extending humanitarian support to victims in order to help them rebuild homes and shops destroyed by Boko Haram insurgency? Have they contemplated empowerment schemes for idle youths in order to divert their attention from Boko Haram or other criminal enterprises?

It is saddening that wealthy and influential Northeast men and women have abandoned whatever it will require to breath fresh life into a once boisterous region to government, philanthropists outside the region, foreign countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). But it must be brought to their notice that insofar as the region remains a ghost of its former self, they have also deprived themselves of peace of mind.

This is heartless to say the least. Yet the tycoons confront the same neglected when seeking political power or favours' and preach assorted platitudes of redemption. This current posture is akin to desecrating the sanctity of their native land or mocking their ancestors who tethered them in an unbreakable fraternity. These Northeast influential men and women should have a rethink and retrace their steps. Can they hold their heads in high esteem when they meet their peers in other regions?

It is instructive for them to endeavour to learn and apply the wisdom of former American President Abraham Lincoln who said, "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."

If the task of rebuilding and reconstructing the ravaged Northeast region is not all-inclusive, it may take a dozen years for the region to have a semblance of an ideal life. Let God Almighty touch the hearts of these tycoons from the Northeast to do the needful, by exploring areas of intervention to fully recover their native land from the fangs of Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorism.

The Northeast tycoons have a moral obligation to champion the crusade to fully regain their native land from lost glory, Boko Haram and ISWAP.

Sani Mohammed, Centre for Africa Liberation and Socio-Economic Rights (CALSER)



KWARA STATE GOVERNMENT

FACTS ABOUT THE RECLAMATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE CLINIC AND NEW SECRETARIAT LAND, GRA, ILORIN.

The Kwara State Government will like to further clarify the facts about the reclamation of the aforementioned land abutting the Civil Service Clinic (otherwise referred to as Ile Arugbo) and state as follows:

- The processes leading to the reclamation followed the due process of the law, beginning with investigation of its ownership and resolution of the House of Assembly for the government to reclaim it, the signing of the reclamation order, gazetting of same, and due notification of the reclamation.
- The property is one of the over 100 government assets in GRA, Ilorin Kwara State, Victoria Island Lagos, Kaduna, and Abuja investigated by the Asset Recovery Committee led by Senator Suleiman Ajadi, which were unlawfully converted to private use. Until its physical reclamation, the property comprised only of sheds.
- The property was never an old people's home, nor was it residential; nobody lived there.
- The property has always been a security risk. No fewer than 97 people, mostly women, have died in mysterious stampedes in that facility as they scampered for handouts. There were yearly mass deaths in the said property in November 2010, June 2011, and October 2013. A google search will instantly reveal these sordid facts which were widely published in the media.
- Contrary to the claims by the opposition, the physical reclamation of the property by the government on 2 January 2020 was without any incident. Nobody was met on the property. It was never a place where people lived in, so the question of ejecting, maltreating or deploying violence against anyone did not arise. No court process has been served on the government.
- Without any legal basis to claim the property, the opposition later that morning (2 January) mobilised some women to stage a protest in which they portrayed the government as attacking old people who were quartered there. This is an outright fabrication. The Government strongly condemns the use and abuse of vulnerable and indigent old women for propaganda purposes.
- This Administration can boldly claim the trophy for being the most gender-friendly sub-national government in Africa in recent history with a 56%-woman cabinet. Furthermore, women are heads of key government institutions like the Civil Service Commission, the Kwara State Internal Revenue Service (KW-IRS) as well as the Head of Service.
- Following the steps of President Muhammadu Buhari whose Social Investment Programme has been a huge success, Kwara State has become one of the first subnational entities to set up a Social Investment Programme which will commence in the first quarter of 2020 with a bias for women, especially market women. The conditional cash transfer component of the programme has in fact been designed to favour old people to stamp out destitution and extreme poverty. The law setting up the Kwara State Social Investment Programme was recently passed by the State House of Assembly.
- The first quarter of this year will also witness the government formal launch of the State Health Insurance Scheme, mostly targeting the poor, especially our senior citizens.
- We urge members of the public to ignore the disinformation about the status of the said land and the events of the last few days as the opposition only seek to distract attention from the main issues of probity, accountability and good governance.

Signed

ALHAJI MURTALA OLANREWAJU
Commissioner for Communications
Kwara State, Nigeria.

Boko Haram kills 3 in Chibok village

From Kabiru R. Anwar, Yola

Boko Haram insurgents have killed three men and looted dozens of bicycles in a village in Chibok area of Borno State.

Residents told our reporter that the armed men walked in to Bila-Amboldar village at around 10pm on Friday when residents were asleep and set the houses on fire.

The attackers reportedly shot at fleeing men in the pandemonium, killing two brothers, James Kwakwi and Mutah Kwakwi as well as a third person, Yusuf Yakubu who just returned from Lagos to be with his wife who had a miscarriage.

A resident who identified herself as Mana Bila said the attackers walked to the village after hiding their

motorcycles at a nearby Makalama village, which had been deserted following multiple attacks.

She added that the insurgents carted away more than 20 motorcycles and other valuables from houses during the night attack.

The leader of Chibok Girls' Parents Association, Yakubu Nkenki told Daily Trust that the town was in mourning mood when he visited to commiserate with the community, calling on federal government to decisively improve security to protect soft targets.

"The situation is pathetic, when the village has been thrown into mourning after losing three able bodied men. They told me that the gunmen looted 24 motorcycles from the village and abducted two women who were later released".

Kwara speaker laments fuel scarcity in border communities

From Romoke W. Ahmad, Ilorin

The Speaker, Kwara state House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Salihu Danladi has decried the artificial scarcity of fuel, which resulted to hike in price of petroleum products in his immediate local government area, Baruten.

This was contained in a statement by his Special Assistant on Media, Ibrahim Sheriff where he said the lawmaker disclosed the situation in border communities on Monday during a meeting with the Acting Coordinator, Joint Border Drill, Sector 3, Kwara Customs, Comptroller U G Mohammed.

The Speaker, who was accompanied by his counterpart from Okuta/Yashikira constituency of Baruten

local government, noted that the artificial fuel scarcity in Baruten Local Government is majorly caused by Federal Government's efforts towards checkmating smugglers who divert petroleum products allocated to filling stations in the area to neighboring countries.

He said "the sufferings of our people in Baruten communities is a result of the inordinate execution of Federal Government order banning fuel supply to filling stations located 20 kilometers or below from border communities to checkmate smuggling activities.

"As much as this step by the Federal Government is in good faith and supported by the Kwara state House of Assembly, we however noticed that security operatives

in our communities, which are on the border routes, seize petroleum products lawfully allocated to communities like Ilesha, Sinawu, Gwanara among others with no direct route to the 20 kilometers from the country's border.

"Consequently, at the moment, a litre of petrol is sold for as high as between N300-N350, that is why it is rarely available."

He therefore called on the Nigeria Customs Service to look into the matter and allow communities located in areas farther than the 20 kilometers federal government benchmark to take petroleum products lawfully allocated to their filling stations to enable the people access the products and ameliorate their suffering.

NFC set to expand operations

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

The Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC) has said it will expand and strengthen its operations through robust partnerships and collaborations to ensure growth of the industry.

Dr. Chidia Maduekwe, the NFC Managing Director said this in a press statement in Jos. He said the NFC has

mapped out various strategies to tackle the challenges and impediments to the growth of the film industry in 2020 and beyond, and noted that "the strategies includes robust NFC stakeholders' engagement which is intended to secure their commitment to achieve the needed success, training and retraining opportunities for film makers.

FAAN reopens Port Harcourt Airport

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has reopened the Port Harcourt International Airport (PHIA) for flight operations.

Mrs Henrietta Yakubu, General Manager, Corporate Affairs, of the FAAN, said on Sunday in Lagos that the airport was on Saturday night closed due to the fire incident.

The News Agency of

Nigeria (NAN) reports that FAAN had on Saturday night announced the temporary closure of Port Harcourt International Airport runway following a bush fire incident close to the area.

Yakubu said the airport was reopened less than 24 hours after it was closed for proper investigation on the incident.

She explained that the reopening followed

a careful evaluation and mitigation of the impact of the bush fire.

Yakubu further stated that the incident had caused the dissipation of smokes around the air side.

She, however, said FAAN remained committed to its core values of safety, security and comfort of its passengers and airport users. (NAN)



UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION FOR PROCUREMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS

The University of Lagos a Federal Tertiary Institution established by the University of Lagos Act, 1967 (as amended) CAP U9 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004 and having its main campus at Akoka, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria is desirous of procuring Pharmaceutical Drugs. The source of fund shall be National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) / Tertiary Institution Social Health Insurance Programme (TISHIP). Interested and reputable bidders are hereby invited to submit the under-listed prequalification documents.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Bidders are mandated to submit the documents listed hereunder as same shall comprise the Prequalification documents:

- Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), including Form CAC2 and CAC7.
- Evidence of Company Income Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years (2016, 2017 and 2018) expiring December 31, 2019.
- Evidence of current Pension Compliance **Certificate** expiring December 31, 2019 issued by the National Pension Commission (PENCOM).
- Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (I.T.F.) **Compliance Certificate** expiring December 31, 2019.
- Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) **Compliance Certificate** expiring December 31, 2019.
- Evidence of registration on the National Data Base of Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by inclusion of Interim Registration Report (IRR) valid for 2020 or valid Certificate issued by the Bureau of Public Procurement. (BPP).
- Current Sworn Affidavit certifying as follows:
 - The company is not in receivership, subject of any form of insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings or the subject of any form of winding up petition or proceedings.
 - The company does not have any director who has been convicted by any court in Nigeria and any other country for criminal offences in relation to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation or falsification of facts relating to any matter.
 - That no officer of the University of Lagos or BPP is a former or present director or shareholder of the company or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder.
 - That all information presented in the documents are true and correct in all particulars.
- Company's Audited Accounts for the last three years (2016, 2017, 2018)
- Verifiable documentary evidence of executing at least three (3) Contracts for Supply of Medicament, two of which must have been in the last five (5) years. Copy of award letters and delivery certificate where applicable are to be enclosed.
- Practice **Licence** of the Superintendent Pharmacist expiring 2019
- Evidence of **Certificate** of Registration of Premises with the Pharmacists' Council of Nigeria (PCN) expiring 2019
- Evidence of at least One (1) PCN Registered Pharmacist on the Board of Directors of the Company as listed in Form CO7 of CAC. **(Copy of Certificate must be attached)**

SUBMISSION OF PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Prospective bidders are to submit pre-qualification documents, two (2) hard copies each of the Technical bids packaged in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "Technical Bid" with project name and addressed to:

The Registrar,
5th Floor, Council Affairs Office,
Room 524,
University of Lagos,
Akoka, Yaba, Lagos

Furthermore, the reverse of each sealed envelope should have the name and address of the bidder and submitted at the 5th Floor, Council Affairs, Room 524, University of Lagos not later than **10 a.m. on Tuesday, 28th January, 2020.**

OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The Technical bids **will be opened immediately following the deadline for the submission of bids at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 28th January, 2020 at the Public Procurement Research Centre, Opposite Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lagos** in the presence of all bidders and interested members of the public.

For clarification on the advertisement:

Please send an email to procurementunit@unilag.edu.ng.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bids must be in English Language and signed by an official authorized by the bidder
- All pre-qualified bidders will be contacted at a later date for collection of tender document
- Tender documents will be issued to **pre-qualified bidders only. The prequalified bidders shall be required to pay a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000.00) only.** For payment, visit www.unilag.edu.ng, click on "UNILAG Payment portal" link to generate a slip containing Remita Retrieval Reference (RRR) number, proceed to any commercial bank for payment. Thereafter, go to UNILAG cash office to obtain official receipt.
- Failure to comply with the above requirements shall automatically result in disqualification.
- The University Management reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any claim made in the Tender documents submitted by bidders.
- The University Management reserves the right to annul the selection process at any time without incurring any liabilities and attributing any reason thereof.
- The University shall not be responsible for any cost incurred by the bidders in connection with response to this advertisement.
- Participation in this process and any related process neither creates any commitment nor establishes any legal relationship with the University of Lagos. It is merely a precondition for further consideration of the Tender.

Oladejo Azeez, Esq
Registrar & Secretary to Council

BUSINESS

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

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

December 30, 2019

COMMODITIES PRICE	
CRUDE OIL BRENT	\$70.74/b
GOLD	\$1,485
GAS	\$2.296

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

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

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

AZMAN AIR
MONDAY- FRIDAY:
Kano-Lagos 7:30 a.m., 3:45pm Abuja-Lagos 1:20 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:00pm Lagos-Abuja 9:45 a.m., 3:30 p.m. Abuja-Kano 2:30 p.m.
Kano-Abuja-Maiduguri 8:15 a.m. Abuja-Maiduguri 9:30 a.m. Maiduguri-Abuja-Lagos 11:20 a.m. Abuja-Yola 11:30 a.m. Yola-Abuja-Kano 1 p.m.
SATURDAY: Kano-Abuja 8.00am Abuja-Lagos 9:30 a.m.; Lagos-Kano 6 p.m.

DANA AIR
MONDAY- FRIDAY: Lagos-Abuja Departure: 7.02am, 11.07am, 3.30pm, and 5.10pm, Abuja-Lagos 9 a.m., 1.05pm, 5.28pm, 7.08pm
SATURDAY: Lagos-Abuja 7.02, 11.07am, 15.30pm, 5.10pm Lagos-Uyo: 9.17am Daily; Uyo-Abuja 11.07am daily Abuja — Uyo 1.05pm; Uyo-Lagos 3.03pm
Lagos- PHC Mon-Friday: 7.20am; PHC-Abuja 9.18am Abuja-PHC 3.30pm
Daily & Sun, PHC-Lagos 5.28pm

By Zakariyya Adaramola with agency reports

Iran-U.S. tensions push oil price above \$70/barrel

Crude oil prices rose by a further two per cent yesterday, pushing Brent above \$70 a barrel, as rhetoric from the U.S., Iran and Iraq fanned tensions in the Middle East after the U.S. airstrike that killed Iranian military general Qasem Soleimani.

General Soleimani and Iraq's Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes were killed on Jan. 3 in an attack launched by the U.S. forces near Baghdad airport.

Some international relations experts yesterday

said the biggest impact of Soleimani's death so far, which is the surge in oil prices, is beneficial to Nigeria.

Henry Ogunjowo, a University of Lagos international relations expert, said the more bilateral relations between Iran and the U.S. broke down, the more its impact on oil prices.

"Nigeria is already benefitting from the crises because oil prices have increased and we won't be surprised if some top officials start earning more as a result of this.

"The longer the crises linger, the more its effect on oil prices," he said.

Ogunjowo added that the tensions would not necessarily lead to a Third World War, as opposed to popular opinion.

"The current issue cannot get to the point of another war until there is a counter reaction from China and Russia on the part of Iran, against the U.S.

"The frosty relationship between both countries can only affect some allies but won't escalate because the international system would

not be silly enough to drive itself to another war."

David Aworawo, a professor of History and Strategic Studies, said that engendered instability was an immediate consequence of the Iran-U.S. tensions.

"The extent and duration is unknown but we definitely know that it will create some level of instability in the next couple of weeks.

"Iran has threatened to attack some American facilities and the U.S. will respond by punishing Iran.

"The actions and reactions

of both countries will determine the long term consequences," Aworawo said.

On Sunday, U.S. President, Donald Trump threatened to impose sanctions on Iraq, the second largest producer among the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), if U.S. troops were forced to withdraw from the country.

Aworawo added that if the crises dragged for a long period and affected the global economy, Nigeria would also be affected. (NAN)

2020 Economic Outlook Report: United Capital projects 5.3% for equities market

United Capital Plc has released the 2020 Nigeria Economic Outlook Report and projects that equities market would likely return at +5.3 per cent, driven by local demand for high-quality dividend-paying stocks and increased system liquidity.

The report, tagged: "A Different Playing Field", carefully considers events in the international economic environment.

This includes the effects of the US-China trade wars on the global economy, as well as piecing together the stance of the world's biggest central banks from their decisions over the course of 2019.

It takes these parameters into consideration, (combined with local happenings on the political and economic policy scene) to project the nature and movement of the economy in 2020.

For Nigeria, the report noted that the continued auction of high yield Open Market Operation (OMO) bills to Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) may keep foreign interest in local equity market tepid.

This is amidst fears of a Naira devaluation and confidence deficit in the economy.

"FPIs are likely to continue their flight to safety by swapping/selling

equities for low-risk OMO bills.

"Our outlook for stocks in 2020 is anchored on developments in the domestic and global economy with monetary policy as the biggest factor to watch.

"From all indications, the only justification for an uptick in the equities market is the lower yield environment, supported by increased local currency liquidity.

"However, this will not be enough to trigger a major rally in the absence of the demand from FPIs," it said.

The report also contains projections for the Nigerian economy in the light of global, regional and local events in addition to projected growth levels of the country's economy at intervals throughout the year based on extensive research.

Speaking on the report, Mr Peter Ashade, United Capital Group Chief Executive Officer, said that the underlying theme of the outlook report for this year was change.

Ashade stated that changes in key indicators such as oil prices, the status of the US-China trade war, domestic fiscal and monetary policy environment would vary the investment landscape in Nigeria in 2020. (NAN)



■ Governor of Central Bank, Mr. Godwin Emezie (left) gives the Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun, a plaque in honour of the state as the model for Anchor Borrowers Scheme and mentoring of agripreneurs

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

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

NEWS



■ From left: National Chairman, Nigerian Legion Corps of Commissionaires, Brig-Gen. Adakole Jones Akpa fwc (rtd); Chief Executive Officer, Sterling Bank, Abubakar Suleiman; Assistant Commandant-General, Nigerian Legion, Ernest Akoteyon and Chief Compliance Officer, Sterling Bank, Femi Durojaiye, during the working visit of the leadership of Nigerian Legion Corps of Commissionaires to Sterling Bank Head Office in Lagos

NAICOM to digitalise all insurance operations in 2020

By Chris Agabi

The insurance regulator, National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), has announced that it will soon unveil its portal that will migrate all its regulatory operations to digital platforms.

The portal is also expected to not only digitalise all NAICOM operations but will also require that all industry operators comply with its digital platform requirements.

One key requirement would mean that all insurance policies issued in Nigeria would have a unique policy number and be uploaded on the NAICOM portal

automatically to reduce fake insurances and ensure effective regulation.

This and more insurance market development initiatives will happen this year, the acting Commissioner of Insurance, Mr. Sunday Thomas said.

Mr. Thomas, who spoke yesterday at the annual seminar for insurance journalists in Kano, noted that the Commission would be drifting from compliance to initiatives that will accelerate market development and growth in 2020.

He noted that the “year 2020 is a year for us to turnaround the fortunes of the industry and this cannot be accomplished without digitalising our

processes and encouraging the industry to imbibe same.”

He assured that as the year continues to unfold, giant strides will be made by the Commission in all aspects of its statutory responsibilities.

Speaking on the ongoing recapitalisation the NAICOM CEO explained that “the essence of the recapitalisation is a move to ensure that the industry becomes more robust in its technical competence and financial base, building confidence, trust and enhancing market value.

This is aimed at repositioning the sector for self-actualization in terms of growth and development.”

U.S TSA assesses Lagos Airport

A three-man Transportation Security Administration (TSA) from United States of America has arrived Nigeria to commence security assessment of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos.

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) said that the delegation would commence their duties immediately.

Mr Sam Adurogboye, the General Manager, Public Relations of the agency, made this known on Monday in Lagos in a document posted on the NCAA's website.

The agency said the team, comprising Transportation Security Specialists, was received by Capt. Abdullahi Sidi, the acting Director-General of NCAA, at the Aviation House.

Adurogboye said the assessment, which was expected to cover critical areas of the airport, would last 10 days.

While thanking the team for the routine visit, Sidi assured them of the authority's readiness to ensure success of the assessment. He said that the agency would collaborate more closely with the TSA to promote security in and around the nation's airports.

Mr Okplefu Akoja, Head, NCAA Aviation Security; Mr Peter Amasa, Head, NCAA AVSEC Training & Certification; Mr Sam Adurogboye, General Manager, Public Relations and Mr Mahmud Yakubu, Technical Assistant to the Director-General, were present at the brief meeting. (NAN)

Minister of Power has no interest in any particular appointment – Aide

The Minister of Power, Mr Sale Mamman, says he has no interest in any particular appointment in the ministry other than to put square pegs in square holes for maximum results.

The minister made the clarification in a statement issued by his Special Adviser, Media and Communications, Mr Aaron Artimas, in Abuja on Monday.

According to Artimas, the task facing the ministry is not the removal or appointment of officers, but how to deliver power to Nigerians in their various residences or locations.

He said that the ministry was in dire need of sincere public officers to assist in doing so.

“It is quite obvious that most Nigerians are not susceptible to relinquishing public office even after exhausting their welcome or in the face of apparent failure to perform.

“The removal of any public officer is usually accompanied by high dramas, including allegations of victimisation, discrimination and bias

“Such is the case with changes made at the Rural Electrification Agency and Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Company, by the ministry.

“Following the changes earlier announced by the ministry on these two agencies, Nigerians have continued to be regaled by a cacophony noise,

alleging victimisation and discrimination,” he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Artimas had earlier said the ministry should not be responding to such myopic and illogical arguments questioning its discretionary judgments, but the reports had irritatingly gone viral with the huge implication of misleading Nigerians.

The minister's aide also noted that the report had also cast doubts on the ministry's sincere intentions to sanitise the power sector.

He said that a section of the media supported as usual, by the so-called “wailers”, have gone to town with the sickening

and boring allegations of ethnic, regional or religious discrimination, without examining the substance of the changes.

According to him, a group even went to the bizarre level of accusing the minister of power discrimination against women.

“All right thinking Nigerians are aware that since assuming power in 2015, President Muhammadu Buhari has poured billions of Naira and attracted huge foreign investments into the power sector, with the aim of improving the generation and distribution of electricity to Nigerians.

“Nigerians should be asking

Stanbic IBTC reaffirms commitment to growth of Nigeria's debt capital markets

By Zakariyya Adaramola

Stanbic IBTC Holdings PLC has reaffirmed its commitment to the growth of the Nigerian debt capital markets.

The Chief Executive, Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC, Dr. Demola Sogunle, disclosed this at the Bonds, Loans and Sukuk Nigeria Conference, which held in Lagos, a statement from the bank said yesterday.

Dr. Sogunle noted that the Stanbic IBTC group was constantly driving innovation to encourage growth and development in the markets.

The Stanbic IBTC Chief Executive added that the organization would continue to facilitate value added engagement between market participants to further increase understanding of the initiatives required to grow the debt capital markets in the country.

While speaking on how the Nigerian debt capital markets fared in 2019, he said that capital markets activities were at its peak in May, June and July. He added that N439 billion incorporate paper has been issued in comparison with N470bn over the same period in 2018.

He said: “We expect the total volume issued in 2019 to eclipse 2018 as markets have seen yields fall to levels unseen since 2015 and a number of issuers are gearing up to take advantage to lock in lower funding rates for extended tenors. Despite the undulating nature of the market, there has been increased sophistication, amongst issuers of the different financing options available in the local debt markets with issuers effectively timing capital markets issuance to maximize cost savings relative to bank debt. We have witnessed an increasing number of corporate issuers exploring alternative funding options such as Green Bonds and Infrastructure Bonds, in addition to conventional bonds, commercial paper and Eurobonds.”

The Bonds, Loans and Sukuk Nigeria Conference, organized by GFC Media, is regarded as Nigeria's only annual debt finance event, covering developments of both on-shore and off-shore markets.

why there was not much improvement in the sector after such concerted efforts by the government and not to encourage “wailers” to sulk over public officers who had been in the ministry for over four years without tangible results,” he said.

Artimas explained that at this level of national development, Nigerians should be thinking of performance instead of promoting trivial or extraneous sentiments on the pretext of criticising government actions.

He said that many Nigerians are not unaware of the squabbling and unfortunate infighting affecting the two agencies as well as other alleged infractions. (NAN)

NEWS

No Insurance firm has met recapitalisation requirements – NAICOM

National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) said on Monday that no insurance company in the country could be categorised as having met the recapitalisation requirements for now.

The commission said this was despite claims of some of the operators that they had met the requirements.

Mr Pius Agboola, Director, Policy and Regulation of the Commission made the disclosure at the 2020 Seminar organised by NAICOM for Journalists covering the insurance sector held in Kano.

Agboola said while some of the insurance firms might

have investments beyond the requirements of NAICOM, it did not mean that such companies had scaled through because it required processes.

“Some companies’ paid-up capital is N5 billion and they may have up to N20 billion in their reserve, but that does not mean that they have met the requirements.

“Even with what they have, they will have to call board meeting, pass board resolution, among other processes, even with NAICOM,” he said.

According to him, the commission has decided to issue guidelines for the

exercise in stages and will soon issue guideline on Capital verification.

He said even if any company claimed to be ready, it must still await NAICOM to issue its guideline on capital verification in line with the recapitalisation plans submitted.

Agboola said there was a high possibility that the commission might not disclose the status of the insurance firms as regards recapitalisation until toward the end of the exercise.

Agboola said the decision for the extension followed a review of the recapitalisation plans submitted by the

operators and various levels of the compliance observed and also input from various engagements with relevant stakeholders.

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

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

Following the reviewed minimum capital

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

General Insurance business was raised from N3 billion to N10 billion, Composite business was raised from N5 billion to N18 billion and Reinsurance business was raised from N10 billion to N20 billion.

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

Firms with less than N25m turnover exempted from Companies Tax

By Zakariyya Adaramola, with agency reports

Firms operating with less than N25million turnover in the country will be exempted from paying the Companies Income Tax.

This is contained in the Finance Bill 2019, which will be signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari soon.

Without the Bill, all companies are expected to pay the Federal Government 30 per cent of their profit as Companies Income Tax.

But the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, said when the bill is signed into law, companies that make a turnover of less than N25m will no longer pay this tax while those that have a turnover of between N25m and N100m yearly will now pay 20 per cent as companies income tax.

She said those earning over N100m would continue to pay the 30 per cent of their profits as CIT.

“Not only will small

businesses be able to do more because they are not paying taxes, we are also working together with the trade authorities to also encourage people in the informal sector to become formalised because they will see other businesses like them that are not registered doing well.

“Their productivity will increase, they will employ more Nigerians and at the end of the day, they will grow to the level of a medium size business and begin to pay taxes”, she said.

She added, “Our

assessment is that any business that has a turnover of less than N25m needs that break, not being taxed so they can invest in their businesses.

“We reduced the tax for medium size businesses from 30 per cent to 20 per cent so they can have more resources that they can plough back in their business.

“These are the largest employers of labour. The federal and state governments have a total labour force of less than one per cent of the population.”

Nigeria must embrace open data to be globally competitive – Pantami

By Zakariyya Adaramola

The Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ibrahim Pantami, says Nigeria must embrace Open Data Initiative to grow its economy and become globally competitive. He said for Nigeria to play an active role in the ongoing data revolution, there is need to embrace open data initiative and improve data literacy of its citizenry, especially now that data is the single most important driver of innovation in the 21st century.

The Minister spoke at the occasion of South-South zone of the Nigerian Open Data Conference held in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, a statement from the ministry said. Pantami, who spoke through the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, who was also represented by the Director of Planning Research and Statistics of the Ministry, Dr. Mrs. Nonye Nwachukwu noted that in era when data is driving innovation, it is only imperative for Nigeria to key into the trend to become relevant in the global community. “Data in the 21st century is the single most Important driver of innovation, competitiveness and growth, therefore, for Nigeria to become integral part of data revolution there is the need to embrace Open Data Initiative and improve data literacy of its citizenry, Data is only valuable when it is being used to solve a problem or create opportunities for people,” he added.

CBN releases guidelines on Nigerian payment system risk

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has released the Nigerian Payment Systems Risk and Information Security Management Framework to guide the management of risks associated with payment systems in the country.

The CBN released the guidelines on its website on Monday and said one of the objectives of the framework was to identify and address sources of systemic risks within the Nigerian Payment System landscape.

The bank explained that it would help to establish sound governance arrangements to oversee the risk management framework by ensuring that risks were identified, monitored and treated.

According to CBN, the framework will help to establish clear and appropriate rules and procedures to carry out the risk-management objectives.

It stated that it would also facilitate to

employ the resources necessary to achieve the payments system’s risk management objectives; and integrate risk management into the decision making processes of the Scheme Boards and Working Groups under PSV 2020.

“This Framework is designed to guide the operators and users of the payment systems across Nigeria.

“These systems may be organised, located, or operated within Nigeria domestic payments, outside Nigeria offshore payments, or both cross-border payments and may involve currencies other than the Naira or non-Naira systems and multi-currency systems.

“The scope of the framework also includes any payment system based or operated in Nigeria that engages in the settlement of non-Naira transactions operating within Nigeria and those that operate across the Nigerian borders

cross border payment systems, along with their infrastructure providers and the Payment Service Providers (PSPs) that make up these systems.

“This framework do not apply to arrangements for the physical movement of cash or systems for settling securities nor apply to market infrastructures such as trading exchanges, trade-execution facilities, or multilateral trade-compression systems.

“It is also not intended to apply to bilateral payment, clearing, or settlement relationships, where a payment system is not involved, between financial institutions and their customers, such as traditional correspondent banking and government securities clearing services,” it explained.

Emphasising on risk management governance structure, the bank said the Payments System Management Department of the

CBN was responsible for setting, applying and coordinating risk standards across the Nigeria Payments space.

The apex bank was expected to drive the overall National Payments System Strategy, provide cross-scheme resource and arbitrate in cross-scheme decisions.

The bank stated that its risk governance responsibilities was to provide risk oversight of the payments system and ensure adequate resources were allocated to risk management activities.

According to the bank, others are to approve the risk strategy for the payments system, set risk parameters and tolerances within which payment system activities will be conducted.

It further stated that the bank would determine and periodically review payments system key policies and processes. (NAN)



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INTERNATIONAL

China to strengthen tax and fee cut efforts in 2020

China will on Monday take further steps toward consolidating and expanding its achievements in 2020 by cutting taxes and fees, according to the State Taxation Administration (STA).

STA said efforts would be made to further optimise the tax business environment, improve tax administration efficiency, and deepen

international tax cooperation.

In 2019, China introduced unprecedented tax cuts and fee reductions.

However, newly added tax and fee cuts exceeded 2 trillion yuan (or about 287 billion U.S. dollars), accounting for more than two per cent of GDP, contributing about 0.8 percentage points of GDP growth.

According to the Head of administration, Wang Jun, tax cuts and fee reductions have effectively stimulated the vitality of market entities and enhanced confidence in economic development.

However, Jun noted that with the deepening of the value-added tax reform, in particular, the average monthly net increase in the

number of taxpaying entities came in at 88,800, nearly twice that before the reform.

In 2019, Chinese tax authorities collected a total of 18.3 trillion yuan in taxes and fees, including 14 trillion yuan in tax revenue after deducting export tax rebates, up 1.8 per cent year on year.

A total of 15.74 trillion yuan was refunded in export

tax rebates, up 4.8 per cent year on year, offering strong support for the country's exports.

The authority said that efforts would be stepped up to levy taxes in accordance with laws and regulations, actively cultivate tax sources, and support the development and growth of private enterprises. (Xinhua/NAN)

Qatar Petroleum signs 15yr contract for LNG deliveries to Kuwait

State-owned oil and gas company Qatar Petroleum (QP) said it had signed an agreement with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to supply 3 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas annually for 15 years.

The agreement was signed on Sunday in Kuwait by Qatar Petroleum CEO and

Qatari Energy Minister Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi and Kuwaiti Oil Minister Khaled Ali Al-Fadhel.

"Under the 15-year agreement, LNG deliveries to Kuwait's new world-class LNG receiving terminal at Al-Zour Port will commence in 2022 to support meeting Kuwait's growing energy

needs and demand, particularly in the power generation sector," the Qatari company said.

According to Al-Fadhel, Kuwait needs cleaner energy sources, such as natural gas, and despite the country's increasing domestic gas production, there is still an urgent need for imports. (Sputnik/NAN)

S/Africa power shake-up looms as ailing Eskom welcomes new CEO

Eskom's new chief executive took charge of the crisis-plagued utility on Monday, embarking sooner than planned on the mammoth task of fixing a national power deficit and restructuring debts that have hobbled South Africa's economy.

Andre de Ruyter, appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa in November, will oversee a government plan to split state-owned Eskom into three units - for generation, transmission and distribution.

This is an attempt to make Eskom more efficient. Ramaphosa is trying to revive Africa's most advanced economy, which is flirting with recession, and attract new investment.

Eskom, which generates more than 90 per cent of the country's power, is in its current form widely viewed as the biggest impediment to growth, though the restructuring plan has taken shape against a backdrop of stubbornly

high unemployment, and unions have pledged to fight it.

De Ruyter had been due to start work on Jan. 15, but the sense of crisis surrounding the firm, which has been leaderless since July and imposed the latest in a long run of power cuts at the weekend, persuaded him to take the helm early.

Saddled with unreliable coal-fired power stations, Eskom has struggled to meet demand since 2007, forcing it into several rounds of extensive power cuts. Outages in 2018 dented economic output and shook investor confidence in Ramaphosa's administration.

At the weekend, it cut up to 2,000 megawatts (MW) from the national grid due to a shortage of generating capacity.

De Ruyter's predecessor, Phakamani Hadebe, stepped down in July, citing health reasons.

Sources said at the time that another reason was that he felt frustrated at being excluded from

important decisions affecting the utility.

One of Eskom's largest trade unions, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), opposed de Ruyter's appointment, labelling it a setback to efforts to promote more black professionals into senior corporate posts.

The NUM plans protests as a "welcoming party" for him, and it and the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa have said they would fight the plan to split Eskom.

The unions fear this could lead to large-scale job losses and privatisation.

Eskom said in a statement on Monday that roughly 13,000MW of its 44,000MW nominal capacity were offline because of plant breakdowns.

It said it didn't expect "load-shedding" - a local term for power cuts - on Monday, but that the system was "constrained and vulnerable". (Reuters/NAN)

EU diplomat expresses regret over Iran's abandonment of nuclear commitments

European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Monday expressed regret over Iran's decision to abandon the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Borrell said that the implementation of the agreement's provisions by all the parties had

never been more important.

On Sunday, Iran announced the abandonment of its final limitations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and said that it had no more restrictions regarding its nuclear programme development.

Meanwhile, Tehran aims to continue cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It also plans to resume the implementation of its commitments in case the U.S. lifts sanctions and respects interests of Iran envisaged in the nuclear deal.

US-Iran Tension: China urges US not to abuse force

The Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mr Geng Shuang, on Monday urged the U.S. to exercise caution and refrain from abuse of force in its face off with Iran.

Shuang made the call at a news conference when asked for comments about the current situation in the region as tensions in U.S.-Iran relations seemed escalating.

He also called on relevant parties to exercise restraint to prevent a spiral escalation of crisis in the Middle East and the Gulf region.

The U.S. claimed

it targeted 52 Iranian sites, which would be hit if Iran strikes any Americans or American assets. However, Iran said some 35 U.S. targets in the region were within reach.

"Worsening of tensions in the Middle East and the Gulf region is the last thing anyone wants to see. Ensuring peace and stability in the region is of vital importance to the whole world," Shuang said.

He noted that power politics was always resented and short-lived, adding that the U.S. military adventurism goes against basic norms governing international

relations and aggravates tensions and turbulence in the region.

"We urge the U.S. not to abuse force and call on relevant parties to exercise restraint to prevent a spiral escalation. Efforts should be made to resume dialogue and consultation as soon as possible to cool off tensions," he said.

Shuang said that China would continue to uphold an objective and just position as well as playing a constructive role in maintaining peace and security in the Middle East and the Gulf region.

(Xinhua/NAN)

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- Follow the prompts to generate 'RRR' code
- Use the 'RRR' code to make payment at any bank of your choice
- Submit your voucher or receipt to the Finance and Accounts Department, LUTH, where a receipt will be issued in place of the **PRINT-OUT**.
- The photocopy of the receipt should be presented to the **Head, Schools Administration Department, Human Resources Building, opposite Administration Building, LUTH** for collection of Application Form.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS

Completed application forms, two (2) recent passport photographs and photocopies of relevant certificates should be submitted at the **Schools Administration Department** not later than **Wednesday, 12th February, 2020**.

CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION

Written examination will be conducted at the School of Anaesthetic Technician, LUTH, Idi - Araba. Successful candidates will be asked to provide original copies of relevant certificates for screening and interview at the same venue.

OTHER INFORMATION

Examination Date: Wednesday, 19th February, 2020.
Venue: Department of Anaesthesia, LUTH
Time: 9.00am

BABAJIDE GRILLO
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

ELECTRICITY

How N146m solar grid powers Torankawa village for 1yr

From Rakiya A. Muhammad (Sokoto)
& Simon Echewofun Sunday (Abuja)

One year since a N146m 60 kilowatts (kw) grid-connected solar power plant in Torankawa community of Sokoto State was commissioned, residents say they have had sustained power supply.

Torankawa, with a population of about 9,000 was thrown into darkness for almost seven years until 2019 which came with a sunny side for them.

The pilot project, commissioned February 12 last year, was to provide uninterrupted electricity supply to 350 homes with 1,750 people benefitting, as well as 20 small businesses, five mosques, community irrigating farms, and 50 streetlights.

The project, handled by Protogy Global Services, is said to be the first of its kind in Nigeria that is connected to the national grid.

"We are overwhelmed that after years of living in darkness, our community, Torankawa in Yabo local government, is now enjoying regular electricity supply. We were in total darkness due to a high concentration of wind in the area which easily disrupted all efforts to connect us to the national grid," the District Head of Torankawa, Alhaji Umar Riskuwa, said.

"We are also grateful to Sokoto State Government for providing the land for the establishment of the project and all necessary support for its success," he added.

Some members of the community who are engaged in businesses requiring electricity spoke on the impact of the initiative. "Before the solar project, I used to buy N400 fuel daily for the generator that powered my refrigerator. Now with N1,000 electricity unit, it can last seven days which enabled



me to have more profit and regular customers," Kasimu Yahya, 20, a shop owner said.

A phone battery charger, Faruk Sahabi, 25, said: "Due to high demand, I used to buy N5,000 worth of fuel to charge batteries daily from which I hardly get N500. But now with N1000 worth of units, I can spend a week on electricity supply and get N2,000 on a good day or N1,000 when I record low patronage."

Faruk said on 'dark' days; he sometimes had to travel to Sanyinna town to buy fuel. "Now electricity is easy to get provided you have units."

Relating his experience, Muhammadu Aliyu, a welder said: "I used to operate skeletal services even though there was the demand in the village. People need items such as gates; others mend their broken farm implements, motorcycle parts. But these

things demand uninterrupted electricity which we lacked for seven years.

"The coming of this solar project has boosted our businesses and enhanced our livelihoods," he noted.

On the cost, he recalled: "Before the project, I spent N5,000 to N7,000 to fuel my generator, but now with N1,500-unit card, I can do a lot of work and earn enough to feed my family."

At the project site, Zahraden Abubakar and Hassan Musa Salah said they were trained in the techniques needed for effective and efficient service delivery.

"We use 192 panels to provide 60kw of electricity to designated 200 households and commercial places in Torankawa village. So far, we are not encountering any problem as a result of operating in a windy

environment," Abubakar noted.

They said the necessary components such as inverters and storage sections were in good condition and providing noticeable results.

They, however, said there was a drop in sales of the units' cards following the harmattan season.

"Before this season, we made N5000-N7,000 daily, now it is just N1,500 daily. Monthly, we used to sell N150,000 worth, but now it has dropped to N80,000."

The councillor representing the area at Yabo LGA, Shehu Nahantsi, underscored the positive impact the solar project has had on the community.

He recalled that during the last Ramadan period, people from various communities, including Sanyinna town and environs, trooped to

Torankawa for ice blocks. "This was quite remarkable," he said.

The village head of Torankawa (Lelaba) Muhammadu Moyibo, 60, said after the elevation of Torankawa to district status, the solar project was a major achievement recorded in the area.

According to him, the success of the project attracted officials from Imo and Edo states who wanted to execute the same initiative in their areas. "They came here and said they wanted to learn about the solar project, which is unique, successful story," he revealed.

In July 2017, the ministry initiated the first REMU mini-grid project in a small rural village of Pakau in Kaduna State. Our reporters visited the village in October and found that the plant, similar to Torankawa's, had stopped operation.

Responding to the issues, the Director of Renewables and Rural Power Access in the ministry, Engr. Faruk Yusuf, said the active Torankawa project was a pilot project that has demonstrated the commercial viability and called on investors for more of such mini grids to solve rural power access challenges.

Yusuf confirmed challenges with the Pakau mini grid plant. As a solution, he said, the ministry was doing procurement for concessioning of three mini grids - the Pakau and Gname solar grids in Kaduna and the Torankawa in Sokoto State.

He said, "We believe that this will help for better management and hopefully before the end of the first quarter of 2020, that will be completed."

"That would take care of the challenges at Pakau mini grid because an operator resides in the community to monitor the project and have the residents pay for the energy," he noted.

Badagry residents decry planned electricity tariff hike

Some residents of Badagry, a coastal town in Lagos State, on Monday decried the planned hike in electricity tariff by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) with effect from April 1.

They told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in separate interviews in Badagry that the hike in tariff was uncalled for in view of the continued poor services.

NAN reports that NERC had on Jan. 4 directed the 11 electricity distribution companies in the country to increase their tariffs beginning from April 1.

In his reactions, Mr Jimon Idowu, a staff of the Public Complaints Commission

(PCC), said the distribution companies (DISCOs) must put their houses in order before contemplating any tariff increment.

"There are lots of challenges still confronting the power sector that needed to be resolved before increasing the tariffs.

"The authorities should also consider the suffering masses who continued to pay for electricity they do not consume.

"In Badagry, only 10 per cent of consumers are on prepaid meters, while others are on estimated billings.

"How do you now justify consumers that pay N10,000 monthly for just few hours

electricity supply in a month.

"We do not have regular electricity supply in Badagry, with this proposed hike in tariff, we are going to pay more for supply we are not enjoying.

"The hike in tariff should be suspended until every customer is on prepaid meter so that it will not serve as punishment to us on estimation," he said.

Also, Mr Felix Godonu, the President of Hengo Badagry Youth Association, said the move was uncalled for, saying that Nigerians were economically vulnerable with low purchasing power.

"I am surprised at the announcement. The

distribution companies have continued to grapple with unstable electricity plus the problem of estimated bill that is still hanging in the balance.

"Consistently, Badagry residents are made to pay for what they do not consume.

"The government ought to find lasting solutions to the decades of epileptic power supply in the country.

"Badagry case is unimaginable, a town where there are no industries, over 70 per cent of residents are artisans, small and medium enterprises owners whose business depend on electricity, and they should not be subjected to this kind of hardship.

"A situation in which power supply is not available and still residents struggling to pay the current estimated bills, hiking the tariff would be suicidal," he said.

Commenting, Chief Tunde Giro, the Depegun of Badagry, urged the Federal Government to consider the hardship Nigerians were going through and put a hold on the planned hike in tariff.

"Many people around here cannot afford three square meals.

"The present economic situation of the country is on the high side, this is not the right time to increase the electricity tariff," he cautioned government. (NAN)



UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the vacant position of **DIRECTOR, MEDICAL SERVICES** in the **University of Lagos, Akoka**.

(a) THE INSTITUTION

The **University of Lagos** was established in 1962 by an Act of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to encourage the advancement of learning. It is located in the urban and commercial city of Lagos with the main campus in Akoka and two other campuses in Yaba and The College of Medicine at Idi-Araba. The University caters for both Full time and Part Time students with an overall population of over fifty-thousand (50,000) made up of undergraduates and postgraduates' students. It has a staff strength of over five thousand (5,000).

(b) THE JOB

The Director of Medical Services is responsible to the Vice Chancellor for the organisation and functioning of the Medical Centre of the University. He/She is also responsible for coordinating the treatment of members of staff and their families as well as the students of the University.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS

Prospective candidates should possess M.B.B.S., B.D.S. or equivalent medical degree plus NYSC Discharge Certificate or Evidence of Exemption. Candidates must have SSCE/NECO/WASSC/GCE O'Level credit in five (5) subjects including English Language and Mathematics. Fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria or its equivalent is compulsory. A higher degree will be an advantage. In addition, he/she must be duly registered with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and have a minimum of twenty (20) years post-qualification experience in clinical medicine and public health work in comparable health institution. Applicants must be ICT compliant. In addition, there will be IT proficiency test for all applicants. Candidates should not be older than sixty (60) years on assumption of duty.

(d) CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The remuneration and other conditions of service are as applicable to the post of Director, Medical Services of Federal Universities in Nigeria and as may be determined from time to time by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the University of Lagos Governing Council. Some of the conditions of service are stipulated in the Regulations Governing the Conditions of Service of Senior members of staff in the University of Lagos.

(e) TENURE

The successful candidate shall hold office for a period of five (5) years from the effective date of appointment with additional one (1) year subject to satisfactory performance as may be determined by appropriate University Laws and the Governing Council of the University of Lagos.

(f) METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications, which must be in thirty (30) copies, should be accompanied with the same number of relevant certificates and credentials. In addition, applicants must forward thirty (30) copies of detailed Curriculum Vitae containing the following information:

- Names in Full
- Place and Date of Birth
- Gender
- Permanent Home Address
- Nationality at Birth
- State/Local Government Area/Ward
- Marital Status
- Number and Ages of Children
- Degree (including Dates/Class Institutions) and any other qualifications and distinctions.
- Professional Qualifications.
- Statement of Experience including full details of former and present posts.
- Vision for the University in the next five years (not more than five hundred (500) words).
- Other activities outside current employment.
- Proposed date of availability for duties, if appointed.
- Names and addresses of three referees
- Publications (If any)

(g) CLOSING DATE

Applications and supporting papers should be forwarded to: **The Deputy Registrar, Human Resources Management Directorate, Room 274, Second Floor, Senate House, University of Lagos, Akoka**. Applicants must indicate the post for which application is made at the **top left corner of the envelope**. Applicants are also expected to visit www.recruitment.unilag.edu.ng to complete the online application form and must attach the acknowledgement print-out to the hard copies of their applications. The documents should reach the **Deputy Registrar, Human Resources Management Directorate** not later than **forty-two (42) days** from the date of this publication.

In addition to stating names and addresses of three Referees, applicants should request their referees to forward references on their behalf to: **The Deputy Registrar, Human Resources Management Directorate, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos**.

Signed

OLADEJO AZEEZ, ESQ.
REGISTRAR & SECRETARY TO COUNCIL



CREATIVE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Reading Officer – Northern Nigeria Education Initiative Plus (NEI+)

Position Location: Bauchi, Nigeria

Background:

Creative Associates International is a dynamic, fast-growing global development firm that specializes in education, economic growth, democratic institutions and stabilization. Based in Washington, D.C., Creative has a field presence in more than 15 countries with a strong client portfolio that includes the U.S. Agency for International Development and the State Department, among others. Since its founding in 1977, Creative has earned a solid reputation among its clients and is well-regarded by competitors and partners alike. Creative Associates International has been working in Nigeria for more than a decade to support education programs in Nigeria.

Project Summary: The Northern Nigeria Education Initiative Plus (NEI+) project works to improve the quality of and access to education in Northern Nigeria, equitably and sustainably.

Position Summary: The Reading Officer provides overall technical oversight and guidance to the project's support to improved reading instruction.

Reporting & Supervision:

This position is housed in Bauchi, Nigeria, reporting to the State Team Leader.

Primary Responsibilities:

- He/she supervises the production of all NEI+-supported reading material, all NEI+-supported trainings in reading, all teacher and classroom supervision and monitoring and all student testing efforts.
- He/she ensures complementarity of activity approaches in reading across the three NEI+ activity states, liaises with government representatives and technicians on technical matters, and bears ultimate responsibility for ensuring that children in NEI+ public, IQTE, and NFLC schools achieve improved outcomes in reading.
- It is expected that the reading specialist will work directly with the Hausa and English language experts

Required Skills & Qualifications:

- Requires a Master's Degree in education, preferably with a specialty in early grade reading.
- At least 8 years of experience in programs in sub-Saharan Africa that work specifically to improve early grade reading is required.
- Prior experience with the development of early grade reading materials, training programs, classroom monitoring protocols, and tests and assessments, including EGRA, is required.
- Prior experience with supporting civil-society based monitoring of reading outcomes is required.
- The candidate must be professionally proficient and fluent in written and spoken English. It is preferred, but not required, that the candidate be conversant and fluent in written Hausa.

How to Apply:

Please send your updated resume/CV to recruiting@crea-neiplus.com with "Reading Officer" in the email Subject line no later than **January 13, 2020**.

Only finalists will be contacted. No phone calls, please.

Creative Associates International Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer: Disability/Veteran.



CREATIVE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Community Mobilization Officer – Northern Nigeria Education Initiative Plus (NEI+)

Position Location: Bauchi, Nigeria

Background:

Creative Associates International is a dynamic, fast-growing global development firm that specializes in education, economic growth, democratic institutions and stabilization. Based in Washington, D.C., Creative has a field presence in more than 15 countries with a strong client portfolio that includes the U.S. Agency for International Development and the State Department, among others. Since its founding in 1977, Creative has earned a solid reputation among its clients and is well-regarded by competitors and partners alike. Creative Associates International has been working in Nigeria for more than a decade to support education programs in Nigeria.

Project Summary: The Northern Nigeria Education Initiative Plus (NEI+) project works to improve the quality of and access to education in Northern Nigeria, equitably and sustainably.

Position Summary: Position Summary: The Community Mobilization/NGO Capacity Building Officer will be responsible for implementing activities to increase community awareness and support of schooling in targeted non-formal education and alternative education learning center communities in Bauchi. This includes implementing a small grants program to enable CSOs to establish community coalitions and learning centers, building the capacity of CSOs and executing awareness campaigns to strengthen the community's demand for education.

Reporting & Supervision:

This position is housed in Bauchi, Nigeria, reporting to the State Team Leader.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Establishes and trains new Community Coalitions or other local education support groups and committees
- Provides partner CSOs in Bauchi with day-to-day mentoring on project design, implementation, and monitoring.
- Supports the consistent application of training materials to strengthen CSO organizational management, HR and financial systems and provide technical support in community mobilization.
- Engages and serves as program focal point with CSOs and supported communities in Bauchi.
- Coordinates donor, stakeholder, and field staff visits to CSOs and communities in Bauchi.

Required Skills & Qualifications:

- At least 5 years of experience in community outreach or community mobilization
- Demonstrated experience managing community engagement campaigns, preferably in the education sector
- Experience with international organizations' community grants mechanisms
- Demonstrated experience in developing and implementing capacity building plans in culturally, politically, and security sensitive environments
- In-depth understanding of the role of civil society in development
- Demonstrated capacity in managing staff
- Fluency in English
- Bachelor's Degree in International Development, Communications, Social Work, or other related field, Master's degree preferred.

How to Apply:

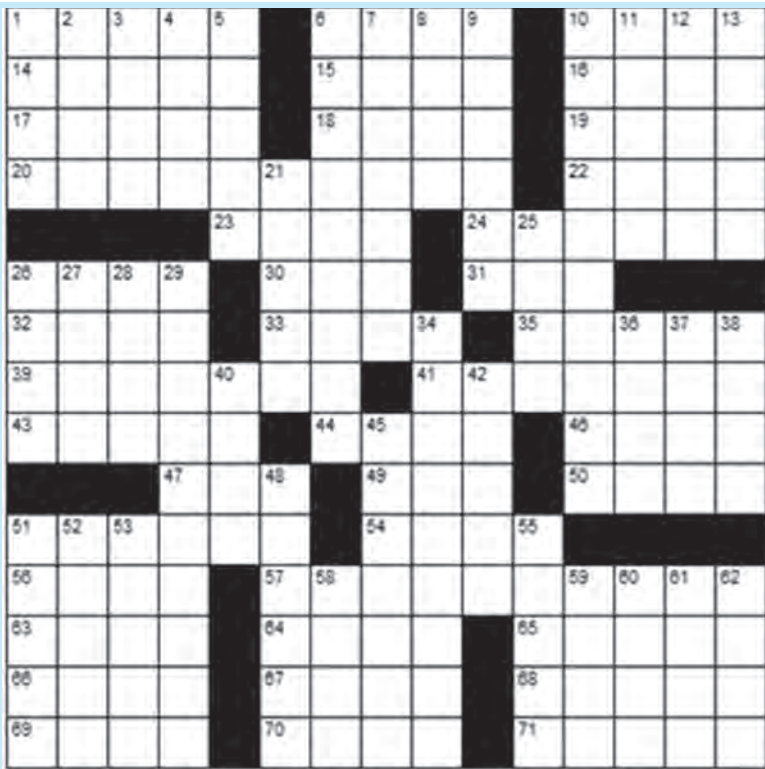
Please send your updated resume/CV to recruiting@crea-neiplus.com with "Community Mobilization Officer" in the email Subject line no later than **January 13, 2020**.

Only finalists will be contacted. No phone calls, please.

Creative Associates International Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer: Disability/Veteran.

(17)

EASY CROSSWORD >>



ACROSS

- 1. Make physical contact
- 6. Friends
- 10. Rascalions
- 14. Snow house
- 15. Violent disturbance
- 16. Tidy
- 17. Anagram of "Sneer"
- 18. Killer whale
- 19. Carryall
- 20. The audience of a newspaper
- 22. Kitty (poker)
- 23. Satisfy
- 24. Door frame part
- 26. Against
- 30. Brassiere
- 31. Terminate
- 32. Welt
- 33. Invited
- 35. Handrail post
- 39. Take advantage of
- 41. Back rub
- 43. Spot
- 44. Wicked
- 46. Outcropping
- 47. Pull
- 49. Yore
- 50. Terminates
- 51. Newly
- 54. Gunk
- 56. Lascivious look
- 57. Squadron
- 63. District
- 64. Not fat
- 65. Something to shoot for
- 66. Lean
- 67. Canvas dwelling
- 68. Intense adverse criticism
- 69. Lack of difficulty
- 70. Poems
- 71. Varieties
- 7. Dunce
- 8. Hubs
- 9. Mainstay
- 10. Cause to glow
- 11. Intended
- 12. Adhesive
- 13. Metal
- 21. Jewish scholar
- 25. Hotels
- 26. Amazes
- 27. Following
- 28. The thin fibrous bark
- 29. Unable to read
- 34. Anagram of "Streaming"
- 36. Alert
- 37. Quaint outburst
- 38. Lower limbs
- 40. Burden
- 42. Clearly
- 45. Disease preventer
- 48. A poor city district
- 51. Winged
- 52. Weekday
- 53. Anagram of "Leers"
- 55. Float
- 58. Outbuilding
- 59. Lazily
- 60. Bound
- 61. Shoestring
- 62. North American deer (plural)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD (16)



SUDOKU >>

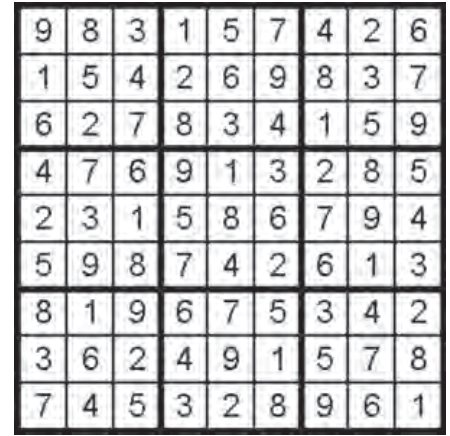
How to play: The number 1 through 9 will appear once only in each row, column, and 3 x 3 zone. There are 9 such zones in each sudoku grid. There is only one correct Solution to each sudoku.

Good luck!

17



Solution to Sudoku 16



SNAPSHOT >>

That's not how to car pool! Car crashes into hotel pool



The driver of a sports car that ended up in a West Palm Beach hotel pool still can't believe what happened. Patrol Officer Danielle Goldberger was the first officer to arrive on scene. Goldberger said when she arrived, she found a submerged vehicle in a pool and the occupants unharmed. "The passenger was an adult female, the driver an adult male. Both were outside of the vehicle prior to the arrival," she said. "There were no injuries." Driver Ethan Coffey said he was backing up when his car ended up in the water. "I was in the driver seat, went to hit the brake but I hit the gas in total freak-out mode and I was swimming," Coffey said. A tow truck company was called to remove the car from the pool. A police diver was also called to help crews attach the cables underwater. Police said no one was in the pool at the time of the accident. Coffey said this was his first car.

Photo: WPBF 25 News

SIGN LANGUAGE >>



■ GRAMMER? This writer needs to go back to school. Photo location: Chelmsford, UK. Spotted by Janet Gyford

— Source: signspotting.com



FEATURES

Victims of spinal cord injuries in Nigeria are having a tough time as caregivers lacking resources to care for them often resort to extreme measures, including poisoning to end the suffering of their victims. In Osun State some of the victims have banded together to help themselves.

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

Mr Yusuf Olatoye, 59, is about to retire from teaching at Anglican Government Middle School, Edunabon, Osun State. Retirement is something he dreads because his life is literally going to be at stake.

In 1992, 27 years ago, he suffered an accident that left him with a spinal cord injury. He was lucky to retain his job and his salary has helped him cope with the treatments. But without a regular salary to help pay the medical bills, retirement is not something he looks forward to.

"I wish I have money like the popular musician, Yinka Ayefefe who is also a victim of spinal cord injury and eventually became a father," he said.

"Sure, I can also become a father one to enable me reproduce and have even if it is only one child. Life as a victim of spinal cord injury is difficult. At least, I'm managing now but what will happen to me when I retire? That is my fear," he said.

Mr. Olatoye is one of the better-disposed persons living with spinal cord injuries in the country. Others are completely reliant on others. And in some cases, some of them are suspected to have been helped to an early grave by their families, who could no longer shoulder the responsibilities.

"Many of the victims of spinal cord injury are still been locked up in many communities. In fact, many families have poisoned some of them under the pretext that they have become useless and they cannot continue to watch them suffering," Mr. Olayemi Lucky Adeleye, Chairman of Spinal Cord Injuries People of Nigeria (SCIPON), said.

Though born without any physical deformity and having lived normal life, at least, for some time, people suffering from spinal cord injuries are mostly victims of accidents that have deformed or disabled them, incapacitating them.

Under the auspices of Spinal Cord Injuries People of Nigeria (SCIPON), the affected persons in Osun State have affiliated themselves to the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), which also has Association of the Blind, Nigeria National Association of the Deaf, National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities, National Association of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy.



■ Spinal cord injury victims at the support center

Dying on their backs

How families, poor healthcare are helping victims of spinal cord injuries to early graves

JONAPWD has more than 24 million members across the country with 57,000 members in Osun.

The situation of victims of spinal cord injury is sensitive and requires careful management and adequate support from people around them. Unfortunately, their cases are often mismanaged. In most cases, family members of many of the affected persons would not be able to endure as most victims need life-long care. Often, they are neglected and abandoned to rot and die, a claim Adeleye emphasized.

"Many of us have died due to poor handling of our cases even at the hospitals. Even many medical and health workers do not know how to handle victims of spinal cord injury, leading to a lot of complications. For instance, some of us suffered abnormal passage of catheter through the stomach to the bladder. Also, some of us are on colostomies," he said.

Colostomy is a surgical intervention where an opening is made in the large intestine and a stoma appliance is attached to create an alternate channel for faeces to leave the body.

Adeleye, 47, studied marketing at The Polytechnic, Ibadan in Oyo State and was working as a timber contractor when he suffered a spinal cord injury in 2004. Fifteen years later, he is struggling to stay alive.

Adeleye said the affected persons feel dejected and that life has become unbearable for them due to lack of support and the psychological trauma over their condition. For him and other victims, nothing would make them feel more alive than being properly reintegrated into society.

Unlike Olatoye, mentioned earlier, before his accident, Ayodeji Damola,

a 39-year-old vulcanizer, was already a father. He had two children he was striving to cater for before a motorcycle accident 10 years ago, when a car crashed into him, injured his spinal cord, leaving him unable to walk.

He has been unable to earn a living since then and has been unable to cater for his family. Other than the excruciating pain he has to live with and the challenge of his medical bills, the welfare of his family has been a major concern.

Adeyemi Sa'id, a father of six, was working as a security guard when armed robbers shot him in the back five years ago. Since then, it has been a tough struggle to cling to life and to care for his family.

"We have sold many property and my relations and good Nigerians really assisted me," he began, "But [we have] nothing more to sell and those assisting me appear to have been drained and withdrawing. My children are still in school and I need help so that they can continue with their education," he said.

His case is not dissimilar to Olakusibe Olanrewaju, a businessman who also suffered spinal cord injury 10 years ago. His business has suffered and he is now only grateful to be alive, even if life is a basket of pains.

Adeleye, Olatoye, Ayodeji, Adeyemi and Olakusibe are just five out of the officially recognised 47 victims of spinal cord injury in Osun state.

Adeleye explained that financial constraints has meant they use old clothes instead of cotton wool to dress their wounds while kerosene serves as disinfectant. They also use leaves instead of bandage (gauze) and strings in place of plaster.

No surprise that the chance of infections have only increased in these

instance.

"When we realised that we really need help, we eventually came together and formed SCIPON," Adeleye said. "We decided to help ourselves by coming together to speak with one voice. That opportunity of coming together alone was a major healing for us, to start with. We realised that we need a place that will serve as a meeting point for us. That was how we ran to CSDP [Community and Social Development Project] for assistance when we learnt about the laudable assistance CSDP is rendering to communities and the less privileged. We were able to raise the required 5% ourselves and coupled with the assistance of the Community Development Champions and other well-wishers."

Through this partnership, they were able to build a centre for nearly N4.5 million

"We contributed N222,544 and the Osun Agency for Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) supported us with N4,229,340. We equipped the center with medical materials worth N3.7m. We contributed N189,000 for this and CSDP supported us with N3.6m. We thank God, Osun State Government, the World Bank and Osun CSDP for this gesture which has brought positive change to our lives. Now our members go to the center to rub minds, keep hope alive and refresh and get free medical materials," he said.

The support has really alleviated the situation of victims of spinal cord injury in Osun and significantly addressed part of their challenges. That is only part of the problem in their life-long battles. But the struggle of economic empowerment to cater for their families remains a huge challenge.



NNPC MONTHLY OIL & GAS REPORT: OCTOBER, 2019

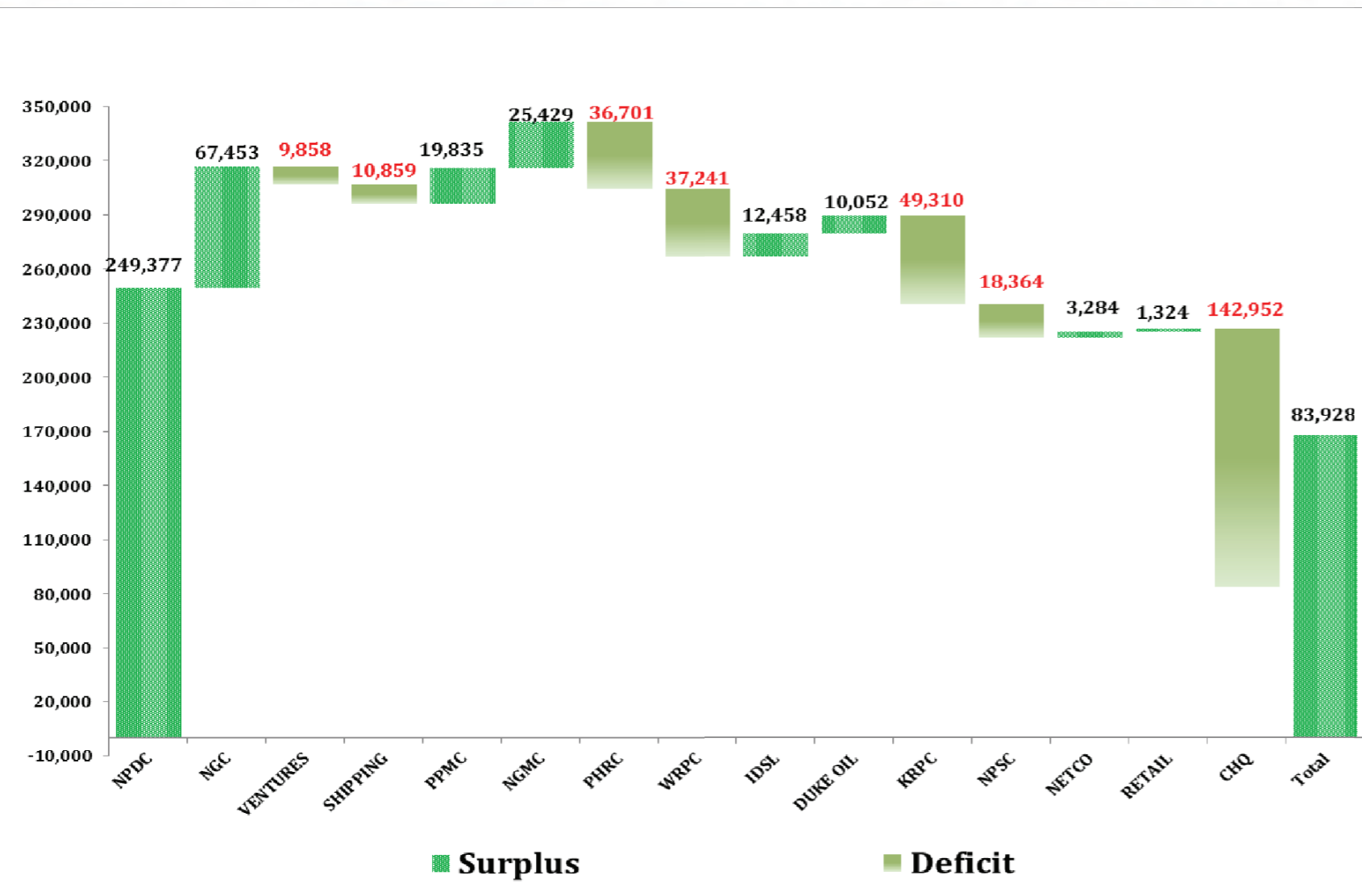


NNPC Group Financial Performance by Entity

SBU/CSU	MONTHLY BUDGET (=N= MILLION)			SEPTEMBER, 2019 (=N= MILLION)			OCTOBER, 2019 (=N= MILLION)			PTD (=N= MILLION)					
	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/(Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/(Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/(Deficit)	2019 BUDGET			2019 ACTUAL		
										Revenue	Expense	Surplus/(Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/(Deficit)
NPDC	181,951	69,061	112,891	81,901	71,904	9,996	125,933	94,449	31,483	1,819,514	864,773	954,741	903,058	653,681	249,377
IDSL	2,982	2,205	777	3,448	1,193	2,254	3,171	1,178	1,993	29,820	22,049	7,771	24,422	11,964	12,458
NETCO	2,148	1,873	275	3,146	2,575	572	3,344	3,093	251	21,479	18,732	2,747	28,204	24,919	3,284
Sub-Total	187,081	73,139	113,943	88,495	75,672	12,822	132,447	98,720	33,727	1,870,813	905,554	965,259	955,684	690,565	265,119
NGC	11,984	1,933	10,051	8,603	1,536	7,067	8,149	1,644	6,504	119,838	19,331	100,507	86,164	18,712	67,453
NGMC	18,578	13,254	5,324	18,081	14,551	3,530	16,345	15,282	1,063	185,780	132,544	53,236	160,816	135,387	25,429
Sub-Total	30,562	15,187	15,374	26,685	16,087	10,598	24,494	16,926	7,568	305,617	151,874	153,743	246,981	154,099	92,882
KRPC	8,640	10,387	(1,747)	931	4,598	(3,667)	2	5,243	(5,240)	86,398	103,871	(17,473)	6,277	55,586	(49,310)
PHRC	10,360	12,588	(2,227)	63	350	(287)	4	3,384	(3,380)	103,603	125,876	(22,272)	3,464	40,164	(36,701)
WRPC	6,762	8,471	(1,709)	40	3,161	(3,120)	45	3,141	(3,096)	67,616	84,708	(17,092)	59,078	96,319	(37,241)
Sub-Total	25,762	31,445	(5,684)	1,034	8,108	(7,074)	51	11,768	(11,717)	257,617	314,455	(56,838)	68,818	192,070	(123,251)
RETAIL	28,619	26,566	2,053	11,822	11,832	(10)	14,917	14,852	65	286,188	265,657	20,531	145,225	143,901	1,324
PPMC	182,774	177,161	5,613	162,547	159,584	2,963	139,607	138,864	743	1,827,737	1,771,611	56,125	2,028,528	2,008,693	19,835
NPSC	6,733	4,025	2,708	3,709	2,708	1,001	3,060	4,148	(1,088)	67,327	40,247	27,081	38,346	56,710	(18,364)
SHIPPING	8,142	7,291	850	5,221	5,681	(459)	5,313	6,460	(1,147)	81,416	72,914	8,502	52,353	63,211	(10,859)
DUKE OIL	1,183	270	913	239,911	236,949	2,962	71,826	70,957	869	11,828	2,702	9,125	1,481,684	1,471,632	10,052
Sub-Total	227,450	215,313	12,136	423,211	416,753	6,457	234,722	235,280	(558)	2,274,495	2,153,131	121,364	3,746,136	3,744,148	1,988
CHQ	38,757	53,887	(15,130)	375	13,762	(13,387)	78	14,106	(14,028)	387,570	538,870	(151,300)	2,624	145,576	(142,952)
VENTURES	727	3,471	(2,744)	11	838	(827)	9	1,772	(1,763)	7,268	34,710	(27,442)	695	10,553	(9,858)
Sub-Total	39,484	57,358	(17,874)	386	14,600	(14,214)	87	15,878	(15,791)	394,838	573,580	(178,742)	3,318	156,128	(152,810)
Grand Total	510,338	392,443	117,895	539,810	531,221	8,589	391,801	378,573	13,229	5,103,380	4,098,594	1,004,786	5,020,937	4,937,010	83,928

NNPC AS A COMMERCIAL ENTITY

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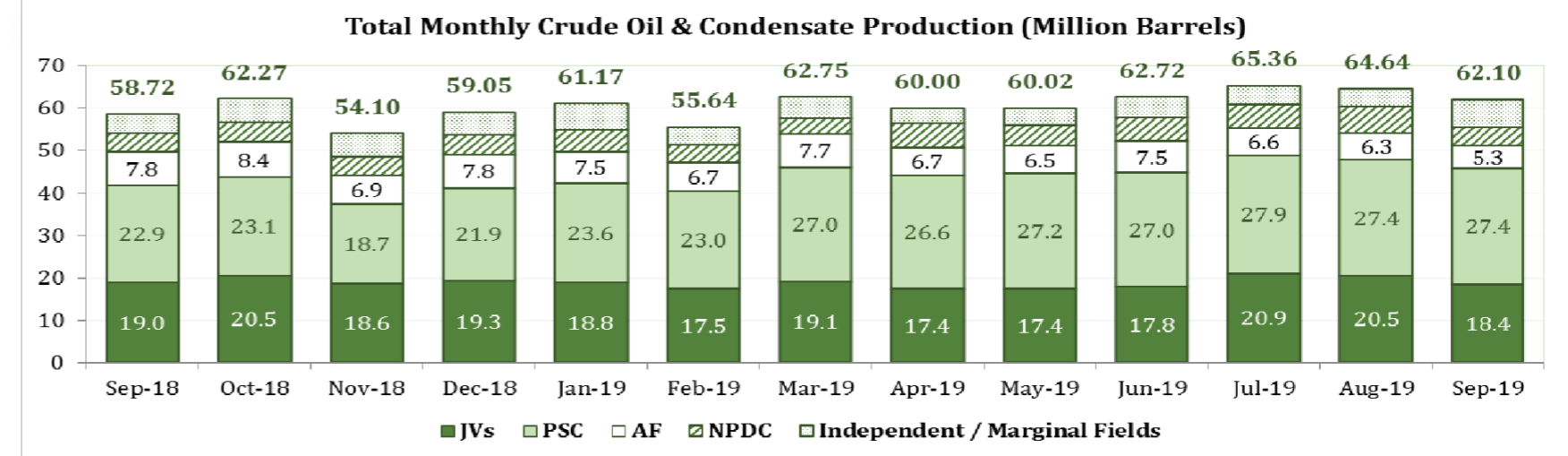
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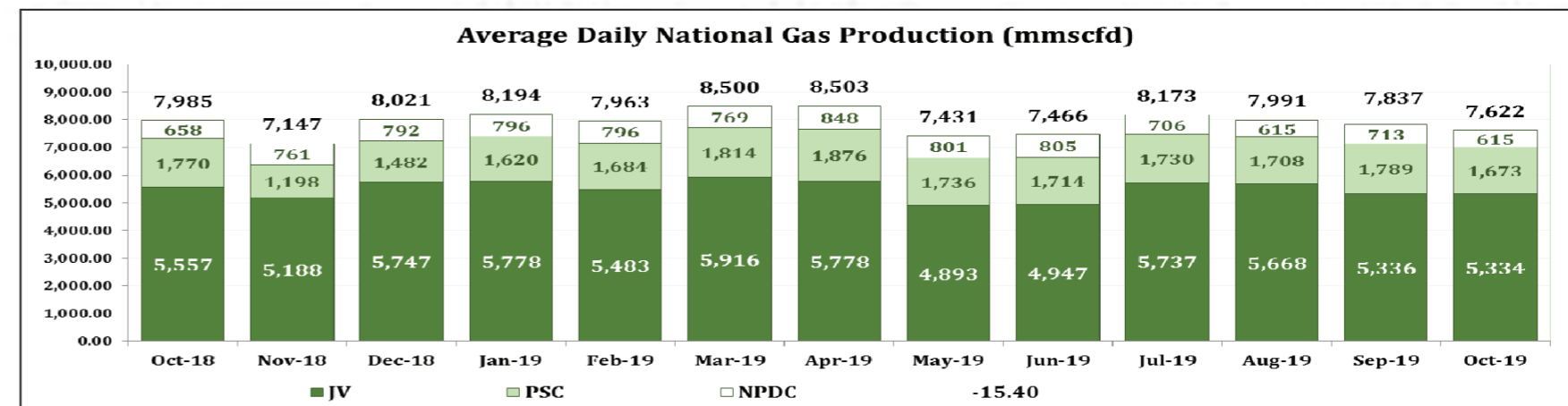
Month	JVs Barrels	PSC Barrels	AF Barrels	NPDC Barrels	Independent / Marginal Fields Barrels	Total Barrels	Average Daily Production Barrels
Sep-18	18,964,640	22,915,115	7,817,183	4,573,419	4,447,270	58,717,627	1,957,254
Oct-18	20,536,053	23,092,627	8,420,600	4,719,450	5,501,515	62,270,245	2,008,718
Nov-18	18,612,068	18,745,390	6,900,890	4,410,454	5,428,523	54,097,325	1,803,244
Dec-18	19,349,575	21,901,114	7,790,576	4,719,450	5,288,429	59,049,144	1,904,811
Jan-19	18,822,538	23,581,458	7,483,749	4,946,892	6,334,359	61,168,995	1,973,193
Feb-19	17,486,614	22,957,771	6,673,108	4,346,424	4,178,816	55,642,733	1,987,240
Mar-19	19,120,775	27,045,491	7,724,090	3,894,652	4,961,504	62,746,512	2,024,081
Apr-19	17,442,808	26,638,336	6,731,332	5,676,252	3,508,973	59,997,701	1,935,410
May-19	17,402,590	27,248,246	6,464,447	4,875,061	4,029,966	60,020,310	1,936,139
Jun-19	17,815,332	26,978,405	7,529,665	5,665,192	4,728,791	62,717,385	2,090,580
Jul-19	20,925,923	27,914,006	6,558,131	5,548,452	4,414,862	65,361,374	2,108,431
Aug-19	20,456,210	27,392,883	6,292,482	6,312,535	4,186,431	64,640,541	2,085,179
Sep-19	18,444,962	27,425,205	5,258,304	4,350,850	6,620,481	62,099,802	2,069,993
PTD	245,380,088	323,836,046	91,644,557	64,039,084	63,629,919	788,529,693	25,884,274

FISCAL ARRANGEMENT

PRODUCTION



PERIOD	JV mmscfd	PSC mmscfd	NPDC mmscfd	TOTAL mmscfd
Oct-18	5,556.75	1,769.72	658.32	7,984.78
Nov-18	5,187.98	1,198.32	760.96	7,147.26
Dec-18	5,746.97	1,482.49	791.75	8,021.21
Jan-19	5,778.46	1,619.95	795.93	8,194.34
Feb-19	5,482.93	1,684.30	795.58	7,962.82
Mar-19	5,916.36	1,814.01	769.21	8,499.58
Apr-19	5,778.09	1,876.31	848.14	8,502.54
May-19	4,893.09	1,736.49	801.38	7,430.96
Jun-19	4,946.80	1,713.90	805.39	7,466.09
Jul-19	5,736.81	1,730.32	705.58	8,172.70
Aug-19	5,668.22	1,708.10	614.63	7,990.95
Sep-19	5,336.22	1,788.60	712.60	7,837.42
Oct-19	5,334.00	1,673.00	615.00	7,622.00
Average	5,489.44	1,676.58	744.19	7,910.20



UPSTREAM VALUE CHAIN

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CITY NEWS

Police nab 4 robbery suspects recover AK-47, pistol in Abuja

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The FCT police command has arrested two suspected armed robbers with AK-47 rifle and a locally made pistol at Kado Estate Junction, Abuja.

A statement by the

command's spokesman, DSP Anjuguri Manzah, said the names of the suspects are Henry Iyamu, 19 and Godwin Babatunde, 21.

He said the suspects were arrested during a stop and search operation by officers

of the rapid response squad in collaboration with the life camp police. He added that live ammunitions and dried leaves suspected to be Indian hemp were also found on them.

He also said the command has arrested another two robbery

suspects, which he gave their names as Udume Gidoen and Daniel Ngwuoke, for robbing a hotel at Jahi, Abuja.

According to him, the suspects were arrested at their hide out in Mararaba, Nasarawa state, saying exhibits recovered

from them included a locally made pistol and a cartridge.

He said efforts were being intensified to arrest one other fleeing gang member that was still at large, saying the suspects would be charged to court upon conclusion of investigation.

Foundation gives scholarships, empowers widows in Jiwa

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The Yakubu Karshi Foundation (YKF) has given scholarships to orphaned students learning at various schools and also empowered some widows in Jiwa community in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

The chairman of the foundation, Alhaji Yakubu Saidu Karshi, while presenting sewing machines and undisclosed cash to the orphaned students at a ceremony in the area on Sunday, said he decided to key into President Muhammadu Buhari's administration's policy of poverty alleviation and human capacity building by giving support to the widows and orphans as well as the vulnerable ones in the society.

Represented by his wife, Hajija Rukaiya Yakubu Saidu, said he decided to give out from the little one God has given him to support the less privileged ones in the society.

He said it was important to reach out to the less privileged to make them productive in the society.

According to him, said the essence of the empowerment is to liberate the orphans, widows and youths from the growing ratio of unemployment and poverty in the council.

He, however, stated that most of the beneficiaries of the empowerment have undergone training, which he said was organized by the foundation before presenting working tools to them to help them become self-reliant.

He added that the beneficiaries of scholarship cut across primary, secondary and tertiary institutions, which he said was aimed at enhancing them to pursue their educational career.

Some of the beneficiaries who spoke to our reporter expressed gratitude and promise to utilize the equipment judiciously.

City news reports that among the items given to the beneficiaries included, sewing machines, designing machines, and clothes.



■ Some choir members of St Mary's Catholic Church during the church's Mass on Sunday at Karu in Abuja

Gunmen kidnap student, mother in Abaji

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Gunmen suspected to be kidnapers have abducted a woman, Mrs. Anbgada Anyinu and her daughter, Favour Anyinu, at Nuku community in Abaji Area Council, Abuja.

Our reporter learnt that the woman's daughter is a 400 level Microbiology undergraduate student of the Federal University of Technology (FUT) Minna, Niger state, who came home for Christmas/New Year break.

A resident, who preferred anonymity said the incident happened around 11:pm when the gunmen in their large numbers with sophisticated

weapons surrounded the house, while the victims were asleep.

He said some of the gunmen entered the house and forced the door open, while the father of the student who sighted the gunmen attempted to escape through the back door but was shot on the hand.

He said it was in the process the gunmen succeeded in abducting the woman and her daughter and taking them to the bush at gun point.

City News recalled that the victims' father and husband, Mr. Shekwolo Anyinu, a retired staff of the FCT Agency for Mass Education was abducted in

July, 2019 by gunmen in the same community. He was, however, freed after payment of ransom.

A member of the victims' family who preferred anonymity, confirmed the abduction of the woman and her daughter.

He said the family has been able to establish contact with the kidnappers, which he said they were demanding for a ransom, which he refused to disclose while speaking with our reporter via telephone yesterday.

"They actually called and they were demanding for a ransom, which I cannot disclose the amount for now

and I personally told them we don't have such money. Because we are yet to finish paying the debt we incurred for the ransom of my brother, Shekwolo Anyinu, who they kidnapped in July last year," he said.

He said Anyinu, who was shot on the hand by the gunmen was currently on admission at an undisclosed hospital.

When contacted, the spokesman of the FCT police command, DSP Anjuguri Manzah, confirmed the kidnap incident, saying the police was investigating the incident, while effort were ongoing to rescue the victims.

Court sentences house servant to 1 year in prison for stealing cell phone

A Wuse Zone 6 Chief Magistrates' Court, Abuja, on Monday sentenced a house servant, Simon Jerry, to one year in prison for stealing a mobile phone valued at N264,000 from his boss.

Jerry, who resides at One-Man Village, Nasarawa State, was sentenced on a count charge of theft, an offence he admitted committing.

The Chief Magistrate, Mr Ibrahim Muhammed, however, gave the convict

an option of N20,000 fine and another N95,000 as compensation for the stolen phone.

He further ordered that the convict would serve another one year sentence, which would run concurrently, if he failed to pay the compensation.

Earlier, the Prosecutor, Silas Nwaforagu, had told the court that one Habib Alkali of Oron Close, Area 1, reported the matter at the Garki Police

Station on Dec. 3. Nwaforagu said that the complainant sometime in Jan. 2019 sent the convict to pick some items for him from his car which he parked at the above address. In addition, the prosecutor said the convict in the process, stole Alkali's Samsung mobile phone in the car valued at N264,000 and ran away to an unknown destination.

He said it was not until Dec. 3, that he was sighted

and arrested at Utako Village.

Nwaforagu said that during police investigation, the convict confessed that he sold the phone for N15,000 to a yet to be identified individual.

He also said the complainant's MTN and Airtel sim cards were also discovered in his possession.

According to him, the offence contravened the provisions of Section 287 of the Penal Code. (NAN)



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HEALTH

Ojoma Akor Health Editor (08066030592) health@dailytrust.com

How to tackle suicide rate among youths - Expert

From Risikat Ramoni, Lagos

In May 2019, a 400 level student of Religion and Culture at the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), Chukwuemeka Akachi, committed suicide. In June 2019, another UNN final year student, Samuel Elias also committed suicide by drinking a poisonous substance. There was an attempted suicide by a 200 level student of the same University, Chinwendu Odoh, in September last year. She drank Sniper but was rushed to the hospital and survived.

Akachi, Elias and Odoh are not the only youths who have died through suicide, attempted it within the last one year.

Experts say there is a disturbing increase in the number of suicides among youths.

Some of them jump from bridges, some hang themselves, and many snipe, a readily available insecticide, such that the product has been banned from the markets. Others continue to use various ways to end their own lives.

Dr Taiwo Lateef Sheikh, a Consultant Psychiatrist at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, said the rate of suicide attempts among adolescents is 12 per 100,000.

Our reporter had a chat with a psychiatrist based in Zaria who explained why there is rise in the incidences of suicide especially among the youth.

Dr Sheikh, who is also the President of the Association of Psychiatrists of Nigeria (APN), said the Suicide Research and Prevention Initiative (SURPIN), which partners with APN has found that about one-fifth of suicide cases seen at its affiliated institution are those aged 13-19 years. He added that 63.5 percent of youths aged 20-39 years were having thoughts of suicide out of which 28.2 percent of them were students.

"We found that the commonest mental health condition among those in crisis that called the hotlines for suicide was depression 36.5 percent, followed by drug abuse 20.0 percent. The commonest stressor was relationship problems 24.7 percent followed by health challenges 21.2 percent, financial 20.0 percent, then other stressors such as academic challenges," he said.

He said studies have found that



the suicide rate in Nigeria rises from 0.6/100,000 among those 14 years and younger to 6.9/100,000 among those aged 15 to 19 years.

While explaining that though suicide is not a new occurrence globally and locally, the psychiatrist however said it is worrisome that youth suicide may be on the rise. This, he added was troubling especially for a country like Nigeria that has a relatively youthful population, that make up a sizeable number and are the major productive age group.

"To lose them to suicide has grave consequences for economic growth," said Dr Sheikh who is also a former Medical Director/CEO of Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Kaduna, and a Harvard Medical School graduate.

The expert linked the increasing suicide rate in the country to lack of effective national suicide prevention strategies and non-passage of the mental health bill.

He explained that a comprehensive suicide prevention policy is a whole document that includes measures such as addressing social, psychological, mental health and infrastructural determinants which involve improvement in mental healthcare services.

Others, he said, are changing of laws, making psychological counselling accessible to those at risk, especially youths, and making suicide methods unavailable or difficult like improving the design of our bridges, roads and rail lines.

Also included are restricting access to chemical agents used to commit suicide and firearms, changing the ways the media report suicide and making it not only patients' friendly but use reporting of suicide to educate the public, among others.

The psychiatrist noted that the passage of the mental health bill on its part, will promote mental well-being, prevent mental illness and guarantee universal access to effective, affordable and culturally acceptable mental health care services for the country.

He said it was also important to develop programmes that would address stigma towards suicide, decriminalize suicide and treat persons who attempt suicide in humane and compassionate manner.

To curb suicidal trend in the country, Sheikh said addressing mental illness and psychosocial disabilities through implementation of national mental health service delivery policy and passage

of the mental health bill are the first step in comprehensive suicide prevention strategy for Nigeria.

He added that decriminalising suicide will encourage those who are suicidal to voice out and seek help.

According to him, only about 300 psychiatrists in Nigeria are serving about 200 million people. The number was linked to brain drain as there are 600 Nigerian trained psychiatrists in the United States of America and Europe.

"Remember that suicide can only be prevented, it cannot be treated! And this prevention is by identifying the determinants of suicide in our country and addressing them appropriately.

"There is considerable over-representation of mental illness (either unrecognised or poorly treated due to lack of access to treatment, medications or mental health professionals) and substance abuse among the causes of suicide in Nigeria," he said.

The psychiatrist urged parents, guardians, schools and religious organisations to be supportive and compassionate to suicidal persons. "Don't be judgmental, avoid negative criticism, avoid blaming, seek help of mental health professionals," he said.

Health tips: What to eat and do when pregnant

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

Experts said observing some health do's and don'ts during pregnancy ensures the health of mother and the fetus.

According to Dr Victor Ohenhen, a Consultant Gynecologist and Obstetrician, a healthy baby and mother are the outcome of the nine-month 'journey' when there is proper health behaviour and adequate diet.

He advised women to eat or do the following when pregnant:

Water- Simple things mean a whole lot during pregnancy. Pregnancy increases your need for water due to a drop in plasma volume that occurs in pregnancy. Water helps to prevent constipation, hemorrhoids and urinary tract infections. It is recommended that

a pregnant woman takes at least 8 cups of water daily.

Fruits and vegetables - The importance of fruits cannot be over emphasized. Fruits like Avocados are an excellent source of vitamin C, E and K. they are also rich in fibers. Spinach and Oranges are rich in folic acid, an important nutrient that helps to prevent neural tube defects during the early phase of pregnancy.

Legumes - Legumes are a superb store of protein, iron, folate and calcium. Examples of legumes are beans, soybeans and groundnuts.

Sweet potato - They are rich in beta-carotene that is converted to Vitamin A which is important for a healthy diet.

Eggs- Eggs are the ideal health food because they contain a little bit of almost

all nutrients. They are a great addition to your meals during pregnancy.

Lean meat- Moderate amounts of beef, pork and chicken are excellent sources of high quality protein.

Exercise- Reasonable degree of physical activity that suits your tolerability is helpful when pregnant. The medical expert also advised that women should not eat or do the following when pregnant:

Alcohol-Alcohol consumption during pregnancy is a harmful habit that has well documented effects on the developing child. Examples of these are birth defects and slow growth of the baby referred to in medicine as intra uterine growth restrictions. Alcohol consumption especially when heavy during pregnancy causes the fetal

alcohol syndrome.

Herbs and Plants- Pregnancy period is not a time to use herbal products or supplements as this may result in very serious conditions in the baby especially congenital defects at birth.

Caffeine - Several studies have shown a link between high amounts of caffeine intake and miscarriages.

Junk food and refined sugars- These are not advised during pregnancy due to their effects on the child. It is important to limit the consumption also of carbonated drinks during pregnancy.

Cigarette smoking- This goes without saying, cigarette smoking generates a number of free radicals which immensely affects the health of the baby.

HEALTH >>

Talk to
DR AMINU MAGASHI

healthinteractive@hotmail.com



Kindly discuss the treatment of Stroke

Thanks for your detailed explanation about stroke in your Daily Trust column last week. It was very educative and helpful. Meanwhile, the article didn't highlight treatment, if any, of stroke. A.A.S.

Thanks for your question and you are right, we did not discuss diagnosis and treatment due to limited space last week. We shall complete it today.

The following is done when a patient with stroke is taken to the hospital:

- Physical examination will be done such as checking blood pressure as well as neurological examination to ascertain how a potential stroke is affecting one's nervous system.
- Blood tests to check for blood clots, blood sugar and any potential infection.
- Computerized tomography (CT) scan.
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).
- Cerebral angiogram.
- Echocardiogram.

Some treatment options

Emergency treatment for stroke depends on whether one is having an ischemic stroke or a stroke that involves bleeding into the brain (hemorrhagic). Last week we discussed the two types in detail.

Ischemic stroke: To treat an ischemic stroke, blood flow must quickly be restored to the brain. This may be done by doing:

- Emergency Intravenous (IV) medication. Therapy with drugs that can break up a clot has to be given within 4-5 hours from when symptoms first started if given intravenously.
- Emergency endovascular procedures. Doctors sometimes treat ischemic strokes directly inside the blocked blood vessel. Endovascular therapy has been shown to significantly improve outcomes and reduce long-term disability after ischemic stroke.
- Medications delivered directly to the brain. Doctors insert a long, thin tube (catheter) through an artery in the patient's groin and thread it to the brain to deliver medications directly where the stroke is happening.
- Removing the clot with a stent retriever. Doctors can use a device attached to a catheter to directly remove the clot from the blocked blood vessel in the brain.
- Other procedures to decrease

the risk of having another stroke or transient ischemic attack may be recommended such as opening up an artery that is narrowed by a plaque.

Haemorrhagic stroke: Emergency treatment of haemorrhagic stroke focuses on controlling the bleeding and reducing pressure in the brain caused by the excess fluid. Treatment options include:

- **Emergency measures:** If one takes blood-thinning medications to prevent blood clots, one may be given drugs or transfusions of blood products to counteract the

blood thinners' effects. One may also be given drugs to lower the pressure in the brain (intracranial pressure), lower the blood pressure, prevent spasms of the blood vessels and prevent seizures.

• **Surgery:** If the area of bleeding is large, doctor may perform surgery to remove the blood and relieve pressure on the brain. Surgery may also be used to repair blood vessel problems associated with haemorrhagic strokes.

• **Surgical clipping:** A surgeon places a tiny clamp at the base of the aneurysm, to stop blood flow to it.

• **Coiling (endovascular embolization):** Using a catheter inserted into an artery in the groin and guided to the brain, the surgeon will place tiny detachable coils into the aneurysm to fill it.

Stroke recovery and rehabilitation

- After emergency treatment, a stroke patient will be closely monitored for at least a day. After that, stroke care focuses on helping one recover as much function as possible and return to independent living. The impact of the stroke depends on the area of the brain involved and the amount of tissue damaged.
- If stroke affected the right side of the brain, movement and sensation on the left side of the body may be affected. If stroke damaged the brain tissue on the left side of the brain, movement and sensation on the right side of the body may be affected. Brain damage to the left side of the brain may cause speech and language disorders.
- Most stroke survivors go to a rehabilitation programme. Rehabilitation may begin before one leaves the hospital. After discharge, might continue the programme in a rehabilitation as an outpatient, or at home.



Scientists find 'missing link' in allergic reactions to popular skin creams

Scientists have discovered a specific protein that triggers allergic reactions when it comes into contact with fragrances common in cosmetic products.

It can send immune cells into overdrive when people use skin creams, body washes, lotions, shampoos - and even toothpastes.

The breakthrough could help stem soaring cases of rashes, lumps, blisters, itchy eyes and facial swellings. It has been dubbed the 'molecular missing link'.

An average woman uses 12 cosmetic items a day - containing an estimated 168 different chemicals.

And as these products become increasingly common, scientists have noted that contact dermatitis - a kind of allergic reaction that causes a red, itchy rash skin touches certain substances - has also been on the rise.

The key protein, called CD1a, is found in immune cells that form the outer layer of human skin. It offers hope of developing drugs that block it.

Experiments showed it binds directly to allergens, or irritants, found in personal care products - triggering the immune system's T cells.

These white blood cells kill foreign invaders. Allergies stem from mistaken identity, when they respond to benign substances that would otherwise be harmless.

Co senior author Professor David Branch Moody, of the division of rheumatology, inflammation and immunity at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the United States, explained: "What we present here is a molecular missing link."

Compounds found in skin creams and other cosmetics can cause ACD (allergic contact dermatitis), he said.

The common condition is on the rise, particularly in industrialized countries. But the exact reasons remain unclear.

Most allergies involving T cells are attributed to proteins or synthetically produced peptide antigens that set off the immune system.

But chemicals



found in personal care products are different kinds of molecules that were not thought to be able to directly elicit a reaction.

The latest findings, published in the journal Science Immunology, uncover the way in which components of everyday consumer products do just this.

They shed light on the mystery behind the rise in cases of ACD, say the international team.

Prof Moody said: "We questioned the prevailing paradigm that T cell-mediated allergic reaction is only triggered when T cells respond to proteins or peptide antigens.

"We find a mechanism through which fragrance can initiate a T cell response through a protein called CD1a."

Dermatologists have been puzzled for years as to how allergies are triggered by many substances found in soaps, cosmetics, fragrances, jewelry and plants.

The molecules were thought to be too small and of the wrong chemical structure to be detected directly by T cells - the immune cells that fuel ACD.

Co study leader Dr Annemieke de Jong, a skin immunologist at Columbia University, New York, and colleagues wondered if there might be another explanation.

So first author Dr Sarah Nicolai, MD, a research fellow in medicine at

Brigham, exposed T cells to material from skin patch testing kits used in allergy clinics.

This showed they responded to certain substances including balsam of Peru - widely used in cosmetics and toothpaste.

The researchers further identified ingredients within the tree oil - benzyl benzoate and benzyl cinnamate - that were directly responsible for stimulating the reaction.

They also tested similar substances and found a dozen small molecules that appeared to elicit a response.

These included farnesol - an alcohol used in a host of products including deodorants, anti-ageing creams, shower gels and shampoos.

Using scanning techniques, further analysis by investigators at Monash University, Melbourne, revealed farnesol and CD1a combine to destroy naturally occurring blood fats. This makes the protein more visible to T cells - helping to activate them.

The researchers now plan to see if patients commonly have T cells that recognise molecules like farnesol.

They also seeking new molecules that could block the response of CD1a and override the activation of T cells. Work is currently underway to identify promising compounds.

-Mail Online

STRANGE STORIES

Who keeps leaving cash bundles of £2,000 around a small village?

...Only for residents to repeatedly hand them in to police



■ DC John Foster of Durham Police holds up an evidence, a bag full of the mystery cash



■ DC Foster revealed that if no one claims the money, it will be given back to the person who handed it in to the police



■ Since 2014, 12 packages of £20 notes have been left in plain sight in the streets.

Local cops are still scratching their heads as they probe where the cash is coming from

pavements and in plain sight but always at different spots.

Local cops are still scratching their heads as they probe where the cash is coming from.

Detective Constable John Forster said officers have quizzed several local residents and organisations in the village, as well as carrying out checks with the local bank and post office.

They have even tested for fingerprints but have yet to find answers.

DC Foster said: "This is the fourth bundle handed in this year.

"This could be the work

of a Good Samaritan but we would like to thank the residents who have shown incredible community spirit by handing the money in.

"The circumstances remain a mystery so we would welcome any information that will help us get to the bottom of these random incidents."

Police believe it is not part of a crime operation and have ruled out the likelihood of it coming from drug dealing or money launderers.

DC Foster added: "County Durham and Darlington remains a relatively safe place to live or work and that area is not worse than anywhere else.

"I am massively impressed with the local community who have brought the money in.

"We would have to assume there is some money that has not been handed in, but every single one of the families that handed the cash in have been absolutely spot on and so humble, as well.

"First and foremost they wanted to return the money to someone who had lost it.

"It isn't an affluent part of the world, so for them to find cash and that amount to instantly think about taking it to the police station shows the community spirit there is and the strength of the personalities and characters that are there."

He said if no one claims the money after a period of time it is awarded to the person who found it and handed it in.

— Culled from thesun.co.uk

Residents of a village have been left baffled by large rolls of £20 notes - adding up to around £2,000 (about N752,000) - which keep appearing

in plain sight in County Durham, a seaside village.

Twelve bundles have so far surfaced and been handed to police since 2014 - four of them this year.

Cops believe the packets could have been left by a Good Samaritan.

The cash usually mysteriously appears on

A man has been caught on camera stealing money from a four-year-old girl at an ATM minutes after allegedly "shoving" an elderly woman to the floor before taking her purse.

CCTV footage captured the suspect "grab" a wad of bank notes from the child's hand just after she takes it from the machine where she was being helped by her mother, who also had a five-month-old in a pushchair, police in New York said.

He can then be seen fleeing the scene with \$300 (about N92,000) and the child's glove.

Just eight minutes earlier, a suspect with the same description "shoved" an 81-year-old woman to the floor before taking her purse, investigators said, adding that the victim was left with bruising and pain to her back and left wrist.

Man robs from four-year-old girl at ATM after 'shoving woman, 81, to ground' and taking her purse

The woman was taken to a nearby hospital in a stable condition. Among the items inside her purse were \$65 (about N20,000), a cell phone and her medication.

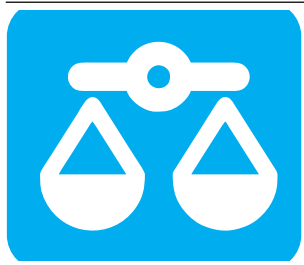
New York's City Police Department is now appealing for the public to help them locate and identify the individual wanted in connection to the robberies, both of which occurred within the confines of the 20th Precinct.

The individual is described as a black male between 20 and 25 years old. He was last seen wearing a black hooded sweater, a green flight jacket, grey sweatpants and grey sneakers.

— Culled from independent.co.uk



■ Scene of the robbery at the ATM



LAW

Legal Quotes >>

There are series of issues that persist in our elections and precisely because of that, the litigations continue to increase.
- Prof Jibrin Ibrahim of CDD

Major events that will shape judiciary in 2020

By John Chuks Azu &
Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

Trial of Fani-Kayode, Nenadi Usman continues of Feb 5

The ongoing trial of former Aviation Minister, Femi Fani-Kayode and three others before a Federal High Court in Lagos is expected to resume February 5, 2020.

Fani-Kayode is facing charges bordering on money laundering valued at N4.6 billion alongside former Minister of State for Finance, Nenadi Usman and Yusuf Danjuma, a former Chairman of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON). The fourth defendant in the charge is a company, Jointrust Dimensions Nigeria Ltd.

Feb 5 Trial of Justice Ofil-Ajumogobia set to resume Feb 6

The trial of former judge of the Lagos Division of the Federal High Court, Justice Rita Ofil-Ajumogobia, on a 17-count charge of money laundering is set to resume on February 6 after the court earlier stayed the proceedings against the defendants.

Judgment in Olisa Metuh's trial

Judgment in the case of former PDP spokesman, Olisa Metuh before a Federal High Court in Abuja has been fixed for February 26. Metuh was charged in February 2016 with money laundering alongside his company, Destra Investment Ltd, after he allegedly received the sum of N400m from former NSA Dasuki funds meant for purchase of arms.

Omoyele Sowore's trial continues

The trial of Omoyele Sowore is fixed for February 11 and 12 before the Federal High Court in Abuja following his arraignment on allegations bordering on treason, money laundering, cybercrimes and insulting the president.

The former presidential candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC) and publisher of the online newspaper Sahara Reporters, was first arrested and brought to court on August 8, 2019 by the Department

The trial of some politically exposed individuals like Sambo Dasuki, Activist Omoyele Sowore, and the fate of the leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), Ibrahim Zakzaky are some of the judicial cases and events which will catch the attention of Nigerians in 2020. Excerpts:



■ Diezani Alison-Madueke

of State Services after his #RevolutionNow called for nationwide protest over alleged bad governance in the country. He was released on December 24, 2019 after the Federal Government initially failed to obey two court orders for his release.

Col. Sambo Dasuki trial expected to resume

Dasuki's trial is expected to resume in 2020 following his release by the Federal Government on December 24, 2019 after four years in detention.

Dasuki was first arraigned on September 1, 2015 on allegations of illegal possession of firearms before a Federal High Court in Abuja. He was later charged with allegations of money laundering to the tune of \$2.1bn before two separate FCT High Courts.

However, after the Federal Government failed to comply with several orders for his release, on November 13, 2018, he staged a protest in court when he submitted a letter to presiding judge, Justice Ahmed Ramat Mohammed, that he will no longer make himself available for trial following the "brazen violation" of his constitutional right to liberty.

On November 14, 2019, the prosecuting counsel in one of the cases, Rotimi Jacobs (SAN), informed the court of an application to separate Dasuki



■ Ibrahim Zakzaky

from the trial with others including a former Group Executive Director at the NNPC, Aminu Baba Kusa; Acacia Holdings Limited and Reliance Referral Hospital. He also said there was an application on November 4, 2019 seeking to begin Dasuki's trial in absentia.

Trial or bail of El-Zakzaky

The trial of the leader of the proscribed Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), Ibrahim Zakzaky, before High Court in Kaduna is expected to begin on February 6.

Zakzaky and his wife, Zeenat are standing trial over allegations of culpable homicide, unlawful assembly and disruption of public peace, among other charges, in another court.

There have been calls for Zakzaky's release after a botched medical trip to India last year. The Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami (SAN) had last December hinted that he was not released alongside Dasuki and Sowore because of his prosecution by the Kaduna State government.

Enforcement of pension judgment against ex-govs

Following an order by a Federal High Court in Lagos directing the Attorney General of the Federation to recover pension funds paid to former governors who are still serving ministers and members of the



■ Olisa Metuh

National Assembly or holding other public offices, the applicant, SERAP, is expected to see the enforcement of the order in 2020.

So far, Ekiti State governor Dr. Kayode Fayemi and Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige, and Minister of Works and Housing Babatunde Fashola have denied ever receiving double payments and retirement benefits as former governors in addition to other emoluments in other public offices.

At least 22 states, beginning with Lagos State, have passed life pensions laws for former governors and other ex-public officials.

EFCC to resume Diezani's trial?

Contrary to media reports, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has said that it did not drop the charges against a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke and other persons, indicted for money laundering before a Federal High Court in Lagos.

The charges were first filed on November 28, 2018 but efforts to arraign the defendants have failed. The other defendants, Lanre Adesanya, Nnamdi Okonkwo and Stanley Lawson, have also failed to appear for the arraignment.

The anti-graft agency said

it "took a deliberate decision to separately prosecute the defendants in different courts. This explains why the four-count amended charge brought against Dauda Lawal, a former executive director of First Bank, did not include other defendants, except the two who are at large (Diezani Alison-Madueke and Ben Otti)."

FG vows to stop \$9.8b judgment against Nigeria over gas deal

As the new year kicks off, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami (SAN), has expressed the determination of the Federal Government to nullify the \$9.8bn arbitral award in favour Process and Industrial Development Limited (P&ID) against Nigeria over alleged breach of a 20-year Gas Supply Processing Agreement (GSPA). The Federal Government has filed an application in UK and USA challenging the awards while it charged several officials of P&ID and Nigerian ministry officials involved in the deal before courts in Abuja.

Ex-govs Jang, others to face trial Former governor of Plateau State, Jonah Jang on December 31 lost his bid to stop his trial before a Plateau State High Court in Jos on charges of money laundering to the tune of N6.32 billion, alongside a former cashier in the office of the Secretary to the State Government, Yusuf Pam. The presiding judge, Justice Daniel Longji ordered them to face trial after rejecting their no-case submission.

Following the conviction and sentencing of former governor of Abia State, Orji Uzor Kalu, on December 5, 2019, the Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami disclosed that 22 other governors and other public officials are facing corruption probe.

Laws school alumni raises alarm over curriculum

By John Chuks Azu

Members of the 2007 Faculty of Law of the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State have expressed concern that the syllabus for Law being taught in the school saying that it may not be adequate for the demands of contemporary law

practice.

The alumni, which disclosed this at its reunion dinner tagged 'Reconvene 2019', said students must be exposed to the challenges in contemporary law practice through the curriculum.

They, therefore, set up a committee to reach out to the Faculty by organizing

seminars, trainings, and symposium "that will expose students to what is required of them as future lawyers in an ever-changing modern legal practice."

A member of the committee, Bimbo Atitebi, said the work of the committee was to seek resources for the first seminar, which is expected to hold in the

first quarter of 2020.

"The aim of this seminars is to prepare them for life of post-university/law school and put them in good stead for the labour or entrepreneurial market. Speakers will share their respective experiences and provide relevant advice that will help the students in their careers," she said.

THE ADVOCATE
WITH DANIEL BULUSSON

danielbulusson@gmail.com



Slow growth of Lawyers in the industry

Litigation happens to be the most practiced area of law in Nigeria, primarily because focus on who a practicing lawyer is has been restricted to lawyers who go to court on frequent basis. Now, with the influx of at least 3,000 lawyers being called to the Nigerian Bar, one will think that the courtrooms will be overcrowded with young legal professionals; sadly, these young lawyers do not last long in litigation due to one reason or the other.

Personally, I encourage legal professionals to expand the frontiers of the legal industry by engaging in other specialized areas of law. But then, ask a lawyer on call to bar about a career path, 90 percent will say they want to bring justice to the system through a career in litigation. Ask the same lawyers a year into the profession, and only a handful will maintain this confession.

Which begs the question, what are the reasons for the slow and stunted growth of lawyers in the legal industry? Nwafor Orizu Nnenna Blossom Esq. has submitted a whole article for the reason why new wigs flee litigation and salaried employment in law firms. In her words:

“Maltreatment from senior lawyers: A lot of senior lawyers disguise under the clothing of a disciplinarian to humiliate junior colleagues under their employ. They engage these young lawyers in domestic activities outside the scope of their employment, some work over the weekend running errands with no overtime pay. Many young lawyers have this psycho mentality that the seniors are doing them a favor by employing them, and being caught up in this web make a number of young lawyers lose self confidence in the judicial system.

“Lack of confidence in a young lawyer’s ability: Many young lawyers spend years in a law firm and never get a chance to appear alone. They only bow down to my lord, take down dates in diary, and other relevant notes and carry clients’ file. This is so because their principals don’t have confidence in them and this kills the self-confidence of young lawyers especially when they have put in a lot of time in preparing pleadings and lacing the arguments with recent cases and authorities. For such a lawyer, legal practice can be discouraging and can trigger a quest for legal independence so as to attain a chance to speak in court.

“Paltry stipends: As has been rightly said overtime in the profession, no lawyer can ever be paid fully for the

services he/she renders. Then again, there is another side to the coin called reasonable pay. Sadly, a lot of young lawyers earn stipends in the name of salaries. Studies have shown that an employee puts in their best when treated well and rewarded appropriately, but in Nigeria we want the best from the lawyer but not ready to pay adequately.”

Nnenna Blossom, Esq is a young wig who has become frustrated by an atmosphere of a legal industry that is unfavorable to young legal professionals across Nigeria, and I actually don’t blame her for feeling the way she feels. Truth be told, pupillage is important once entering into the legal profession. Secondly, litigation is also good for the development of a lawyer’s charisma, advocacy and confidence, but then the system is not structured in a way that allows a young legal professional to get the best of both worlds.

We have so many half-baked law firms littering the legal industry because a lawyer got tired of being treated as a slave under the guise of employment or learning the trade, without the requisite experience to be a principal partner of a law firm. It is important to state that there are law firms in Nigeria who take the welfare and capacity building of their employees very sacred. Unfortunately, these firms are so few to make the necessary impact in the legal industry.

Legal professionals in Nigeria should pay attention to partnership as a viable means to establishing a law firm. If a young lawyer wants to be independent and still practices litigation, look for other lawyers in that category and establish a firm together. If a lawyer wants to expand the frontiers of the profession by exploring other areas of law and yet wishes to still be in touch with litigation, find a colleague interested in litigation and work out a partnership together.

In sum, focus only on the problems of the Nigerian legal industry without proffering solutions is only going to leave the millennial lawyers in an atmosphere worse than it is today. The seniors of the profession have played their part whether good or bad, it is time for the younger generation to make the future better by doing things differently.

Godspeed!

Do send your comment[s], observation[s] and recommendation[s] to danielbulusson@gmail.com or like us on www.facebook.com/theadvocatewithdanielbulusson

Laws not problem of elections in Nigeria - Nwankwo

Clement Nwankwo Esq. is a lawyer with 35 years post-call experience and also the convener of the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room, which has its focus on credible elections in Nigeria. In this interview, he speaks on the extant legal framework for election in Nigeria, calls for special courts for corruption cases, among others. Excerpts:

By Clement A. Oloyede

Do you consider the extant legal framework as the bane of credible elections in Nigeria?

No. I think the bane is more of the politician, especially incumbents who use their offices and the institutions of state to abuse the electoral process and these incumbents are at both federal and state levels. The electoral law has its challenges and shortcomings. I think every effort is being made to try to address this through amendments, and I think each time we have an election, we need to identify what the challenges have been in the election and see whether those challenges are man-made or induced by the gaps or lapses in the law. Certainly, where there are gaps in the law, amendments should be made but most of the problems have come from the attitudes of the politicians who want to abuse the electoral process.

Do you mean that if the politicians and stakeholders stick to the letters of the Electoral Act we will have credible elections?

No. Certainly, we do have need even with the most recent election in Kogi and Bayelsa. There are shortcomings in the law and these shortcomings include the ones that have made it difficult in the past to sight the technology improvement that INEC has tried to put in place. These shortcomings disallow those improvements to be cited as part of evidence in court including issues related to collation. You will notice that in the Rivers governorship case in 2015, issues of server and use of card readers were not acknowledged by the Supreme Court as part of the legal process, and then in 2019 elections as well, in the final judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of Buhari and Atiku, you also heard the court saying that the use of servers was not part of the electoral law requirements.

Are you suggesting that judiciary have not really been in tune with development especially as it relates to technology?

The judiciary is just telling the law as it is. In fact, there are concerns about the judiciary and you know what the concerns include the court interfering even with the internal process of selecting candidate by the political parties. Those are challenges we are faced with and concerns about politician infiltrating the



■ Clement Nwankwo Esq

judicial process while the judges are not insulating themselves from politics and influences of politicians.

Do you think we need new laws to bring electoral perpetrators to book?

It is not a new law. Electoral offences are already in the law. I think what people are asking is do we need a new commission? Certainly, we do. I think part of the problem is nobody seems to own the process of arresting and prosecuting election offenders and these time as we speak, the police are too busy on election day.

You know 90 percent of police deployed on election days are unarmed because the law says there should not be arms within the vicinity of polling units and as such, you need an electoral offence commission that takes upon itself the charge of apprehending and prosecuting those violating electoral laws, and that’s what we have been advocating for a very long time. But of course, they should be charged to the regular court.

In advocating for electoral offence commission, we are not advocating for a tribunal as well because a tribunal is a special court and I have my reservations about special courts. Special courts tend to be orientated about conviction as if it is the court that is an ad-hoc creation of the executive to use in getting the desired result and I think that in a terrain like ours, where politics tends to infiltrate democratic institution, we should be very careful in advocating for special courts for any purpose at all.

What is your position on the President’s call for a special court specifically for corruption cases?

Again, I must say that we have to be very careful about the concept of special courts.

I think a lot of work has been done to create awareness about corruption and I think that the mindset among Nigerians is to find a way of bringing corruption to an end or at least, minimize it significantly. I think that we cannot keep creating special responses to big problems. What we need is to strengthen the courts to respond much more quickly to the issue of whatever nature of crime.

The recent moves to enact a law against hate speech and the social media bill have generated a lot of discussion in the country. Which role can the judiciary play in stemming the tide of hate speech?

I think we need to go into the existing laws. Part of the problem may be that the existing laws may be outdated. If you look at the laws or courts, if someone has been charged for hate speech, libel or defamation, it’s aailable offense.

Situations where you have the likes of Agba Jalingo and several others, who were charged for putting up a post on social media. A situation where you do have them being charged and courts giving impossible bail conditions or refusing to grant bail is evil.

No judge should in good conscience give bail conditions that they know cannot be fulfilled because the duties of a judge is to do justice to all. You don’t exist as a judge to please the powers that be.

So when a judge gives harsh bail conditions, then that judge is not serving justice to the best of what the law expects and no judge should feel they can sleep soundly when they perpetuate injustice. So, the judges must pull away from being used by governments to perpetuate injustice. That’s the most important thing.



UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA

INVITATION TO TENDER

INTRODUCTION

The University of Lagos a Federal Tertiary Institution established by the University of Lagos Act, 1967 (as amended) CAP U9 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004 and having its main campus at Akoka, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria is desirous of embarking on the under-listed projects. The sources of fund shall be NEEDS ASSESMENT/ FGN CAPITAL APPROPRIATION/ AUXILIARY FUND. Interested and reputable bidders are hereby invited to participate in the tender exercise for the projects as described hereunder:

Lot	Projects	Scope	Contract No	Non-Refundable Prequalification fee
1.	Rehabilitation of Faculty of Engineering Roof	Replacement of collapsing boards, roofing sheets and repair of leaking roof.	UL/ PU/2020/01	₦ 10,000.00
2.	Rehabilitation of Damaged Sewer lift Station Pumps	Replacement of Sewer lines, manholes and refurbishment of sewage lift stations. Procurement of waste bins	UL/ PU/2020/02	₦ 10,000.00
3.	Rehabilitation of Electrical Supply and Distribution	Rehabilitation of Electrical Supply and Distribution	UL/ PU/2020/03	₦ 10,000.00
4.	Supply of Vehicles	Supply of Vehicles	UL/ PU/2019/04	₦ 10,000.00

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL LOTS

Bidders are mandated to submit the documents listed hereunder as same shall comprise the Technical documents:

- Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including Form CAC2 and CAC7.
- Evidence of Company Income's Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years (2016, 2017 and 2018) expiring December 31, 2019.
- Evidence of current Pension Compliance **Certificate** expiring December 31, 2019 issued by the National Pension Commission (PENCOM).
- Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (I.T.F.) **Compliance Certificate** expiring December 31, 2019.
- Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) **Compliance Certificate** expiring December 31, 2019.
- Evidence of registration on the National Data Base of Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by inclusion of Interim Registration Report (IRR) valid for 2020 or valid Certificate issued by the Bureau of Public Procurement. (BPP).
- Current Sworn Affidavit certifying as follows:
 - The company is not in receivership, subject of any form of insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings or the subject of any form of winding up petition or proceedings.
 - The company does not have any director who has been convicted by any court in Nigeria and any other country for criminal offences in relation to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation or falsification of facts relating to any matter.
 - That no officer of the University of Lagos or BPP is a former or present director or shareholder of the company or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder.
 - That all information presented in the documents are true and correct in all particulars.
- Company's Audited Accounts for the last three years (2016, 2017, 2018).
- Company Profile with the Curriculum Vitae of key Staff to be deployed for the project.
- Verifiable documentary evidence of similar jobs executed in the last five (5) years including Letters of awards, Valuation Certificates, Job Completion Certificates and Photographs of the projects.
- For Joint Venture / Partnership, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be provided (all the eligibility requirements are compulsory for each Joint Venture (JV) partners.
- All documents for submission must be transmitted with a covering / forwarding letter under the Company/ Firm's Letter Head Paper bearing amongst others, the Registration Number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Contact Address, Telephone Number (preferably GSM No), and email address.

Other mandatory requirements for Lots 1, 2 & 3 are listed as follows:

In respect of LOT 1 –

- Bidders shall have an average annual turnover of not less than ₦30,000,000.00 (Thirty Million Naira Only).
- Evidence of having at least one (1) COREN Registered Civil / Structural Engineer with practicing license valid for 2019. (Copy of COREN

Certificate and Current practicing licence of the personnel must be attached).

In respect of LOT 2 -

- Bidders shall have an average annual turnover of not less than ₦20,000,000.00 (Twenty Million Naira Only).
- Evidence of having at least one (1) COREN Registered Mechanical Engineer with practicing license valid for 2019. (Copy of COREN Certificate and Current practicing licence of the personnel must be attached).

In respect of LOT 3 -

- Bidders shall have an average annual turnover of not less than ₦25,000,000.00 (Twenty Five Million Naira Only).
- Evidence of having at least one (1) COREN Registered Electrical Engineer with practicing license valid for 2019 (copy of COREN Certificate and Current practicing licence of the personnel must be attached).

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested companies are to collect Standard Bidding Document (SBD) from the Office of the Head of Procurement Unit, Room 806, 8th Floor, Senate House, University of Lagos Akoka, Yaba, Lagos on evidence of payment of a non- refundable fee of ₦10, 000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only. For payment, visit www.unilag.edu.ng, click on "UNILAG payment portal" link to generate a slip containing Remitta Retrieval Reference (RRR) number, proceed to any commercial bank for payment. Go to UNILAG cash office to obtain official receipt.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Prospective bidders are to submit bid for each of the Lot desired, two (2) hard copies each of the Technical and Financial bids packaged separately in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "Technical Bid "or "Financial Bid". Thereafter, put the two sealed envelopes together in a bigger sealed envelope addressed to the Registrar, 5th Floor Senate Building, Council Affairs Office Room 524, University of Lagos, Akoka and clearly marked with the name of the project and lot number. Furthermore, the reverse of each sealed envelope should have the name and address of the bidder and address of the bidder and submit at the 5th Floor Senate Building, Council Affairs Office Room 524, University of Lagos, Akoka not be later than **10 a.m. on Tuesday, 25th February, 2020.**

OPENING OF TECHNICAL BIDS

The Technical bids will be opened immediately following the deadline for the submission of bids at **10:00 am on Tuesday, 25th February, 2020 at the Public Procurement Research Centre, Opposite Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lagos** in the presence of all bidders and interested members of the public while the Financial bids will be kept un-opened. Please ensure that you sign the bid Submission Register at the point of submission. .

For clarification on the advertisement:

Please send an email to procurementunit@unilag.edu.ng.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Bids must be in English Language and signed by an official authorized by the bidder.
- All pre-qualified bidders will be contacted at a later date for financial bid opening.
- Failure to comply with the above requirements shall automatically result in the disqualification of a bidder.
- The University Management reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any claim made in the Tender documents submitted by bidders.
- The University Management reserves the right to annul the selection process at any time without incurring any liabilities and attributing any reason thereof.
- The University shall not be responsible for any cost incurred by the bidders in connection with response to this advertisement.
- Participation in this process and any related process neither creates any commitment nor establishes any legal relationship with the University of Lagos. It is merely a precondition for further consideration of the Tender.

Oladejo Azeez, Esq.
Registrar & Secretary to Council



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AKINJEJI: I, formerly known as **MISS MUSTAPHA ELIZABETH TINUKE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS AKINJEJI ELIZABETH TINUKE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MOSES: I, formerly known as **MOSES ESTHER APEH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOSES ESTHER ENUWA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

JIBRIN: I, formerly known as **JIBRIN MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JIBRIN MUHAMMED KYARAMA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

KANOBA: I formerly known and addressed as **OCHOLI FELICIA** now wish to be known and addressed as **KADIRI FATIMAT KANOBA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note

MARYAM: I formerly known and addressed as **MARIAN TUNGA TUNGA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MARYAM ABDULMUMUNI**. All former documents remain valid, general public and bank please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **HAMISU HASSAN MUNTARI** wish to be known and addressed as **HAMISU HASSAN**, all former documents remain valid, All authorities concerned and General public please take note.

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

HADASSAH: I, formerly known as **ASENATH AMOS DANIELS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HADASSAH AMOS DANIELS**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

SIYONA: I, formerly known as **AGNES USAINI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SIYONA GAMBO**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

PRECIOUS: I formerly known and addressed as **IKHALUMHE PATIENCE** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. AROYAME PRECIOUS**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I Formerly known as **SURAJO SANI GARBA** now wish to be known And addressed as **SURAJO SANI GUSAU**, all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly known and addressed as **MUSTAPHA KABIR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SHAFIU BELLO**, all former documents remain valid, All authorities concerned and General public please take note.

GLORY: I, formerly known as **MICHAEL GLORY OMONIYI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ONLYGOD GLORY OMONIYI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

UKOHA: I, formerly known as **OGUNSOLUJU MARY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **UKOHA TOYIN MARY**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

YUNUSA: I, formerly known as **YUNUSA MOHD** and **YUNUSA MUHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YUNUSA MOHAMMED**. And that my date of birth is **15 -4 -1982**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

JAMES: I formerly known and addressed as **ASUNOMHE JAMES** now wish to be known and addressed as **DELE JAMES**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I Formerly known as **ABDULRAZAK SIDI YAHAIYA** Now Wish to be known And addressed as **ABDULRAZAK SIDI**. All former documents remain valid date of birth 11/03/1982 And general public should take note

I formerly known and addressed as **1. IBRAHIM USMAN 2. IBRAHIM USMAN MACHIKA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM USMAN MACHIKA**, all former documents remain valid, All authorities concerned and General public please take note.

CARINE: I, formerly known as **ECHÉ CARINE ESTHER** now wish to be known and addressed as **ESTHER CARINE ADEDEJI SOLOMON**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

BAMIDELE: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **ADESINA OLUWATOSINMILE ADEPEJU** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **BAMIDELE OLUWATOSINMILE ADEPEJU**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINED VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

BULUS: I, formerly known as **MARTHA NICHOLAS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BULUS MARTHA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

TRACY: I formerly known and addressed as **OSSAI NWAKEGO** now wish to be known and addressed as **OSSAI TRACY**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I Formerly known as **ASHIRU SA'IDU SHEHU** now Wish to be known And addressed as **ASHIRU SHEHU ANKA**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I formerly known and addressed as **SABI'U MUHAMMAD ABDULLAHI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SABI'U MUHAMMAD**, all former documents remain valid, All authorities concerned and General public please take note.

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

GBANDE: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **TAVERSHEMA WINIFRED HEMBAFAN** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **GBANDE WINIFRED HEMBAFAN**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINED VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

HAMZA: I, formerly known as **HAMZA MUHAMMAD KACHAKO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HAMZA MUHAMMAD MURTALA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

VICTORIA: I formerly known and addressed as **ALABI VICTORIA** now wish to be known and addressed as **IDEWOR VICTORIA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I Formerly known as **MUHAMMAD LAWAL JANGEBE** now Wish to be known And addressed as **RILWAN MOHAMMED LAWAL**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

MAIHJABI: I Formerly known and addressed as **HAUWA'U IBRAHIM**. Now Wish to be known And addressed as **HAUWA'U MAIHJABI**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

MARY: I, formerly known as **MISS MARY UCENNA OBASI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS EKOJA, OBASI MARY**. General public and authority concerned should take note.

ADO: I, formerly known as **AKILU NAZIRU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ADO RABIU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

FABIYI: I, formerly known as **FABIYI SEUN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FABIYI OLUWASEGUN AYOBAMI**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

AISHA: I formerly known and addressed as **FAVOUR ISEME** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALIYU AISHA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I Formerly known as **ALIYU UMAR** now wish to be known And addressed as **ALIYU UMAR NAYAYI**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

ANAS: I Formerly known and addressed as **ALMIYAU ALMUSTAPHA**. Now Wish to be known and addressed as **ANAS ALMUSTAPHA**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

IBRAHIM: I, formerly known as **MARIAM NADAMA MARIAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM MARIAM** with Correct date of birth as **15-10-1986** not **15-02-1988**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OLOWOYE: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ***OGUNTUYO OLUWATOSIN BUSAYO*** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **OLOWOYE OLUWATOSIN BUSAYO**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINED VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

HALADU: I, formerly known as **HALADU MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HALADU MOHAMMED ISHAKU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

NWAKAEGO: I formerly and addressed as **NWOHIRI LOVETH NWAKAEGO** now wish to be known and addressed as **MOLOKWU LOVETH NWAKAEGO**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I formerly known as **SUNDAY OMAYOZA GRACE** now wish to be known and addressed as **OGUNSANWO OMAYOZA GRACE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

SANI: I Formerly known and addressed as **BELLO LAWALI**. Now Wish to be known and addressed as **RABIU SANI**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note

SABO: I, formerly known as **RUTH CHONGTAM BATURE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **RUTH SABO BATURE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

VERIFICATION OF NAME: RASHIDATU: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **ABUBAKAR RASHIDATU** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **RASHIDATU IBRAHIM**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINED VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

MUSA: I, formerly known as **MUSA AUWAL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSA MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

OLUWAYOMI: I, formerly known and addressed as **OLUWAYOMI JOSEPH YUSUF**, Now wish to be known and addressed as **OLUWAYOMI JOSEPH**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as **HAYATU IDRIS** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR BALARABE ALIYU**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

ADEOLA: I Formerly known and addressed as **OKETIYIN ABEEB ADEOLA**. Now Wish to be known and addressed as **ELIS HABEELLAH ADEOLA**, With new date of birth **10TH JANUARY 1999**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

OLUWATOBI: I, formerly known as **OLAYINKA OLUWATOBI ADEBOLA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OLABODE-KOLAWOLE OLUWATOBI ADEBOLA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

JESSE: I, formerly known as **JESSE ZAKARIA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JESSE ZACHARIAH**. Correct date of Birth is **15/1/1995** not **5/1/1995**. All former documents remain valid, access Bank, Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

MAL: I am formally known and address as **SALISU HAMISU** and now wish to be call and address as **MAL SALISU HAMISU** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

OPALUWA: I formerly known and addressed as **AMODU ALFA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MATHEW ALFA OPALUWA**. All former documents remain valid, general public and bank please take note.

I formerly known as **ZAINAB AHMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZAINAB AHMED GARBA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

I Formerly known as **LAWALI YUNUSA GUSAU** now Wish to be known And addressed as **LAWALI YUNUSA**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note

MATI: I, formerly known as **YAHAYA JUMMAI MATI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MATI JUMMAI**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

IBRAHIM: I formerly known as **ALI ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM**, but now wishes to be known and addressed as **ALI ALHAJI IBRAHIM**. All formal documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

FATIMA: I am formally known and address as **INNO MANDE** and now wish to be call and address as **FATIMA INNO MANDE** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

UDOH: I formerly known and addressed as **MAURICE ANIETIE EBENEZER**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **UDOH MAURICE ANIETIE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as **NURA ABUBAKAR, NURA ABUBAKAR SARKIN FULANI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NURA ABUBAKAR S/ FULANI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

CORRECTION OF NAME My correct names are **JOHN BLESSING JOY**, but my **ND. cert** indicates **JOHN JOYCE BLESSING** now, i wish to be known and addressed as **JOHN BLESSING JOY**, henceforth. **NYS**, Authority concern and the public should note pls.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS ALIYU ALIYU ADAMU NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **ADAMU ALIYU ALHAJI**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITY CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

MOHAMMED: I formerly known as **MOHAMMED SALEH** with **DOB as 01-01-1998**, but now wishes to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED SALEH MOHAMMED** with **DOB as 31-12-1999**. All formal documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

RAMATU: I, formerly known as **ALIYU RAMATU MUHAMMAD** WITH **WRONG DATE OF BIRTH AS 15 MARCH 1969**, now wish to be known and addressed as **RAMATU MRAYAYA ABDULKADIR** WITH **CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH AS 5 MARCH 1977**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

ABDULLAHI: I formerly known and addressed as **SHAIBU ABDULHAMEED** now wish to be known as **SHUAIBU ABDULHAMEED ABDULLAHI** with date of birth 20/01/1996. All documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I formerly known as **ABDULLAHI SALISU**, old date of birth **01-01-1982**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SALISU ABDULLAHI ABUBAKAR**, correct date of birth, **02-05-1986**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

YAHAYA: I Formerly known and addressed as **ABDULMALIK EBAMMA YAHAYA**. Now Wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULMALIK YAHAYA**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **BLESSING OMORODION** and now wish to be known and addressed as **BLESSING LUCKY** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

PHILIP: I formerly known as **HAUWA STEPHEN PHILIP**, but now wishes to be known and addressed as **HAUWA PHILIP**. All formal documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

USMAN: I, formerly known as **USMAN HABU ENUPE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **USMAN ABUBAKAR ENUPE**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

FRIDAY: I formerly known and addressed as **DANNICE SUNDAY YAKUBU** now wish to be known and addressed as **YAKUBU DENNIS FRIDAY**. All former documents remain valid, general public and bank please take note.

I formerly known as **ADAMU ABUBAKAR ABJ** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU ABUBAKAR BAJOGA DOB 16/2/1966 NOT 16/2/1964**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

JOHN: I formerly known and addressed as **ABDULRAZAQ ADEBAYO OLATUNJI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **JOHN ADEBAYO OLATUNJI**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS SULEIMAN NDAKOI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **SULEIMAN MOHAMMED** ALL FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

NAIBI: I formerly known as **MOHAMMED HASSAN**, but now wishes to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED HASSAN NAIBI**. All formal documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MENAKAYA: I, formerly known as **NNADI IJEOMA ANGELA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MENAKAYA IJEOMA CHIOMA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

MOTUNRAYO: I formerly known and addressed as **AKANNI OLUWATOYIN TEMIDIKE** now wish to be known and addressed as **AKANNI OLUWATOYIN MOTUNRAYO**. All former documents remain valid, general public and bank please take note.

I Formerly known as **ABDULLAHI ABUBAKAR** now Wish to be known And addressed as **GARBA S. ASKI**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

ADAMU: I Formerly known and addressed as **FATIMA GARBA, GARBA FATIMA AHMAD**. Now Wish to be known and addressed as **FATIMA ADAMU**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

AHMAD: I, formerly known as **MUHAMMED BELLO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMAD TUKUR**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

MAIJABE: I, formerly known as **AHMED AHMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MAIJABE AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

USMAN: I, formerly known as **MAITALA USMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **USMAN ATTACH ORUME**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

OJOKUKU: I formerly known and addressed as **ZIONESS AHUOIZA ATURETA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZIONESS AHUOIZA OJOKUKU**. All former documents remain valid, general public and bank please take note.

I formerly known as **AHMAD ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMAD ABDULLAHI TIJJANI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

OKUTEPA: I Formerly known and addressed as **AMEH BLESSING**. Now Wish to be known and addressed as **OKUTEPA BLESSING**. All former documents remain valid general public should take.

OKPALEKE: I, formerly known as **OPALEKE EMMANUEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OKPALEKE EMMANUEL**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **ZAINAB ISAH**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **AUGUSTINE ZAINAB SUTURA**. All former document remain valid. General public should take note.

NICHOLAS: I, formerly known as **TEMIDAYO BANKOLE OJO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NICHOLAS KOLE OLUYEMI**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

LAILABA: I formerly known and addressed as **MUSTAPHA SULEIMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSDAPHA SULEIMAN LAILABA**. All former documents remain valid, general public and bank please take note.

I formerly known as **AHMED SHUAIBU** now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMED SHUAIBU TIJJANI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

ENIOLA: I Formerly known as **MUSTAPHA QOWIYU ADELEKE**. Now Wish to be known and addressed as **ADELEKE QOWIYU ENIOLA**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

Bank Details

Pay into any of our Accounts:
Account Name: **MEDIA TRUST LTD,**

• Send your payment mandate to our email addresses

Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc
Account No: 0000913253
Sort Code: 221081552

Bank: First Bank Plc
Account No: 2002911690
Sort Code: 011084060

Bank: UBA Plc
Account No: 1007117397
Sort Code: 033080013

Bank: GTBank Plc
Account No: 0024570856
Sort Code: 058083231

Requirement for Change of Name
Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit

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PUBLIC NOTICE Page 2

I Formerly known as **HALILU MAGAJI KABIRU** now wish to be known And addressed as **HALILU KABIRU**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

MATO, I formerly known as **MATO MAIKUDI UBA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MATO MAIGIDA UBA**. All my former documents remain valid. **FIRST BANK** and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **NAFI'U SABO** now wish to be called and addressed as **NAFI'U SABO UMAR**. All former documents remain valid authority concern and general public to note

SUHAILA, I formerly known as **SUHAILA SANI ASHIR** now wish to be known and addressed as **SUHAILA KABIR ASHIR**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

IBRAHIM: I, formerly known as **IBRAHIM LABARAN**, now wish to be known and called **IBRAHIM DABARANI ALFAZAI**. Correct date of birth 4th April 1990. Not 4/5/1983. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

Correctio of name. I, kabir Abubakar, wish to correct my name from kabir Abubakar to muhammad kabir Abubakar.all documents bearing the above names remain valid. the general public should please take note.

I Formerly known as **AMINU SALIHU BAKWAI** now wish to be known And addressed as **AMINU BAKWAI**. all former documents remain valid date of birth **10/10/1975** And general public should take note

I was formerly known as **YAKUBU KOKI LABARAN** now wish to be known and address as **YAKUBU LABARAN**. All my former documents remain valid and general public should please take note

I formerly known as **HADIZA RABU** to be called and addressed as **HADIZA NASIRU**. All former documents remain valid authority concern and general public to note

HABU, I formerly known as **IBRAHIM BABALO** now wish to be known and addressed as **HABU SHUAIBU**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ALIYU: I, formerly known as **ALYU MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and called **ALYU MUHAMMAD MAKARFI**. All former documents remain valid. The corporate Affairs Commission and general public and to please take note

ADIGUN: I, was formerly known and addressed as **KE IBIRONKE BRIDGET**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADIGUN IBIRONKE BRIDGET DOMINION**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

I Formerly known **AUWAL ABUBAKAR** now Wish to be known And addressed as **GARBA TELA**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

ADAMU, I formerly known as **AUTA ADAMU** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU AUTA GIRBAU**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **RUKAYYA MOHAMMAD** to be called and addressed as **RUKAYYA MOHAMMAD NASIRU**. All former documents remain valid authority concern and general public to note

KAMALUDEEN, I formerly known as **KAMAL JIBRIL HUSSAIN** now wish to be known and addressed as **KAMALUDEEN JIBRIN**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

BARNABAS: I,formerly known as **BARNABAS SOLOMON**, now wish to be known and called **BARNABAS SAMUEL**.All former documents remain valid. **NECO**, general public and any authority concerned to please take note

AISHA: I, was formerly known and addressed as **AISHA ALYU BASHIR SHEHU**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **AISHA JIBRIN ALYU**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, **NNPC**, all other establishment and general public should please take note.

I Formerly known as **IBRAHIM YAKUBU MAI GARIN BAUCHI** now wish to be known And addressed as. **IBRAHIM YAKUBU** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

Abba, I formerly known as Abba Abdullahi Alkali now wish to be known and addressed as Abba Abdullahi Sagagi. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

MOHAMMED, I formerly known as **AUWAL SALISU** now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED AUWAL ALHAJI**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ABBA, I formerly known as **ABBA MOHAMMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABBA ALHAJI MOHAMMED**. All my former documents remain valid. **FIRST BANK NIGERIA PLC** and general public should please take note.

ABDULLAH: I formerly known as **ABDULLAH MAIGADO-DA-KATIFA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABDULLAH BINTA ADAMU** all former documents remain valid. Any authority concern and general public should please take note.

SALISU: I, was formerly known and addressed as **AYODELE ABIOLA FELICIA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **SALISU ABIOLA FELICIA**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

I Formerly known as **OMIWOLE FOLAKE ELIZABETH** now wish to be known And addressed as **OMIWOLE FOLAKE KEMI**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

I was formerly known as **AUWAL ADAMU** now wish to be known and address as **AUWAL ADO ABDULLAHI**. All my former documents remain valid and general public should please take note

ELIZABETH, I formerly known as **OMOJEJE OLUFUNKE ELIZABETH** now wish to be known and addressed as **OMOJEJE-OYENIYI OLUFUNKE ELIZABETH**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

LAWAN, I formerly known as **SARKI LAWAN ALI** now wish to be known and addressed as **LAWAN ALI SARKIN NOMA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ESTHER: I, I formerly known as **ESTHER DAMILOLA ADENIYI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ESTHER DAMILOLA OLAJUBU**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

CORRECTION OF NAME SOLAGBADE: I That on the Bank documents, my name was wrongly written as **SOLAGBADE NIYI YEMI** instead of **SOLAGBADE OLANWI ADEYEMI** that my correct name is **SOLAGBADE OLANWI ADEYEMI**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

I Formerly known **AS AHMAD BUHARI IBRAHIM** now wish to be known And addressed as **IBRAHIM AHMAD BUHARI**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

Bamidele, I formerly known as Eniolorunda Bukola Gloria now wish to be known and addressed as Bamidele Bukola Gloria. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

YAHAYA I formerly as **KAWU ABS YAHAYA, KAWU ABUBAKAR YAHAYA -11-9-1993** now wish to be known. And addressed as **KAWU YAHAYA-23-3-1992**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

SULAIMAN, I formerly known as **SULAIMAN ALYU MOHAMMAD DOB 2-APRIL-1992** now wish to be known and addressed as **SULAIMAN ALYU DOB 1-JAN-1990**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ISMAIL: I formerly known as **ISMAIL USAMA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ISMAIL USAMA ABDULLAHI** all former documents remain valid. Any authority concern and general public should please take note.

Mrs. **AKINBIODUN: I**, was formerly known and addressed as Miss. **AROWOSAFE OLAMIDE GRACE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. **AKINBIODUN OLAMIDE GRACE**. due to marriage. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

OLUWASINA: I, formerly known as **AGBOOLA OLASIMBO OLUWASINA PETER**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AGBOOLA OLASIMBO OLUWASINA** with date of birth **21/10/1979**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

Miraculous, I formerly known as Miraculous Andrew now wish to be known and addressed as Miraculous Alfred Andrew. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ABDULAZIZ I formerly as **ABDULAZIZ A. YAKUBU** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULAZIZ EL- YAKUB**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

FAHAD, I formerly known as **FAHAD HAMMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **FAHA HAMMAN BELLO**. All my former documents remain valid. **NIMC** and general public should please take note.

ZAINAB: I formerly known and called as **BLESSING ADEDAMIOLA OPEYEMI OJO**. Now wish to be known and called as **ZAINAB ALYU MUSBAU**. Former documents remain valid. Authority concern and general public to take note.

FRANKLIN: I, was formerly known and addressed as **SAMSON FRANKLIN**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **FRANKLIN CHINAGOROM SAMSON**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

BUKOLA: I formerly known as **OLAMUYIDE BUKOLA IYABO** now wish to be known as **USMAN BUKOLA IYABO**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

HANSA'U, I formerly known as **HANSA'U AMINU** now wish to be known and addressed as **HANSA'U BELLO INUWA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ABDULRAHAMAN I formerly as **ABDULRAHAMAN ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULRAHAMAN ABDULLAHI MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

ABUBAKAR, I formerly known as **ABUBAKAR BALA ALAM** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR BALA**. All my former documents remain valid. **NIMC AND BANKS** should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME AND CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH. OLD NAME. KHADIZAT MUHAMMED. NEW NAME. ADISHETU MUHAMMED. CORRECT D.O.B IS 6TH JULY 1994. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ANY AUTHORITY CONCERNED TO PLEASE TAKE NOTE

OHALETE: I, was formerly known and addressed as **CHUKWU LOVETH OGECHI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OHALETE LOVETH OGECHI**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

ABATCHA: I formerly known as **ABATCHA MUSTAPHA ALHAJI** now wish to be known as **ALHAJI MUSTAPHA ABATCHA**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

ASHIRU, I formerly known as **ASHIRU YAHAYA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ASHIRU YAHAYA ASHIRU**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ABDULKADIR I formerly as **ABDULQADIR AHMED TIJJANI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULKADIR AHMAD TIJJANI**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

SHEIK, I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD ABBA** now wish to be known and addressed as **SHEIK MUHAMMAD ABBA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

DICKSON: I, formerly known as **DICKSON JOSEPH OJAX**, now wish to be known, Called and addressed as **DICKSON JOSEPH OJAGA**. Former documents remain valid. Public note.

AFAM: I, was formerly known and addressed as **AFAM EBUBECHUKWU FAVOUR**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **AFAM FAVOUR IFUNANYA**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

JOSEPHINE: I formerly known as **MISS JOSEPHINE OTACHE** now wish to be known as **MRS JOSEPHINE ONOJA**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note.

SULAIMON, I formerly known as **ALHAJI SULEMAN. MUSA** now wish to be known and addressed as **SULAIMON. MUSA ABUBAKAR**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ABDULAZEEZ I formerly as **ABDULAZIZ ADO** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULAZEEZ ADAMU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

ABBA, I formerly known as **ABBA A ALI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABBA ALI HAMZA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

RABI: I, formerly known as **RABI IBRAHIM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **RABI KABEER IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

OBIAJULU: I, was formerly known and addressed as **EZEISI EBERE PERPETUAL**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OBIAJULU EBEL PERPETUAL**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

KAKA: I formerly known as **JENIMAH KAKA** now wish to be known as **JEMIMAH KAKA**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

SANI, I formerly known as **Abdulsalam Sani Old DOB 30/11/1967** now wish to be known and addressed as **Sani Abubakar Abdulsalam New DOB 03/02/1972**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

MUHAMMAD, I formerly as **HAUWA ALI** now wish to be known and addressed as **HAUWA ALYU MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

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

MUHAMMAD: I Formerly known as **SANI MUHAMMAD**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD SANI HUSSAINI**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

OGBONNA: I formerly known as **AGOR JUSTINA CHIKORDI**. Now wish to know and addressed as. **OGBONNA JUSTINA CHIKORDI**. All former document remain valid General public should please take note.

SANI: I formerly known as **SHAMSIDIN ABDULLA SALISU** now wish to be known as **ABDULLAHI SANI, MY CORRECT DATE OD BIRTH IS 24-10-1990** not **24-10-1994**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

AMINU, I formerly known as **AMINU MUHAMMAD ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINU MUHAMMAD SHANGEL**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ESTHER, I formerly as **ANIKPER ESTHER** now wish to be known and addressed as **ANIKPER UZOMAKA ESTHER**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

AHMED, I formerly known as **AMADU MOHAMMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMED MUHAMMAD SANI**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

MAGAJI: I formerly known as **MAGAJI YAHAYA IDRIS** now wish to be called as **MAGAJI YAHAYA** all former document remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

ZINAS: THAT NAME WAS WRONGLY WRITTEN ON MY BVN AS. GARBA SUNDAY AHJO. INSTEAD OF. ZINAS SUNDAY GARBA, HENCEFORTH, I WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS. ZINAS SUNDAY GARBA. All former document remain valid General public should please take note.

BELLO: I formerly known as **ABDULHAMID ABDULMALIK** now wish to be known as **ABDULHAMEED ABDULMALIK BELLO**. All former documents remain valid the general public should take note

BUKAR, I formerly known as **GAMBO ADAMU** now wish to be known and addressed as **BUKAR SHATIMA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ADAEEZ, I formerly as **EVANS CHELSY ADAEEZ** now wish to be known and addressed as **CHELSY ADAEEZ EVANS**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

ABUBAKAR, I formerly known as **BABANDI NURADEEN DOB 1989** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR NURADDEEN DOB 01/01/1992**. All my former documents remain valid. **ACCESS BANK** and general public should please take note.

ISHAQ: I formerly known as **SHUAIBU SALIHI ISHAQ** now wish to be called as **ISHAQ SHUAIBU** all former document remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

MRS. ODINYA: I formerly known as. **MISS. OBI CHINWENDU VIVIAN**. Now wish to know and addressed as. **MRS. ODINYA CHINWENDU VIVIAN**. By virtue of marriage. All former document remain valid General public should please take note.

I, MANASSEH .M. MICAH want to inform the general public that my mistaken date of birth is 3rd March 1992 and my corrected date of birth is 2nd April 1997. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I was formerly known as Kabiru Ibrahim now wish to be known and address as Kabiru Ibrahim Shehu. All my former documents remain valid and general public should please take note

SULEIMAN, I formerly as **SULAIMAN BELLO** now wish to be known and addressed as **SULEIMAN BELLO USMAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

AMADE: I, formerly known as **JIBRIN JOY**, now wish to be known and called **AMADE UYO**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

DORIS: I formerly known as **DORIS SEEMBER IHOM** now wish to be called as **DORIS PEVER** all former document remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

ADEDEJI: I, was formerly known and addressed as **ADEDEJI OPEYEMI EMMANUEL**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADEDEJI OPEYEMI RAYMOND**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

MAGAJI, I formerly known as **MAGAJI A. MAKAMA HASHIM** now wish to be known and addressed as **MAGAJI MAKAMA MUSA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I was formerly known as Danjuma Isah now wish to be known and address as Umar Jamil Balarabe All my former documents remain valid and general public should please take note

MUHAMMAD, I formerly as **NASIRU YUNUSA KUNCHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **NASIRU YUNUSA MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

MARYAM: I formerly known as **MARYAM AYUBA ABUBAKAR** now wish to be called as **MARYAM AYUBA ADAM** all former document remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

ZAINAB: I formerly known as **ZAINAB UMAR** now wish to be called as **ZAINAB UMAR MOHAMMED** all former document remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

Mrs. **OYETUNJI: I**, was formerly known and addressed as **OJEOKUN OLAYINKA MARY**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OYETUNJI OLAYINKA MARY OMOFOYEKE**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

NAZIFI, I formerly known as **SHARIFEE FILLO NAZIFI** now wish to be known and addressed as **NAZIFI ABDULKADIR SHARIF**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as Sada Salmanu now wish to be called and addressed as Sada Salman Bakori. All former documents remain valid authority concern and general public to note

SULAIMAN, I formerly as **SULAIMAN ABUBAKAR ALI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALI SULAIMAN ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

MICHAEL: I, formerly known as **MISS UFUOMAKPO OGHENESUA'E PRINCESS**, now wish to be known and called **MRS MICHAEL FRIDAY PRINCESS OGHENESUA'E**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

Confirmation of name This is to notify the general public that **BILKISU UMAR MUSLIM** and **BILKISU JAFARU MUSLIM** is one and same person who now wish to be known and addressed as **BILKISU UMAR MUSLIM**. All documents bearing either name remain valid. Concerned authorities, general public to take note.

IMONIKORO: I, was formerly known and addressed as Miss. **OTUNAKPOROBO ELOZINO NELLY**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **IMONIKORO ELOZINO NELLY**. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

Bank Details

Pay into any of our Accounts:
Account Name: MEDIA TRUST LTD,

Send your payment mandate to our email addresses

Requirement for Change of Name
Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit

Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc Account No: 0000913253 Sort Code: 221081552	Bank: First Bank Plc Account No: 2002911690 Sort Code: 011084060	Bank: UBA Plc Account No: 1007117397 Sort Code: 033080013	Bank: GTBank Plc Account No: 0024570856 Sort Code: 058083231
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DAILY TRUST Classifieds made easy

PUBLIC NOTICE Page 3

OYINBO : I, was formerly known and addressed as **OYINBO GLORIA HOPE** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **OYINBO PELUMI HOPE** . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

LASISI : I, formerly known and addressed as Miss **IDRIS RUKAYAT TOYIN** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **LASISI RUKAYAT TOYIN** . All former documents remain valid. **EACOED OYO** and general public should please take note.

ALOYINLAPA: I, formerly known and addressed as Mrs **SOYEMI OLANIKE OLAWUNMI** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **ALOYINLAPA OLANIKE OLAWUNMI** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

FATIME: I Formerly known as **MARYAM IDRIS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FATIME MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

KOLO: I Formerly known as **MALLAM KOLO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **TAHIR KOLO**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ALAGARNO I formerly known as **MUSA SALEH** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSA SALEH ALAGARNO** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH **ILOUBE: I** My name was written in my B.V.N as **JOSEPH ILOUBE OUTREACH** instead of **ILOUBE JOSEPH OLUWATIMILEHIN**. Henceforth I wish to be known and addressed as **ILOUBE JOSEPH OLUWATIMILEHIN**. My correct date of birth is 26th day of December, 1976. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note .

AKOMOLAFE: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss **AZEZ OLAMIDE ADERAYO** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **AKOMOLAFE OLAMIDE ADERAYO** . All former documents remain valid. Bank, Authority Concerned and general public should please take note.

OSIKOYA: I, formerly known and addressed as **OROBATOR OSIKOYA CHRISTOPHER** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **OSIKOYA OLUSEYE CHRISTOPHER** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

ALI: I Formerly known as **MOHAMMED ADAMU BASHIR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED ALI**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

SALIM; I formerly known as **SALIM AHMED SALIM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SALIM AHMAD**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ADAMU: I, formerly known as **SUHUNUN ADAMU** now wish to be known and addressed as **SUHUNUN ADAMU BAJOGA**. All former documents remain valid. Concern authorities, ministry of health Gombe state and the general public should take note.

ADOM : I, was formerly known and addressed as **ADUOM ADAOHA OGECHI** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADOM ADAOHA OGECHI** . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

SOLOMON: I, formerly known and addressed as **SULEIMAN AKINADE OKEDIJI** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **SOLOMON AKINRINADE AJIBOYE** . All former documents remain valid. Bank, Authority Concerned and general public should please take note.

AKINRINOLA: I, formerly known and addressed as **AKINRINOLA KEHINDE OLASUNKANMI** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **AKINRINOLA TAIWO OLATUNBOSUN** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

IBRAHIM: I formally known as **KAUMI BABAGANA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM YUSUF**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ALI: I Formerly known as **BUKAR ALI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BUKAR ALI KOREDE**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

CECILIA: I formerly known as **CECILIA MAINA**, now wish to be known and addressed **CECILIA LAWAN MAINA**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note

Mrs. **ADESOLA : I** was formerly known and addressed as **ADELERE ABOSEDE ADEBAMIJI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. ADESOLA VICTORIA ABOSEDE** . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

AKINTADE: I, formerly known and addressed as **AKINTADE OPEYEMI BEATRICE** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **AKINTADE SARAH OPEYEMI** . All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Bank, Authority Concerned and general public should please take note.

BASSEY: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss **ALUKO ADETUTU ABOSEDE** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **BASSEY ADETUTU ABOSEDE** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

HABIBA: I formerly known as **REBECCA BULUS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HABIBA ADAM BULUS**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

FALI: I Formerly known as **FALI BUKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FALI BUKAR KOREDE**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

KURNAWA: I formerly known as **MODU MOHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed **MODU MOHAMMED KURNAWA**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note

JOHN : I, was formerly known and addressed as **OKPALACHI JOHN MATTHEW** . date of birth 4th April, 2000 . Now wish to be known and addressed as **JOHN OKPALACHI OCHOWECHI** . date of birth 3rd March, 2000 . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

AKINTADE: I, formerly known and addressed as **AKINTADE OPEYEMI BEATRICE** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **AKINTADE SARAH OPEYEMI** . All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Bank, Authority Concerned and general public should please take note.

JAMILA: I, Formerly known as **JENNIFER LARABA SULEIMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **JAMILA LARABA SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

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

KHADIJAT: I Formerly known as **DORIS TARU JOHN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KHADIJAH TARU**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

KAMSULUM : I Formerly known as **ALHAJI KAMSULUM BABAKURA SHETTIMA-ARFO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KAMSULUM BABAKURA SHETTIMA-ARFO**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

Mrs. **ONIFADE : I** was formerly known and addressed as Miss **ADESIYAN BOLADALE ADEKEMI** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. **ONIFADE BOLADALE ADEKEMI** . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

IBRAHIM: I, formerly known and addressed as **AMINA IBRAHIM TANKO** Now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM AMINA ATIMPO** . All former documents remain valid. First bank plc and general public should please take note.

WAZI: I, Formerly known as **WAZI EKA** now wish to be known and addressed as **WAZI VICTOR BALA**. All former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

HAJJA: I formerly known as **HAJJA BAWA ABBA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HAJJA BAWA ABBA AJA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

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

MOHAMMED: I formerly known as **ALI MOHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed **ALI MOHAMMED ALI .D.O.B 9/12/1996**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note

OKWELUM : I, was formerly known and addressed as **OGUNLEYE ELIZABETH ABIBBOLA** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **OKWELUM ELIZABETH OLULEYE** . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

OMINYI: I, formerly known and addressed as **ADJOYI ANTHONIA OLOHILIYE** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **OMINYI ANTHONIA OLOHILIYE** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

IBRAHIM: I, Formerly known as **MUSA ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM** now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM ABDULLAHI**. All former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

BUKAR: I Formerly known as **MALLAM BUKAR KOLO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BUKAR KOLO ARDIMINI**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

HANNAN: I Formerly known as **HANNAN MOHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HANNAN MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. With **D O B 15/05/1995**, general public should please take note

UMAR: I formerly known as **NUHU ABUBAKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **UMAR SHEHU**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

Mrs. **DAIRO : I,** was formerly known and addressed as **OYEBANJI ABOSEDE ABIGEAL** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. **DAIRO ABOSEDE OYEBANJI** . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

OGOIGBE: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss **IKEJAMUWA OLAJUMOKE PROMISE** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **OGOIGBE OLAJUMOKE PROMISE** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **OJOAGO AKOH** Now wish to be known as **OJOAGO AKOH ITODO**. All former documents remain valid, general public to please take note.

GARBA: I Formerly known as **GARBA SAMAILA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GARBA MAHMUDA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

AUTA I formerly known as **HADIZA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **HADIZA ABDULLAHI AUTA** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

SHAMSU: I formally known as **SHAMSU LABARAI** now wish to be known and addressed as **SHAMSU BABUGA** All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF NAME AND CORRECTION OF NAME That my name was wrongly arranged as **ADELEKE WASIU AYINLA** instead of **WASIU ADELEKE AYINLA** on my Bank Account . That the correct arrangement of my name is **WASIU ADELEKE AYINLA** and my correct date of birth is 26th day of September, 1964. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

OMOSEYIN: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss **OSUNTOKUN OLANIKE TOSIN** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **OMOSEYIN OLANIKE OLUWATOSIN** . All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public should please take note.

AMINU: I formerly known as **JIBRIN MOHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINU ALHAJI GARBA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

YAGANA: I Formerly known as **HAJJA KAKA GONI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YAGANA KALLI**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

AHMAD I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD RABU MUHAMMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD RABU AHMAD** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

ABUBAKAR: I formerly known and addressed as **AMINA ALHASSAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINA ABUBAKAR**, All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

TAOFEK : I, was formerly known and addressed as **TAOFEK BAMIDELE OJUAWO** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **TAOFEK OLOYEDE KOLAJO** . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

GBODIYAN : I, formerly known and addressed as **EBUNOLUWA JANET AYEYEMI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **EBUNOLUWA JANET GBODIYAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities Concerned should please take note.

AISHA: I Formerly known as **AISHA BULAMA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AISHA BABA GANA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

IBRAHIM: I formally known as **ALHAJI MANAGER**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM L YAKUBU**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

BUNU: I Formerly known as **BUNU GANA HASSAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BUNU GANA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

MANGA: I formerly known and addressed as **ABDULRAHAMAN MUHAMMAD MANGA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULRAHAMAN MANGA**. All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should please take note.

OLADAYO : I, was formerly known and addressed as **AJISAFE DORCAS OLUWASEUN** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **OLADAYO TABITHA OLUWASEUN** . All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

SAMUEL : I formerly known and addressed as **Odeniyi Tomiwa Edmond** Now wish to be known and addressed as **Odeniyi Tomiwa Samuel**. All former documents remain valid, General public kindly take note.

ASTA: I Formerly known as **ASTA AMODU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ASTA MODU GONIRI**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

PEACE: I formerly known as **PEACE EMMANUEL MWANMAK**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PEACE EMMANUEL DANIEL**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

HASSAN I formerly known as **MOHAMMED YALO BUKAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED HASSAN** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

CHIMA : I formerly known and addressed as **SIMON MAMANI CHIMAS AND MR, SIMON MAMANI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SIMON MAMANI CHIMA**. All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

ADESINA: I, formerly known and addressed as **ADESINA ADEMISOYE ADESHOLA** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADESINA ADESHOLA ADEMISOYE** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

IFEOLUWA : I formerly known and addressed as **Jagunmolu Ifeoluwa** Now wish to be known and addressed as **Jimoh Ifeoluwa Ismael**. All former documents remain valid, General public kindly take note.

SALE: I formerly known as **SULEMAN ALHAJI MANU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SALE JIBRIN**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

AHMAD: I formerly known as **AHMAD MAIKATAKO SULEIMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMAD MAIKATAKO SULAIMAN**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

DANLADI I formerly known as **MUSA USMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED DANLADI** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

BARNABAS : I formerly known and addressed as **PRACIOUS BARNABAS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAFIYA BARNABAS**, All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

MUYIDEEN: That my name was wrongly stated as **MUSHEED ISMAIL ABIODUN**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MUYIDEEN ISMAIL ABIODUN** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAME THAT I AM THE SAME PERSON BEARING BOTH ABUBAKAR ABBANI AND GARBA ABBA ASSANA. Due to the name on my Identity card I want to maintain **ABUBAKAR ABBANI**. All former documents remain valid, General public kindly take note.

YANA: I Formerly known as **YANA B. KWAIMA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YANA BUBA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

BUKAR: I Formerly known as **AMADA KIRAWA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BUKAR KUGAL**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

GREMA I formerly known as **MUSTAPHA GREMA WAZIRI** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSTAPHA GREMA** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

MADUGU : I formerly known and addressed as **MOSES ABENISON MADUGU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSA MADUGU**, All former Documents remain valid, Authority concerned and the general public should take note.

ABDUL: I, formerly known and addressed as **OLUWASEGUN OLAMIDE MICHAEL** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDUL WARIZ AKANJI OLAMIDE** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

OLUWATOBI: I, formerly known and addressed as **OLUWATOBI GBEMISOLA OGUNYOMADE** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **OLUWATOBI GBEMISOLA OGUNMAKINWA** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

MAINA: I formerly known as **ABATCHA BUKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED MAINA**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

EKWEOGU: I Formerly known as **LEONARD CHIBUZOR PERPETUAL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **EKWEOGU CHIBUZOR PERPETUAL**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ADAMU I formerly known as **ALI ADAMU** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU ALI ADAMU** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

YAGANA: I formally known as **YAGANA ALHAJI** now wish to be known and addressed as **YAGANA ALI ABISO**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

OTOLORIN: I, formerly known and addressed as Miss **OLORUNYOMI OLUWAFUNMILAYO RACHAEL** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **OTOLORIN OLUWAFUNMILAYO RACHAEL** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

FASHOLA: I, formerly known and addressed as **COKER AYOMIDE ADESINA** . Now wish to be known and addressed as **FASHOLA FAREED AYOMIDE** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

ALI: I Formerly known as **BABA GANA ABBA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BABA GANA ABBA ALI**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

NANA: I formerly known as **NANA GANA ALHAJI BUNU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NANA A. BUNU**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

SABO I formerly known as **ESTHER BULUS SALE** now wish to be known and addressed as **ESTHER ADAMU SABO** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

UMAR: I formally known as **UMAR MOHAMMED KILIMI** now wish to be known and addressed as **UMAR MALLAM KILIMI**. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

ISADARE: I, formerly known and addressed as **ADEYINKA ADESOLA AYOBA MI** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **ISADARE ADESOLA AYOBA MI** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

OYENIYI: I, formerly known and addressed as Mrs **OLALEYE FOLASHADE OLUWAREMILEKUN** . Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs **OYENIYI FOLASHADE OLUWAREMILEKUN** . All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

AISHA: I Formerly known as **AISHATU ALI BENISHEIKH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AISHA ALI BENISHEIKH**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

MODU: I formerly known as **GEME AMOS BALNA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HUSSAINI MODU**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

MAIGORO I formerly known as **ISA JAURO** now wish to be known and addressed as **ISA MAIGARI MAIGORO** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

CHARLES: I Formerly known as **CHALLY DODO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **CHARLES THOMAS**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

Bank Details Pay into any of our Accounts: Account Name: MEDIA TRUST LTD, Send your payment mandate to our email addresses	Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc Account No: 0000913253 Sort Code: 221081552	Bank: First Bank Plc Account No: 2002911690 Sort Code: 011084060	Bank: UBA Plc Account No: 1007117397 Sort Code: 033080013	Bank: GTBank Plc Account No: 0024570856 Sort Code: 058083231
	Requirement for Change of Name Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit			

DAILY TRUST Classifieds made easy

PUBLIC NOTICE Page 4

KAKA: I formally known as YARO KACHALLA now wish to be known and addressed as MALLAM KAKA KOREDE. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

MODU: I formerly known as BABA GANA M KORI, now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED MODU. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

USMAN: I formerly known as SANI USMAN MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN MUSA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

GREAT: That I was formerly known called and addressed as MISS. GABRIEL ANGELA. That I now wish to be known called and addressed as MRS. GREAT ANGELA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. All authority and the general public should please take note.

JECINTA: I, formerly known as MISS. JECINTA CHIZURU DURU. Now wish to be known as MRS. JECINTA CHIZURU AITEOBHOR. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

SUFYIANU: I, formerly known as SANI SUFI SUFYIANU now wish to be known and addressed as SUFYIANU SANI with D.O.B 27/01/1985. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

ABIGAIL: I formally known as ABIGAIL USAGA now wish to be known and addressed as ABIGAIL USAJA KWALA. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note

AIYA: I Formerly known as AIYA ZANNA MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as AIYA MUSA AJID. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ALIYU: I formerly known as ISHIYAKU IBRAHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as ISHIYAKU ALIYU. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

OLOWOLOBA: I, formerly known as OLOWOLOBA ESTHER AYOMIDE. Now wish to be known as OLOWOLOBA ESTHER OLUWATIMILEHIN. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME: I, MISS. AMADI CONSTANCE CHIBUROMA, wish to correct that my name was wrongly written on my NECO certificate as AMADI CONSTANCE NWOBURUOMA instead of AMADI CONSTANCE CHIBUROMA. My correct name is AMADI CONSTANCE CHIBUROMA. All documents bearing the above names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

UGWU: I, formerly known as J.U NWANNA & UGWU JOSEPH now wish to be known and addressed as UGWU JOSEPH EDE. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

NAMAKKA: I formerly known as NAMAKKA DODO SHUAIBU now wish to be known and addressed as NAMAKKA SHUAIBU. All former documents remain valid federal polytechnic k/namoda and general public should take note

ADAMU: I Formerly known as ADAM SULEMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU MUHAMMED. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

KABIRU: I Formerly known as KABIRU MOHAMMED GAMBO, with DOB=10/1/1992, now wish to be known and addressed as KABIRU MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. With DOB 1/8/1992, general public should please take note

CHRISTINA: I, formerly known as CHRISTINA EMIKE PIUS. Now wish to be known as MRS. CHRISTINA EMIKE IJUBUAKU. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

MARKSON: I, formerly known as MISS. AKPAN INAINGO ITORO. Now wish to be known as MRS. MARKSON INAINGO ITORO. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

ADAMA: I, formerly known as ADAMA BASIL, DAUDA ADAMA BAKO, DAUDA ADAMA AWALA & ADAMA DAUDA SAIDU now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMA DAUDA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

HADIZA: I formally known as HADIZA HUSSAINA HUSSAINI, now wish to be known and addressed as HADIZA IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. NIMC and general public should please take note

GAJI: I formerly known as GAJI ABOGU, now wish to be known and addressed as GAJI ALHAJI ABOGU. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

CHRISTIAN: I, formerly known as GOWON DADA. Now wish to be known as CHRISTIAN JOHN. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

OGILO: That I was formerly known called and addressed as MISS. MONDAY NSEMEKE UBONG. Now wish to be known called and addressed as MRS. OGILO ABIGAIL NSEMEKE. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

AISHA: I, formerly known as AISHATU ALIYU now wish to be known and addressed as AISHA LAMIDO. All former documents remain valid. Guaranty Trust bank and general public should please take note

ABDULKARIM: I formerly known as ABDULKARIM IBRAHIM now wish to be known as ABDULKARIM AUDU. All former documents remain valid. general public should take note.

HADIZA: I formerly known as HADIZA MADU, now wish to be known and addressed as HADIZA MAIDUGU. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

YUSUF: I Formerly known as YUSUF ABDULLAHI MUHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF ABDULLAHI MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

EMAKPOR: I, formerly known as EMOPOH BELOVED. Now wish to be known as EMOPOH CLETUS OGHENETEGA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

ABRAHAM: That I was formerly known called and addressed as AMOPHO PETER SAM. Now wish to be known called and addressed as ABRAHAM PETER EMMANUEL OYAGHIRI. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

ABDULMALIK: I, formerly known as ABDULMALIK MUHAMMAD now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULMALIK MUHAMMAD FATIHU. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

ASTA: I formerly known as ASTA AHMADU WAKILI now wish to be known as ASTA AHMADU. All former documents remain valid. general public should take note.

ALIYU: I formerly known as ABDULSALAL A. USMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULJALAL USMAN ALIYU. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

FATIMA: I Formerly known as FATIMA MOHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as FATIMA ALHAJI MOHAMMED. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

OGUWUIKE: I, formerly known as MISS. OKEKE PRISCA CHINAZO. Now wish to be known as MRS. OGUWUIKE PRISCA CHINAZO. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

DENNIS: That I was formerly known called and addressed as DEBOY PHILIP. Now wish to be known called and addressed as DANIEL DENNIS JACKSON. My date of birth was wrongly written on my BVN detail, as 16TH MAY, 1994 My correct date of birth is 14TH JULY, 2000. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

SAMAILA: I, formerly known as SAMAILA DAHIRU now wish to be known and addressed as SAMAILA DAHIRU TAMBUWAL. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

NURA: I formerly known as ABUBAKAR GARBA now wish to be known as NURA GARBA. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

MUHAMMAD: I Formerly known as ABDULRAHAMAN AHMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULRAHAMAN MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

GAMBO: I formerly known as MOHAMMED GAMBO, now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED A GAMBO. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

NKEMAKOLAM: I, formerly known as PRINCE EMMANUEL NNUBIA. Now wish to be known as NKEMAKOLAM EMMA SUNDAY. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

YAMMAI: That I was formerly known called and addressed as RICHARD KENZY. Now wish to be known called and addressed as YAYIN YAMMAI RICHARD. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

HIDAYATU: I, formerly known as IDAYAT MUDASIR now wish to be known and addressed as HIDAYATU DAUDA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

FATIMA: I formerly known as FATIMA MOHAMMED now wish to be known as FATIMA MUHAMMAD AHMAD. All former documents remain valid. general public should take note.

ADAMU: I Formerly known as MUHAMMED ADAMU ABUBAKAR Now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMED ADAMU KASHERE All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

IBRAHIM: I formally known as UMAR MUSTAPHA, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM SAIDU BALTE. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

UMOH: I, formerly known as MISS. UDOH BLESSING JUSTINE. Now wish to be known as MRS. UMOH EUNICE GODWIN. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

ADEMOLA-FAGBEMI: That I was formerly known called and addressed as MISS. FESTUS EBISANMI BEATRICE. Now wish to be known called and addressed as MRS. ADEMOLA-FAGBEMI EBISANMI BEATRICE. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

HAUWAWU: I, formerly known as SAMAILA DAHIRU now wish to be known and addressed as HAUWAWU USMAN. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

ALHAJI: I formerly known as ABDU USAINI now wish to be known as ALHAJI ABDU. All former documents remain valid. general public should take note.

NUHU: I Formerly known as NUHU BULLUM, now wish to be known and addressed as NUHU BULLUM. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

FATIMA: I Formerly known as FATIMA MUSTAPHA, now wish to be known and addressed as FATIMA MUSTAPHA BUKAR. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

ISRAEL: That I was formerly known as ISRAEL UKOMBO ISRAEL. That I now wish to be known as ISRAEL ISRAEL GWUNIREAMA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

AMINATU: I, formerly known as AMI AMINU now wish to be known and addressed as AMINATU MUSA. All former documents remain valid. Zenith bank and general public should please take note

LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

On 17th April, 2017 at about 13:25hrs, one Alhaji Adamu Suleiman 'M' of Hausari ward, Maiduguri reported at the State Intelligence Bureau (SIB) Police Headquarters Maiduguri "that, on 12th April, 2017 he lost his Certificate of Occupancy Number BO/12644 Hence his report.

ACTION TAKEN: The Complainant is advised to go to court of law and swear to an affidavit to enable him obtain replacement from the authority concern.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, Aliyu Muhammad Makarfi of No.34/35 Tal'udu Residential Layout, BUK Road, Kano, Kano State wish to inform the general public of the loss of my documents as following:

1. Original Recertification Acknowledgement, issued to me by Ministry of Land, Kano Geographical Information System (KANGIS)
2. Original Revenue Receipt (Billing Receipts), issued to me by Kano State Bureau for Land Management. The said documents got lost at Z2D Hanwa Low-Cost, Zaria, on the 18th December, 2017 and all effort made to trace same proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest police station or the above mentioned addressed. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of ORIGINAL COPY OF ALLOCATION OFFER LETTER in respect of plot of land situated at No. 3, Cadastral Zone D, 18, Sector Centre D, with File No. MISC 84427, measuring about 1794.28m² issued by FCDA, Abuja to IBRAHIM GARBA of No. BZ 122, Kazaure Road, Doka, Kaduna. All efforts made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station. Authorities concerned to take note.

ALHAJI: I Formerly known as MUSTAPHA BULAMA, now wish to be known and addressed as ALHAJI BULAMA MUSTAPHA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

HAJJA: I formerly known as YAGANAMA KUJETA, now wish to be known and addressed as HAJJA YAGANAMA KUJETA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

HADIZA: I formerly known as HADIZA GREMA LAWAN, now wish to be known and addressed as HADIZA GREMA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

AGBON: I, formerly known as AGBONHAINLO JOHN UNOKO. Now wish to be known as AGBON JOHN UNOKO. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

Correction of Name/ Date of Birth: NWANERI ODINAKA C. and NWANERI CALEB ODINAKA was wrong written instead of NWANERI CALEB ODINAKACHUKWU and my correct date of birth 29th October, 1992. Not 2 February 1992 or 29 July 1991 All former documents remain valid. General public note

JIMMY: That I was formerly known called and addressed as BLESSING MIETAMUNO UBANI. Now wish to be known called and addressed as BLESSING MOSES JIMMY. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

MONICA: I, formerly known as MISS. LEKARA NWIKA ZORMA FIDELIS. Now wish to be known as MRS. MONICA LEKARA ABAYIRA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

FIRDAUSI: I, formerly known as FIDDAUSI MUHAMMAD now wish to be known and addressed as FIRDAUSI IKO MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

SHAMSUDEEN: I, formerly known as HARUNA A. SHAMSUDEEN now wish to be known and addressed as SHAMSUDEEN ALHASSAN HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

Requirement for Change of Name Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit

LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION

THLAMA TUKURANA - Deceased

Papers are herein submitted together with order book, may letter of Administration be issued to the petitioner THLAMA BULUS WABA the lawful SON/NEXT OF KIN of the said deceased.

A1 - Application be for letter of Administration dated 8/04/19 filed.

A2 - Declaration as to Next of Kin sworn to and filed on the 10/04/19.

A3 - Affidavit in Lieu of Death certificate sworn to and filed on the 10/04/19.

A4 - Notice of Publication has been published in the BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE of 11th APRIL, 2019.

C5 - Oath THLAMA BULUS WABA sworn to and filed on 10/04/19.

D6 - Bond in the sum of # BENEFIT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, NPF PENSIONS LIMITED, SIGMA VAUGHN STERLING PENSIONS LIMITED & MONEY IN FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC executed.

E7 - Justification of sureties sworn to and filed on the 10/04/19.

F8 - All fees have been paid.

G9 - Total amount on inventory shows value at # BENEFIT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, NPF PENSIONS LIMITED, SIGMA VAUGHN STERLING PENSIONS LIMITED & MONEY IN FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC.

H0 - No caveat lodged.

At Maiduguri Dated the 9th MAY, 2019.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE KATSINA STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE DIVISION

WHERE AS the person whose name is set out in the first column here under in stated on the date and place stated in the said column

AND WHERE AS the person (s) whose address and claim relationship to the said deceased is/are set out in the second column hereunder has/have applied to the High Court of Justice Katsina for the grant of (LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION) of the personal properties of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said (LETTER'S OF administration) will be granted to such person unless a notice to prohibit the grant thereof is filed in the probate Registry High Court of Justice Katsina Within (TWENTY ONE DAYS) from the date of publication of this notice.

DECEASED: LATE AHMED RUFAI OF DANGOTE CEMENT PLC DIED ON 1ST MARCH, 2019 AT FUNTUA

APPLICANT FOR GRANT: SULEIMAN AHMED OF UNGUWAR MAGAJI FUNTUA, FUNTUA L.G.A THE SON OF THE SAID DECEASED

DATED THIS 6TH JANUARY, 2020.

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY, HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KATSINA (KABIR SHUAIBU) PROBATE REGISTRAR

Bank Details

Pay into any of our Accounts: Account Name: MEDIA TRUST LTD.	Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc Account No: 0000913253 Sort Code: 221081552	Bank: First Bank Plc Account No: 2002911690 Sort Code: 011084060	Bank: UBA Plc Account No: 1007117397 Sort Code: 033080013	Bank: GTBank Plc Account No: 0024570856 Sort Code: 058083231
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Send your payment mandate to our email addresses



AROUND THE WORLD

LIBERIA

Police fire tear gas, water cannon to clear protesters

Liberian police fired tear gas and water cannon to clear thousands of anti-government protesters from a central district in the capital Monrovia.

A crowd of some 3,000 people had gathered outside Monrovia's Capitol building since Monday morning to protest the deepening economic crisis under President George Weah.

People outside the Capitol building had started cooking evening meals, against police

orders, when law enforcement began to forcefully clear the area.

Dozens of people suffering the effects of tear gas, or from falling during the clearance, were taken to hospital, the news agency added.

Monday's demonstration follows two mass rallies against the footballer-turned-president last summer, as the impoverished West African country struggles with corruption and inflation.

UNITED STATES

Bolton ready to testify in Trump impeachment trial

Former White House National Security Adviser John Bolton says he is willing to testify at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial in the Senate.

"I have concluded that, if the Senate issues a subpoena for my testimony, I am prepared to testify," Mr Bolton said in a statement. He has previously complied with the White House directive not to co-operate with the Democratic-led inquiry.

Mr Bolton would be the most senior former Trump adviser to testify.

Mr Trump, a Republican, was impeached by the Democratic-

controlled House of Representatives last month. He was the third US president ever to incur such a congressional sanction.

The hawkish former national security adviser wrote on his website on Monday: "During the present impeachment controversy, I have tried to meet my obligations both as a citizen and as former National Security Adviser.

"Since my testimony is once again at issue, I have had to resolve the serious competing issues as best I could, based on careful consideration and study."

JAPAN

Govt presses for Ghosn's extradition from Lebanon

Japan is pressing Lebanon to return fugitive ex-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, who escaped house arrest in Tokyo before reportedly being smuggled out of the country in a flight case.

Lebanon does not typically surrender its citizens but Japan says it can request his extradition. According to reports, Mr Ghosn walked out of his house on 29 December before boarding a bullet train to Osaka.

He was then bundled into a flight case, which was put on a Turkey-bound plane.

Mr Ghosn, who ran

Nissan until he was arrested on charges of financial misconduct in November 2018, was banned from seeing his wife while on bail.

But, in the final days of 2019, he skipped bail to board a private jet that took him to Turkey before he travelled on to Lebanon, where he is a citizen and where his wife was waiting.

Security cameras caught the 65-year old walking out of his house in Tokyo alone at around 14:30 local time on 29 December, according to Japanese media.

CROATIA

Former PM Zoran Milanovic wins presidential polls

Former Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic, who has pledged to make Croatia a tolerant country turning the page on its wartime past, has won Sunday's presidential runoff, defeating the incumbent conservative leader.

Milanovic, the Social Democrat candidate, took 52.7 percent of the vote, while President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, who had tried to unite a fractured right wing, garnered 47.3 percent, according to results based on a vote count at nearly all polling stations released by the electoral commission. The turnout was about 55 percent.

The second-round election was held just days after Croatia took the helm of the European Union for a six-month period that will be dominated by Brexit and the bloc's enlargement.

At the same time, the EU's newest member is struggling with a mass exodus of its people, corruption and a lacklustre economy at home. Grabar-Kitarovic campaigned on a slogan promoting "real Croatia", hinting she believes the ruling conservative HDZ party that backed her was the only one who can truly represent the country.

IRAN

Soleimani: Huge crowds pack Tehran for commander's funeral

Huge crowds have packed the streets of the Iranian capital Tehran for the funeral of military commander Qasem Soleimani.

Soleimani was assassinated in a US drone strike in Iraq on Friday on the orders of President Donald Trump.

Iran's Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Khamenei led prayers and at one point was seen weeping.

State television showed huge crowds in Tehran for the event. It put the number who turned out as "millions" although this is yet to be verified.

Some people cried, while others clutched pictures of the

late commander. Mourners passed Soleimani's coffin over their heads and "death to America" chants were heard.

His daughter Zeinab Soleimani warned the US that it faced a "dark day".

"Crazy Trump, don't think that everything is over with my father's martyrdom," she said.



People protest outside the US Embassy in Manila, Philippines yesterday, against Washington-led aggression in Iran. The protest was held in response to the airstrike that killed Qasem Suleimani

Photo: Ezra Acayan/ Getty Images

EUROPE

NATO stands with US after Soleimani assassination and warns Iran

All members of the Atlantic alliance stood behind the United States in the Middle East after it briefed NATO on its drone attack that killed Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Monday.

Speaking after a rare NATO meeting on Iran and Iraq in which the United States briefed

its allies about last Friday's drone attack, Stoltenberg also called for a de-escalation of tensions, echoing the statements of some European leaders.

"We are united in condemning Iran's support of a variety of different terrorist groups," Stoltenberg said. "At the meeting today, allies called for restraint and de-escalation. A new conflict

would be in no one's interest. So, Iran must refrain from further violence and provocations."

Despite anger last year among European NATO allies over US strategy in the Middle East under President Donald Trump, two diplomats present confirmed that the two-hour meeting at NATO headquarters went smoothly.

LIBYA

Haftar forces announce capture of large parts of Sirte

The forces of Libya's renegade general Khalifa Haftar said they have entered Sirte, taking control of large parts of the coastal city.

Khaled al-Mahjoub, a spokesman of Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), said the fighters captured "all the districts surrounding the

city", including al-Qardabiya airbase, before moving towards the city centre.

However, Libya's internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) rejected the information in a statement, referring to it as "rumours claiming gains of militias and mercenaries of

war criminal Haftar". GNA said the government forces repelled LNA's attack, destroying two armed vehicles near the east of Sirte. "The situation inside Sirte is completely under control, and the clashes that took place on the eve of this day took place outside the city," the government said.

AUSTRALIA

Fires: Rain brings relief but huge blazes expected

Rain has fallen in fire-ravaged parts of Australia and temperatures have dropped - but officials have warned that blazes will "take off" again.

Sooty rain fell down the east coast, from Sydney to Melbourne, with "torrential" rain reported in some parts of New South Wales (NSW).

But on Sunday night officials warned temperatures would rise by Thursday.

They also said huge fires in Victoria and New South Wales could meet to create a larger "mega blaze".

"There is no room for complacency," NSW state Premier Gladys Berejiklian warned on Monday.

KENYA

Police arrest intruders in UK army camp 'break-in' attempt

Three men have been arrested for allegedly trying to break into a British Army base in central Kenya. Regional police chief Marcus Ochola said officers were interrogating the suspects to establish their motive.

The failed intrusion occurred at a camp in the town of Nanyuki where 10,000 UK troops receive training every year.

It came hours after an attack on a US army base in Kenya's coastal region - but it is not clear whether the two incidents are connected. On Sunday, al-Shabab militants attacked Camp Simba on Manda Island in Lamu County killing a US military service member and two contractors.

MALI

Five soldiers killed in roadside attack

Five Malian soldiers have been killed in a roadside bomb attack, a government spokesman said, in the latest attack to hit the West African country's volatile central region. The troops were travelling in the region of Alatona, near the border with Mauritania, when their convoy hit a bomb on Monday morning, destroying four vehicles. "Reinforcements are already in place for the operation to neutralise the enemies," government spokesman Yaya Sangare said on Twitter. Mali has been struggling to contain an armed uprising that erupted in the north in 2012 and that has claimed thousands of military and civilian lives in the years since.



PHOTO NEWS

YAKUBU ABUBAKAR
Photo Editor

photonews@dailytrust.com



■ A cyclist dressed to protect himself from the harmattan weather in Kano yesterday

Photo: Sani Maikatanga



■ Governor Abubakar Sanni Bello of Niger State tests one of the Hilux vehicles during their presentation to local government chairmen in Minna yesterday

Photo: Romoke W. Ahmad



■ From right: Commissioner for Home Affairs, Pharm. (Mrs) Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf; wife of the minister of Works and Housing, Dame Abimbola Fashola; First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu; Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; his wife, Oluremi and Mrs. Ibiwonke Bankole Sanwo-Olu, during the state's government annual thanksgiving service at the Lagos House in Alausa, Ikeja on Sunday

Photo: LASG



■ Some of the 39 graduands of Madarasatul-Hisburahim Islamiyya School, during the school's Qur'anic graduation ceremony at Kpace community in Abaji Area Council on Saturday

Photo: Abubakar Sadiq Isah



■ Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, representing President Buhari (2nd left); APC Vice Chairman South East Zone, Emmanuel Enuoku (left); Representative of the Permanent Secretary, Ecological Office, Engr. Benjamin Ani (2nd right); and the Chief Medical Director, Alex Ekwueme Federal Teaching Hospital (AE-FUTHA), Dr. Emmanuel Onwe Ogah (right), during the commissioning and handing over certificate of completed works to the hospital's Chief Medical Director by the minister in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State



■ National Guard officers try to stop Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, who many nations have recognized as the country's rightful interim ruler, from entering Venezuela's National Assembly building in Caracas

Photo: Reuters/Manauere Quintero

■ Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani pray near the coffin of Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani in Tehran, Iran



Photo Credit: Official President's website/via REUTERS



■ Students of Community Grammar Schools, Oluyole clean their compound, as schools resume in Ibadan after the Xmas and New Year break yesterday

Photo: NAN

NIGERIA STOCK EXCHANGE MARKET CAP. ▶ 13.198TR (1.38%) ↑ ALL SHARE INDEX ▶ 27,339.68POINTS (1.38%) ↑ MARKET TURNOVER ▶ 520.4MN SHARES

Monday, January 6, 2020



NSE GENERAL INDEX

COMPANY NAME	MARKET(NM)	PRICE	CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
BANKING					
ACCESS BANK PLC.	383,888.44	10.80	6.40	223	8,828,021
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	275,305.34	8.05	7.33	531	62,657,269
ZENITH BANK PLC	627,929.88	20.00	3.90	1,011	97,112,159
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
FBN HOLDINGS PLC	249,472.28	6.95	5.30	395	26,390,793
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES					
MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	2,198,287.41	108.00	-0.92	131	3,020,989
BUILDING MATERIALS					
DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	2,487,914.08	146.00	2.82	157	2,577,672
LAFARGE AFRICA PLC.	223,898.36	13.90	0.72	173	6,694,521
OIL AND GAS					
SEPLAT PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	346,888.07	589.50	-0.44	12	1,141,059
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS)					
SKYE SHELTER FUND PLC	1,710.00	85.50	-	0	0
UNION HOMES REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT)	10,175.81	40.70	-	0	0
UPDC REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST	11,473.56	4.30	-	4	59,332
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
NIGERIA ENERGY SECTOR FUND	411.91	552.20	-	0	0
VALLIANCE VALUE FUND	3,312.39	103.20	-	0	0
AGRICULTURE					
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	440.00	0.20	-	3	1,871,909
OKOMU OIL PALM PLC.	53,895.92	56.50	-	17	96,049
PRESCO PLC	47,500.00	47.50	-	13	90,086
ELLAH LAKES PLC.	8,500.00	4.25	-	0	0
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	1,500.00	0.50	-	3	32,425
A.G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	1,456.01	0.55	-	0	0
JOHN HOLT PLC.	217.92	0.56	-	0	0
S C O A NIG. PLC.	1,903.99	2.93	-	0	0
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION OF NIGERIA PLC	42,273.91	1.04	-1.89	97	23,976,023
U A C N PLC.	26,651.99	9.25	2.78	77	2,512,112
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION					
ARBICO PLC.	521.24	3.51	-	0	0
INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION					
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC.	26,268.00	19.90	-	17	50,689
ROADS NIG PLC.	165.00	6.60	-	0	0
INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION	2,598.40	1.00	-	8	215,670
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	1,903.99	2.93	-	0	0
AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS					
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0	0
BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS					
CHAMPION BREW. PLC.	7,438.02	0.95	-	8	74,355
GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC.	242.22	0.89	-	0	0
GUINNESS NIG PLC	65,821.00	30.05	-	29	94,957
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC.	79,941.52	9.30	-2.11	42	552,846
NIGERIAN BREW. PLC.	448,626.21	56.10	-	47	366,527
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	180,600.00	15.05	5.99	130	4,397,221
FLOUR MILLS NIG. PLC.	86,107.97	21.00	6.33	45	329,590
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	8,009.50	1.01	1.00	20	1,484,890
MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	1,340.10	0.36	-	0	0
N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC.	766.26	4.30	-	2	10,000
NASCON ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC	36,959.67	13.95	7.72	31	314,713
FOOD PRODUCTS					
UNION DICON SALT PLC.	3,321.07	12.15	-	0	0
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	19,815.03	10.55	-	25	445,874
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC.	1,165,125.42	1,469.90	-	26	21,319
HOUSEHOLD DURABLES					
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC.	1,680.31	22.10	-	0	0
VITAFAM NIG PLC.	5,878.97	4.70	-3.19	62	1,646,994
PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS					
P Z CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC.	20,249.43	5.10	-9.73	60	981,103
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	114,900.11	20.00	-3.38	57	938,740
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	135,786.68	7.40	6.47	139	3,804,350
FIDELITY BANK PLC	64,613.80	2.23	7.21	173	21,416,058
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC.	912,366.56	31.00	2.99	300	19,032,474
JAIZ BANK PLC	20,035.69	0.68	4.62	37	3,897,985
STERLING BANK PLC.	58,732.45	2.04	2.51	295	20,213,074
UNION BANK NIG. PLC.	165,988.29	5.70	-5.00	104	2,505,263
UNITY BANK PLC	8,533.22	0.73	8.96	15	952,733
WEMA BANK PLC.	28,545.10	0.74	8.82	40	4,648,608
INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES					
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	0	0
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	5,059.05	0.73	1.39	58	16,288,942
AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC	21,000.00	2.00	-	4	7,740
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	2,682.90	0.33	-8.33	2	130,200
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	22,820.04	2.20	-	0	0
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	8,543.11	0.58	9.43	16	585,610
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	909.99	0.20	-	0	0
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	1,228.00	0.20	-	0	0
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSURANCE PLC	487.95	0.38	-	0	0
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	1,977.33	0.27	8.00	7	129,790
LAW UNION AND ROCK INS. PLC.	2,191.13	0.51	2.00	1	170,000
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	3,840.00	0.48	-	1	75
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC.	2,234.55	0.20	-4.76	12	5,404,900
NEM INSURANCE PLC	12,778.82	2.42	-	7	83,725
NIGER INSURANCE PLC	1,547.90	0.20	-9.09	9	366,603
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	2,960.40	0.55	-	0	0
REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC	1,333.75	0.20	-	2	125,000
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2,502.25	0.20	-	3	53,000
STACO INSURANCE PLC	4,483.72	0.48	-	0	0
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC.	2,582.21	0.20	-	0	0
SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC.	2,800.00	0.20	-	1	3,000
UNIC DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS PLC.	516.46	0.20	-	0	0
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC	3,200.00	0.20	-	1	70,000,000
VERITAS KAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	2,773.33	0.20	-	1	98,500
WAPIC INSURANCE PLC	4,817.79	0.36	2.86	67	7,344,386
MICRO-FINANCE BANKS					
NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	2,629.63	1.15	-	5	460,100
ABBAY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	4,200.00	1.00	-	1	1,400
ASO SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	7,370.87	0.50	-	0	0
INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	5,796.93	1.39	-	0	0
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	2,265.95	0.20	-	0	0
UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC.	2,949.22	3.02	-	0	0
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	9,000.00	4.50	5.88	55	916,427
CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	35,291.19	6.00	-0.83	20	3,125,746
DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	540.00	0.36	-	0	0
FCMB GROUP PLC.	41,387.67	2.09	10.00	297	54,861,878
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC.	1,697.97	0.33	-	3	61,005
STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	420,198.69	40.00	-	14	100,510
UNITED CAPITAL PLC	15,120.00	2.52	5.00	74	4,188,657
HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS					
EKOCORP PLC.	2,119.05	4.25	-	0	0
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERVICES PLC	710.63	0.20	-9.09	7	594,527
PHARMACEUTICALS					
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	366.17	0.50	-	0	0
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	5,320.22	2.55	-5.56	81	3,270,076
GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC.	6,278.35	5.25	-	62	827,315
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	3,450.47	2.00	-	7	53,430
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	1,063.53	0.56	-	9	155,576
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	556.71	3.62	-	0	0
PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	325.23	1.50	-	1	1,260
COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS					
COURTEVILLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PLC	923.52	0.26	8.33	4	140,000
COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS					
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	1,323.81	0.45	-	1	100
CWG PLC	6,413.06	2.54	-	0	0
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	486.00	4.50	-	0	0

COMMODITIES PRICE

CRUDE OIL (BRENT)

\$71.76

NATURAL GAS

\$2.61

COPPER

\$2.81

GOLD

\$1,284.1

SILVER

\$14.650

SUGAR

\$12.21

COCOA

\$2,314

LIVE CATTLE

\$114,000

COTTON

\$75.46

TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	316.77	0.64	-	0	0
IF SERVICES					
CHAMPS PLC	1,643.62	0.35	2.94	10	1,369,799
E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	10,962.00	2.61	-	0	0
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES					
AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	1,123,311.48	298.90	-	7	50,110
BUILDING MATERIALS					
BERGER PAINTS PLC	1,956.31	6.75	-	6	4,458
CAP PLC	16,765.00	23.95	-	25	34,252
CEMENT CO. OF NORTH.NIG. PLC	237,897.37	18.10	-	0	0
MEYER PLC.	286.87	0.54	-	0	0
PORTLAND PAINTS & PRODUCTS NIGERIA PLC	1,769.32	2.23	-	0	0
PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1,156.20	9.40	-	0	0
ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS					
AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,256.91	2.09	-	0	0
CUTIX PLC.	2,342.56	1.33	-	7	64,850
PACKAGING/CONTAINERS					
BETA GLASS PLC.	26,898.49	53.80	-	27	102,715
GREIF NIGERIA PLC	388.02	9.10	-	0	0
AGRO-ALLIED & CHEMICALS					
NOTORRE CHEMICAL IND PLC	100,754.14	62.50	-	0	0
B.O.C. GASES PLC.	2,289.35	5.50	-	6	65,000
ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES					
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	1,315.17	0.21	4.76	37	6,498,582
DANDIO PLC	47,860.94	3.85	4.05	64	2,793,328
PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS					
11 PLC	53,332.04	147.90	-	19	50,984
CONOIL PLC	13,185.09	19.00	2.15	41	154,305
ETERNA PLC.	4,694.92	3.60	-	9	16,396
FORTE OIL PLC.	23,444.66	18.00	-	20	40,381
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC.	4,663.23	15.30	-	8	2,568
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC.	37,652.97	110.90	-	25	19,858
ADVERTISING					
AFROMEDIA PLC	1,509.28	0.34	-	0	0
AIRLINES					
MEDVIEW AIRLINE PLC	15,796.05	1.62	-	0	0
AUTOMOBILE/AUTO PART RETAILERS					
R T BRISCODE PLC.	235.27	0.20	-	1	4,000
COURIER/FREIGHT/DELIVERY					
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	2,623.26	4.45	-	3	69,000
TRANS-NATIONWIDE EXPRESS PLC.	431.34	0.92	-	0	0
HOSPITALITY					
TANTALIZERS PLC	642.33	0.20	-	0	0
HOTELS/LODGING					
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	4,259.15	2.75	-	0	0
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	2,328.25	1.12	-	1	15,000
TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC.	7,862.53	3.50	-	2	1,020
TRANSC					



INSIDE POLITICS

PoliQuote

"I believe that power must be given to he that has vision irrespective of where he comes from because tribe cannot put food at the table of the common man, neither will it guarantee security. I always make fun of those, even within the state, that say our zone has not governed, this zone has not governed" - **Sen Rochas Okorochoa**

'Kogi stakeholders should now agree on mode of power rotation'

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Presidency: Buhari won't hand pick his successor

By Muideen Olaniyi

The Presidency yesterday said that President Muhammadu Buhari would not hand pick his successor in 2023.

Presiding Pastor of Latter Rain Assembly, Pastor Tunde Bakare, had on Sunday advised President Buhari to determine who succeeds him in 2023.

Bakare, who was Buhari's running mate on the platform of the defunct Congress for Progressive Change during the 2011 presidential election, also asked Nigerians to seek God's intercession so that the president would not hand over to "thieves and perverts."

The Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, spoke yesterday while featuring on Channels Television's Politics Today.

Adesina, who said President Buhari would not hand pick his successor, added that he would however provide an atmosphere that would guarantee free, fair and credible election.

He said, "By May 2023, God willing, he would have finished his second term as president. He would not have stood for another term and he will be exiting. So, he has that at the back of his mind. Pastor Bakare said he should be interested in who succeeds

him, yes I'm sure the president will be interested in who succeeds him. But he will not manipulate the process to pick a successor.

"The president will not pick a successor we know him, he is not somebody like that. Will he be interested in the process? Yes, he will. He will ensure that there is a free, fair and credible election; that nobody will come to use money and resources to bamboozle his way into the leadership of the country. It will not happen. The president will ensure free, fair and credible process but to hand pick a successor? No, he will not do that."

The presidential aide, who said the president would ensure that the country was in safe hands in 2023 by preventing a scenario that would make him hand over to looters, stated that Nigerians would determine the next President.

On whether the president would act early enough on the proposed amendment to the Electoral Act, Adesina said: "Well, it depends on how you define early enough. One thing that is clear is that the President will do whatever is needful before the next set of general elections. Early enough is relative but the president will do whatever is needful."



■ President Muhammadu Buhari

Make laws for Nigeria not APC, PDP – Bukar Abba Ibrahim to N/Assembly

By Abbas Jimoh

A former governor of Yobe State, Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim, has expressed satisfaction with the level of development under the present democratic dispensation, saying the country is on a journey to greatness.

Senator Ibrahim, while speaking with Daily Trust yesterday in Abuja, said more laws were being made and more ideas were being generated to guarantee good governance in the country.

"As a member of the same party with the President Muhammadu Buhari in the APC, I am very happy with what he is doing to reposition Nigeria for greatness and development.

"Look at the budget that was just passed; it is a clear sign of Mr President's readiness to give Nigerians good governance. You will recall that budgets were usually passed in June and sometimes in July, a situation which affected good governance delivery.

"Again, the present crops of senators we have are making their contributions towards nation building through debate and legislation that will move the nation forward. One can see that this government means well for the masses.

"My advice is that the lawmakers should not look at issues from partisan point of view, rather from patriotism and national interest point of view. The nation is greater than anybody. So, we should strive to make laws for Nigeria not for ANPP, APC or for the PDP or any other group," Ibrahim said.

According to him, most of the bills, either executive, or private members bills should be handled in a way that will promote national building and development.

He said that the amendment of the electoral laws had contributed tremendously to improving the elections in the country, adding that the National Assembly should be given credit.

One shot dead as suspended Imo LG chairmen try to resume office

From Jude Aguguo Owuamanam, Owerri

The fisticuff between suspended local government chairmen in Imo State and the Interim Management Committees (IMC) yesterday claimed the life of one of the suspended councillors who was shot dead by suspected thugs while attempting to force his way into his former office.

The suspended councillor, identified as Ahamefulu Maduabuchi, was shot dead at Umundugba, the headquarters of Isu Local Government Area (LGA) of Imo State as he was trying to resume duties.

Trouble started on Monday when the suspended chairmen and their councillors across the state besieged the 27 LGAs headquarters with the intention of resuming duty.

They had cited the Supreme Court judgement in a case between suspended Ekiti State LGAs' chairmen and the state government in which the apex court had ruled that the governor had no legal

power to suspend duly elected LGAs chairmen.

But they met stiff opposition from the Interim Management Committee chairmen which led to a rancorous situation.

The chairmen, elected on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) but sacked by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) - led government, said that they acted in accordance to the Supreme Court judgment.

There was confusion in most of the 27 local government areas (LGAs) of Imo State.

In most of the LGA headquarters, including Orlu, Nkwere, Ideato South, Ideato North, Isu, Nwangele, Njaba, Okigwe, Isiala Mbano, Ehime Mbano, Obowo, Owerri West, Owerri North, the chairmen and their councillors engaged the IMC members appointed by Governor Emeka Ihedioha in a war of supremacy.

The suspended LGA chairmen and their councillors mobilised their

supporters to the council, while the Interim Management Committee chairmen equally mobilised their supporters to various headquarters, leading to rowdy moments in the areas.

It took the intervention of policemen to restore normalcy in some of the local government areas, while teargas was used to disperse them in other places.

One of the appointees of the state governor, Kissinger Ikeokwu, said that the suspended chairmen did not gain entrance into the council headquarters but only resumed duties at the gates.

Special Adviser to former Governor Rochas Okorochoa, Sam Onwuemeodo, said that the chairmen resumed work "in respect and obedience to the Supreme Court judgement to that effect," adding that "the chairmen and councillors have been peaceful in their conducts."

Police spokesperson, Orlando Ikeokwu, confirmed the incident. He said that the State Commissioner of Police, Olaniyi Fafowora, had ordered investigation into the matter.

INTERVIEW/NEWS >>

From Itodo Daniel Sule, Lokoja

What is your view on the election?

We appreciate God Almighty for all He has done for us during the election. The election came and went and a winner has emerged. But in totality, the entire state is the winner. Whatever might have been the shortcomings of the election should serve as a source of correction for future election. I will personally like to sympathise with those that sustained one injury or the other during the election and I will like to commiserate with those who lost their loved ones during the election. I will like to point out that whatever we are having as a democracy in Nigeria today, it is still at a teething stage and a lot of changes need to be done to moderate and modify it. I believe there is need to utilise the advantages of technology to modify the electoral process in the country so that electorate can even cast their votes electronically so that the issue of queuing up will not be there again. This will invariably end electoral violence as people can vote from their homes, offices, markets and other places. This is achievable through the commitment of the government. And gradually, the country will perfect the electoral process. This will also go a long way in reducing the high rate of violence often experienced during elections. The issues and complaints of ballot snatching will be permanently solved. Regardless of the little hitches experienced during the governorship election in Kogi, the election was good, free and fair. I want to use this opportunity to congratulate the winner of Kogi state governorship election, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, who has often demonstrated that he is capable and can withstand pressure to move the state to the next level of development and I wish him all the best.

The three major tribes form a coalition. Can you tell us what the coalition stand for?

For now, I am not authorised to speak on behalf of the coalition. But definitely, we are going to speak out and talk about the development in the state. But I can say that we have met twice and the next time we meet, we will come out with a resolution. However, what borders us much is the peace and unity of the state and we have called on the entire people of the state to close ranks and come together in support of whoever is in government. We are calling on everybody to be peace loving and ensure that we don't allow a single incident to go deep down to possibly divide the entire state. We are united in calling on our people to maintain the current peace and to support

'Kogi stakeholders should now agree on mode of power rotation'

Dr Abdulrahman Musa Adeiza is the President General of Epira Peoples Association (EPA). In this interview, he speaks on the political situation in Kogi State and the just concluded governorship election. Excerpts:

the winner of the election so that the government can be successful in delivering the dividends of democracy to the people which is key in any democratic setting. If the government is not successful, it is the entire state that will carry the burden and the burden as a result of the failure of administration is never limited to any particular tribe. So far, we have observed that the winner of the election, which is the APC, has a sizeable proportion of supporters across the three senatorial districts, meaning that the victory cannot be limited to a certain set of people or tribes alone. To this extent, we believe that if the government pursues peaceful measures, the entire state will be in a position to initiate a lot of development and we believe that the current government is in a position to ensure the development of the state.

I want to believe that our governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, will find a way of creating a focus for the entire state, where the overriding effect will be the state instead of primordial issues of where I come from. It will be enough to galvanise the interest of the people for the advancement of the state and generally the development will be achieved.

What do you think the federal government can do to get things right in the next general election coming up in 2023?

Personally, I have always felt that the way the democracy of this country was conceived called for a lot to be desired. In 1999, when the country was moving from military regime to civilian government, there was call for the formation of political parties. The party guideline was so expensive and cumbersome to an extent that people with good and lofty ideas did not have the money and were taken away out of the circle. In other countries, things are not done like that because there are institutions that assist the people to circumvent the capital intensive nature so that they can participate in electoral process. In this country, you will be charged to open offices in virtually all the 774 local government areas of the federation and if you are not rich, you cannot achieve that even if you have good ideas that can move the country forward. But in other climes, parties enter informal agreement



■ Dr Abdulrahman Musa Adeiza

with institutions. If you win, we will produce three ministers and as such the organisation or individuals render financial assistance to the party. But in this country, many people that are intelligent are excluded from attaining the position of governance through the cumbersome nature of party formation.

The level we are today, the major problem we have as a nation is the electoral process as a result of that the country is developing certain level of democratic characters in such a way that we are learning to tolerate protest which is different from military regime. Gradually, if we can change the mode of election through revisiting of Electoral Act, nothing stops us from using technology to conduct our elections because what we are doing right now cannot be said to be perfect. The use of technology will also show the actual population of some ethnic groups that claim that they are large in number and it is time government should not use population alone for sharing of monthly allocation. This will discourage padding of population during census. One nauseating thing being bandied around as truth is the allocated census figures of the past which was designed to reduce my people to a minority status. Much as this lie has been peddled around for too long and now

made to look like the truth, I want to say with clear equivocation that the past population figure allocated to my people, Epira, was at best fictitious, fraudulent and manipulated. I call it allocation because the then powers that be in the state connived to contrive those figures allocated to the west and central senatorial districts to ensure the perpetual political domination of the east of the state over others. At this juncture, I will like to commend the Federal Government for their desire to conduct a more credible and digital census. I am not in doubt that after that exercise, the truth shall be unveiled to the world and we shall be able to seek reparation for the accumulated hurt and harm done to our district. The era of manipulative dominance should be over, considering the voters turnout vis-a-vis the registered voters declared for each district by INEC. The votes counted in each area of dominance of the respective candidates against the backdrop of the voters registered in such areas is probable demonstration of the population strength of area. It is generally agreed that Alhaji Yahaya Bello inherited the votes of the late Alh Abubakar after his painful demise. He benefitted from the labour of the late Audu on the ground of the APC party being the original owner of the votes and he as the second runner up at the party's primary was qualified with the entitlement of inheritance of the votes. It was a painstaking process and exercise borne out of constitutional interpretations and not a gentle man arrangement of power rotation to the other zones. It therefore needs to be tested at the courts of law as to whether GYB was actually having a first term or was merely there in the garb of another man's votes and therefore just preparing to start his own first term. In any case, it is not debatable that the Central Senatorial District is just about having its first term, thereby making it equitable for it to go for a second round in a two round rotation of governorship seat that God has divinely decreed on our state with the death of our late leader, Abubakar Audu. I suggest having this at the back of our minds, stakeholders in the state should now agree on a mode of power rotation in pursuance of peace and unity in the state.

Sen Oluwabunwa: People will determine Kalu's fate in the Senate

From Linus Effiong, Umuahia

The immediate past senator representing Abia North senatorial district, Mao Oluwabunwa, has called on the people of Abia North to look for their lost voice in the senate.

Oluwabunwa, who made the call while answering questions from journalists in Umuahia yesterday, said the upper chamber of National Assembly had not said anything about the vacant

seat of Abia North in the Senate.

Kalu, who is the Senate Chief Whip of the 9th Assembly, and the incumbent senator representing the people at the upper chamber, was found guilty by a federal High Court in Lagos on fraud charges and remanded at Ikoyi Correctional Center.

He was convicted and sentenced to 12 years after the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission filed N7.65billion fraud charge

against him.

He said the red chamber would respond when the people of Abia North stood up and said that they wanted their voices to be heard in the Senate.

He said the Constitution is very clear on when to declare the seat of a Senator vacant.

"The case of Orji Uzor Kalu is different from the case of Senator Joshua Dariye and if the people of Abia North stand up today and say they want their voices

to be heard in the Senate, definitely, the Senate will speak. But if, as a senatorial district, we keep quiet, we will be taken for granted. The construction is very clear, following the amendment of the Constitution, which gives 60 days if you don't attend sitting, your seat should be declared vacant.

"Most of the things we do in the Senate is about voice. It's about lobbying, it's about integrity and contact. It's not about me. It's about

the people of Abia North. When the time comes, they know what to do, no senator can stop the people of Abia North from having a voice in the Senate, while he or she is there speaking for their own people, the same Constitution, says every constituency must be represented," he said.

Oluwabunwa said it will be shameful and unfortunate if the people kept quiet and allowed their voices to be lost in the Senate.

Gombe launches girl-child non-formal learning centres

From Haruna Gimba Yaya, Gombe

The Gombe State Government, through Better Education Services Delivery for All (BESDA), yesterday flagged-off girl-child non-formal learning centres in the state.

At the ceremony at Kuri village of Yamaltu/Deba Local Government Area of the state, the governor's wife, Hajiya Asma'u Inuwa Yahaya distributed learning tools to girls enrolled for the programme.

She preached to parents on the importance of girl-child education

and encouraged them to enroll their wards, particularly Girl-child into school, describing the number of out-of-school children in the state as alarming.

According to her, the collaboration with BESDA has the specific objectives of increasing equitable access to education for all children, improve literacy and strengthen accountability through effective coordination and utilisation of resources.

"It is against this background that Kuri Girl-child Learning Centre has been chosen for the flag-off, to signal

the commencement of Girl-child Non-Formal Learning Centres in Local Government Areas under the BESDA Programme-for-Result (P for R) in the state," she said.

The first lady assured of her husband's readiness to continue to provide enabling environment for the success of BESDA programmes, as well as the education sector for the development of the state.

In a remark, the state Commissioner of Education, Dr Habu Dahiru reiterated the achievements of BESDA in reaching out to out-of-school children, promising that his

ministry will continue to come up with initiatives and reforms aimed at revitalizing the education sector, especially at the basic level.

On his part, BESDA Coordinator, Dr Abdullahi Bappah Garkuwa said relentless efforts are being made to shore up the literacy level of the entire state.

He said that BESDA is determined to mop-up out-of-school children and improve enrollment level in the state.

He noted that one of the goals of BESDA is to ensure that in two years time, the state attains 60% literacy level from its present 29%.



■ From left: Vice Chancellor, Chris-land University Abeokuta, Prof. Peace Babalola; President, Sickle Cell Hope Alive Foundation, Prof. Adeyinka Falusi; and a member of the Foundation, Prof. Adetomiwa Odebiyi, during a news conference on Sickle Cell Hope Alive Foundation activities for the year in Ibadan yesterday

Photo: NAN

C/River monarchs, stakeholders bemoan cultism

From Eyo Charles, Calabar

Traditional rulers, influential citizens and security chiefs in Cross River State have condemned incessant killings related to cult activities in parts of the state.

This followed recent killings of increasing number of young men in Ugep, Calabar and other cities in the state thereby raising fears amongst residents, visitors and investors.

The leaders expressed the displeasure at the Ugep Stakeholders Summit 2020 conveyed by Chief Okoi Obono-Obla, former special assistant

to President Muhammadu Buhari in collaboration with Traditional Rulers Council and clan heads of Ugep Village.

Chief Obono-Obla identified the menace of cultism in Ugep which has resulted to massacre of innocent lives and lamented that the cultists have graduated from rival killings to armed banditry such that they target major business owners and rob them at gun point.

He called on Ugep stakeholders to intensify efforts towards addressing the ugly trend and frowned at the practice in which community leaders secure bail for the

cultists, or aid them resist arrest, and even help them escape from the law.

Also speaking, Chiefs Richard Abam and Wilfred Okoi expressed concern that a town like Ugep with population of 250,000 and high level crime rate has less than 100 police personnel with no operational vehicle and communication facilities.

The summit agreed to set up a committee to implement the resolutions agreed upon, and called on the police to bring to book cultists and those that murdered sons of the area during last Christmas celebration.

JSS student burnt to death in Anambra

Titus Eleweke Awka

A student of Junior Secondary School Patterson Memorial Grammar School, Awada, Onitsha, Anambra state has been burnt to death by fire.

The fire incident which occurred on Sunday, burnt the JSS 1 student identified as master Chigozie Dim Anyichie, aged 11years

Confirming the incident, the Anambra state police command image maker, SP Haruna Mohammed said on Monday, 6th of January, 2020 at about 09:45am, one

Rev. Dr. Kajetan Anuforo, the Principal of Patterson Memorial Grammar School, Awada reported at Awada Police Station that there was fire outbreak in a section of the school dormitory when the students were out in the field for night prayers.

He said the fire completely burnt down a dormitory block which was eventually put off by the concerted efforts of the staff and students of the School.

He said when the situation calmed down, it was discovered that a JSS 1 student

identified as one Chigozie Dim Anyichie aged 11years, who did not go out with other students for prayers was caught up in the inferno and burnt beyond recognition.

He also stated that police detectives led by DPO of Awada Division CSP Tony Adeyi had visited the scene and took the victim to the hospital where he was certified dead by a medical doctor.

He further said the cause of the fire and value of property destroyed is yet to be ascertained.

Minimum wage: Plateau calls for calm, says it's negotiating with labour

From Lami Sadiq, Jos

Plateau State Government on Monday said a committee it constituted in November 2019 with a view to map out modalities for the implementation of the minimum wage was still negotiating with organised labour.

The state government through the Commissioner of Information and Communication, Dan Manjang said news making the rounds on social and conventional media that the state government was ready to implement the payment of the N30, 000 minimum wage without recourse to negotiations on the consequential

adjustments was false.

The commissioner denied reports which quoted him as saying: "there was no need for any negotiation with any group of persons before the implementation" and maintained that the government has set up a committee to negotiate with labour about the consequential adjustments as directed by the Federal Government based on the peculiarity, sustainability and capacity of each state.

He reiterated that government was committed to the welfare of its workers and appealed to workers and the unions to remain calm while negotiations are ongoing.

Bello presents 25 Hilux vans to LG chairmen

From Romoke W. Ahmad, Minna

As part of efforts to ease the work and movement of local government chairmen in Niger State, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello yesterday presented Hilux vans to the 25 local government chairmen in the state to assist in monitoring activities in their domain.

Speaking during the presentation at the government house Minna, Bello said the vehicles will ease the movement of the chairmen especially the difficult terrains of their council areas.

The governor said "The essence of the presentation is to provide the local government chairmen with official vehicles so that they can function very well in their duties. We are providing this Toyota Hilux because of the

difficult terrain in Niger state. "Most of the local government areas have difficult terrain. We expect them to monitor activities with their vicinity. I hope this will go a long way towards assisting and supporting them towards achieving their objectives."

He further charged them to provide logistics that would enhance the mobilization of staff in the local government areas in order to improve productivity in the local government areas.

The Niger State Chairman of ALGON, Ibrahim Abubakar commended the governor for the vehicles adding that

"We feel excited about the car presentation. This is the first time the Governor would present a car in less than a month to local government elected Chairmen. We are grateful for this presentation."

Bandit attack: Niger mobilizes task force

From Romoke W. Ahmad, Minna

Following the armed bandit attack on some Niger state communities and killing of soldiers, the state government has mobilized the joint task force for reinforcement and regular trail of bandits.

The attack which began in some communities on Thursday according to the Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA) Director General, Mallam Ahmed Ibrahim Inga was persistent and forced the communities to seek refuge in Sarkin Pawa.

"The state government has mobilized the joint task force for reinforcement who are already on the trail of the bandits," the agency boss said.

It added that "report reaching the Agency from the Local guards, indicated that the bandits numbering over 150 on 50 Motor bikes, slept at Luwi village in Zazzaga province and rustled 500 cows on Monday and are now moving towards Mangoro axis on their way back to Kofa camp in Gadani area of Kaduna State.

"The communities affected are Katarma and Kuduru in Chikun LGA

in Kaduna State, while Ingu Kasa, Anguwan Bussa, Galuwi, Almujiere, Toko, Galuwi Anguwan Zarumai and Anguwab Kwata communities in Munya LGA of Niger State.

"In a quick response, the joint Military surveillance along Sarkin Pawa Mangoro Kaduna road, engaged in a three hour shoot out encounter with the bandits.

Meanwhile, the Niger state governor, Alhaji Abubakar Sanni Bello has directed NSEMA to immediately establish IDPs camp which was set up at Sarkin Pawa primary school with population of 2, 462 affected persons.



■ Second-hand winter clothes sellers make brisk business around the Terminus Market in Jos yesterday due to the harmattan weather

Photo: Ado Abubakar Musa

Plateau nurses protest abduction of aid workers

From Dickson S. Adama, Jos

National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives, Plateau State council yesterday decried the incessant abduction of medical/aid workers rendering services in the North East zone by insurgents.

The workers who gathered at their secretariat in Jos the state capital to express displeasure on the happenings called on the federal and state governments, as well as relevant authorities to ensure the release their council colleague, Jennifer Ukambong Samuel, who was recently abducted.

Speaking with newsmen, the state Chairperson of the council, Comrade Briskilla Dabit said since the abduction of Jennifer by the

insurgents in the North East, the council has been saddened and worried, considering the fact that several indigenes of the state and aid workers had been previously executed by the insurgents.

Dabit stressed that many aide and medical personnel in the North East are from Plateau, and noted that the government should employ medical personnel into the state service in order to minimize the rate of their migration to dangerous terrains in search of work

"We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the government of Plateau State as well as Governor Simon Lalong for the swift response and attention given to the unfortunate abduction of our colleague, Nurse Jennifer, who is an aid worker attached

to Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA), a humanitarian organization saddled with the responsibility of providing health care services in the North Eastern part of Nigeria.

"As a professional body responsible for the welfare and wellbeing of Nurses, We wish to call on Governor Lalong to use his exalted office as the Chairman Northern Governors Forum to secure the unconditional release of Nurse Jennifer as well as other citizens who are also in captivity.

"We are aware that plans have been underway since last year to recruit nurses in Plateau, but we are appealing to government to expedite action and avail this opportunity for our teeming applicants/nurses," the chairman said.

Electricity injures transformer vandal

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

A man identified as Wasiu Ibrahim was severely injured by electric sparks while attempting to vandalise and steal from a transformer at Araromi area, off Ilesa-Akure expressway, Osun State.

The suspect who was seen lying helplessly on the floor beside the transformer was unable to move with burns all over his body, and some of

the tools he applied to remove parts of the transformer seen beside him.

The residents of the community that saw the man said he was on a mission to vandalise and steal parts of the transformer when the electric sparks injured him.

The matter was reported to the Divisional Police Headquarters in Ijebu-Jesa and policemen moved to the scene immediately and evacuated him to the police station to answer for

his deeds.

The Regional Communication Officer of the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC), in Osogbo, Kikelomo Owwoeye confirmed the incident.

Owwoeye said "We appreciate the Araromi Community members who apprehended the vandal who was injured by the sparks in an attempt to vandalize the transformer serving the Community."

Archbishop Kaigama urges Nigerians to remain hopeful

From Dickson S. Adama, Jos

The Catholic Archbishop of Abuja Archdiocese, Most Rev Ignatius Kaigama, has called on Nigerians not to despair in 2020, saying that the year holds better prospect than last year.

He made the admonition in Jos the Plateau state capital while felicitating with children from all denominations and different religions during his yearly beginning of the year celebration with the less privileged children.

The Archbishop admonished that everyone should play his part so that the nation can emerge stronger and one of the best in the world.

"Nigerians should not lose hope. Sometimes we tend to despair and say things are so hopeless, but we should not. This is 2020, and I keep telling people that even the name 2020 sound sweeter than the name 2019. So we should be optimistic and resilient and trust that everything will be alright."

He also called on parents to take good care of their children, saying they are gift from God, saying "We should handle children with tenderness and they should be groomed to grow like Jesus grew. That is in wisdom, in strength and in the fear of the Lord. So I have come all the way from Abuja to meet with the children and to celebrate with them as we do yearly.

Police promotes 11 officers in Oyo

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

The Oyo State Police command on Monday decorated eleven newly promoted officers to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) and Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) respectively.

The Commissioner of Police in Oyo State, Shina Olukolu while decorating the newly promoted officers at the command headquarters, Eleyele, Ibadan said the promotion is a reward for service.

He disclosed that five officers were promoted from the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), and six Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) were promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in the state.

Olukolu called on the newly promoted officers to ensure that they serve as source of motivation for their subordinates, adding that they should remain committed to the objective of the Inspector General of Police in ensuring protection of life's and property of the citizens.



SPORT

Spanish Super Cup jets off to Saudi Arabia

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■ Asisat Oshoala

CAF Awards: Oshoala eyes fourth continental crown

By Olusola 'Jide @jide_olusola

Super Falcons striker, Asisat Oshoala is eyeing a record-equalling fourth continental Women's Player of the Year award at the Awards to be held in Hurghada

She however has South African Thembi Kgatlana and Cameroon's Ajara Nchout Njoya to contend with to win the award.

The Barcelona forward has been crowned winner in 2014, 2016 and 2017 and is hoping to equal the record of her mentor and compatriot Perpetua Nkwocha who has been decorated four times - 2004, 2005, 2010, 2011.

Oshoala's career has been laced with individual awards including 2014 FIFA U-20

Women's World Cup Golden Boot and Golden Ball Awards as well as the 2015 BBC Women's Footballer of the Year but she will join her compatriot Perpetua Nkwocha on four awards if she is crowned as the 2019 African Women's Player of the Year award.

Nigerian lasses have been so dominant since the award was instituted in 2001 with Nkwocha being winners in 2004, 2005, 2010 and 2011 while Cynthia Uwak had a double in 2005 and

2006 and striker Mercy Akide-Udoh won the maiden edition.

The 2019 CAF Awards Gala will be held today at the Albatros Citadel Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada in Egypt and CAF has hinted that the event will celebrate African footballers and officials who have distinguished themselves during 2019.

Meanwhile, Victor Osimhen and Samuel Chukwueze will slug it out with Achraf Hakimi of Morocco in the African Youth Player of the Year category.

Why Abd'allah was sacked as Enyimba coach - Anyansi Agwu

By Olusola Jide @jide_olusola

Enyimba Football have sacked Usman Abd'allah as the Technical Adviser of the club following a string of unimpressive results from the Nigeria Professional Football League defending champions.

In a statement from the club chairman, Felix Anyansi Agwu, it said in the interim, coach Fatai Osho will take over the head coach duties as all other announcements on this subject will be made later.

"This is not a decision we have taken lightly, nor in haste.

"Results and performances since the start of this season have been very unimpressive and the club must take action to forestall further setbacks.

"We are speaking to the players too and they must do better otherwise there will be consequences. As Enyimba we are committed to earning positive results always and we can't accept nothing less."

"The Club wishes Coach Usman Abd'allah the best for the future and thank him for his service," he said.

It was however gathered that Usman was forced



■ Former Enyimba coach, Usman Abd'allah

to resign following poor performances, loss of faith in him by the management and Enyimba Supporters Club call for his sack.

The 4-0 defeat to league leaders, Plateau United on

Sunday was the last hit that nailed Usman's fate in the Enyimba dought.

It was learnt that Enyimba management had planned to sack coach Abdallah by noon Monday but he heard of the

plan and instead threw in the towel.

The Supporters Club, it was understood, also called on the management of the club to do away with coach Abdallah despite his leading

the team to their 8th NPFL glory last year.

Enyimba have not won a match in their last 5 games both in domestic and continental outings with a record 3 draws and 2 wins.

FIFA ban: CAS' panel sits March 19 as Siasia appeals for funding

By Olusola 'Jide @jide_olusola

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has now set up a Panel of jurists that would hear the appeal filed by former Super Eagles' Chief Coach Samson Siasia against world football governing body FIFA following the life ban slammed on him on allegations of bribery and match fixing.

According to FIFA statement on August 16, 2019, "The Ethics Committee has found Mr Siasia, a former official of the Nigeria Football Federation, guilty of having accepted that he would receive bribes in relation to the manipulation of

matches in violation of the Fifa Code of Ethics," said a FIFA statement.

It was however gathered that the CAS hearing of the appeal will now take place at the CAS Court Office, Avenue de Beaumont 2, 1012, Lausanne, Switzerland on March 19, 2020.

Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) wrote Siasia on December 27, 2019 inviting Samson Siasia and FIFA representatives and their witnesses to appear at the hearing which has been fixed for Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 9.30 hours Swiss time.

The embattled former Eagles Coach has started a GoFundMe appeal to

raise money to be able to attend the CAS hearing in order to clear his name concerning the FIFA allegations.

Siasia coached Nigeria's Super Eagles between 2010-2011 and returned for another spell in 2016 and also served as coach of the country's Under-20 and Under-23 sides at different times.

But the FIFA indictment did not state if it was during either of these periods that the alleged infractions were committed.

Siasia has continued to protest his innocence, saying he had no recollection of ever agreeing to manipulate any football match and

has also said in previous interviews that members of the Super Eagles team he played with have not offered him the kind of support he needed.

"But I will fight to the last to clear my name because I know that I did nothing wrong.

"I only heard about all of this for the first time just like everybody else on social media and then I got a call from (NFF President) Amaju Pinnick asking me if I had seen any letter from FIFA.

"I said no and he asked me to check. That was when I checked my email. But I know that I am innocent and I am asking everybody to help me raise this money to clear my name."



■ Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale

Bale, Benzema injured ahead of Spanish Super Cup

Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale will miss the Spanish Super Cup after Real Madrid announced on Monday that both players were out with fitness problems.

Benzema has a hamstring injury while Madrid said Bale has been "diagnosed with an infection in the upper respiratory tract".

The duo will not travel to Saudi

Arabia, where Madrid face Valencia in the semi-finals of a revised four-team tournament on Wednesday, after being left out of a squad list released by the club on Monday.

The winner will face either Barcelona or Atletico Madrid in the final in Jeddah on Sunday.

Real coach Zinedine Zidane said on Friday that he will also be without

Eden Hazard as the Belgian has failed to recover from an ankle fracture.

The decision in November to hold a four-team Super Cup in Saudi Arabia in the European winter for the next three years caused controversy.

Spain's public broadcaster RTVE refused to bid for the rights to the due to it being held in a country where "human rights are not respected".

Thomas beats Reed, Schauffele in Tournament of Champions playoff

Justin Thomas survived a "disaster" at the 72nd hole before beating Patrick Reed and Xander Schauffele in a three-way playoff at the PGA Tour's Sentry Tournament of Champions in windswept Hawaii on Sunday.

Thomas clinched victory with a three-foot birdie at the third extra hole, the par-five 18th, at the Kapalua Plantation course on Maui.

Schauffele was eliminated at the first hole of sudden death while Reed fell two holes later as the 26-year-old

Thomas earned his 12th PGA Tour victory.

He had one hand on the trophy with a one-shot lead playing the final hole of regulation but hooked his three-wood second shot into a penalty area and could not find his ball in the waist-high tropical grass.

He made a bogey for a four-under-par 69, while Schauffele had a three-putt par, missing a seven-footer for the win, and carded 70.

They fell into a playoff with Reed, who earlier shot 66, at 14-under 278.

"For some reason I was supposed to win this week," Thomas said in a greenside interview after sinking his winning putt in semi-darkness.

"I got very, very lucky to even have that putt. I got very fortunate, but I also stuck to my process and tried to stay positive.

"Through 15 holes it was one of the best rounds I've ever played. I was in such control, tee to green, putting beautiful, my irons were awesome and then 18 was a disaster. It worked out so I can't complain."

Ronaldo hat-trick lifts Juventus, Ibrahimovic fails to fire Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first Serie A hat-trick to lift Juventus top of the table with a 4-0 win over Cagliari on Monday as Zlatan Ibrahimovic was not enough for AC Milan as he made his debut in a goalless draw against Sampdoria.

Portugal forward Ronaldo struck for the fifth consecutive league game to move the champions back above Inter Milan in their first match since the Italian SuperCup defeat to Lazio in Saudi Arabia last month.

"I'm happy with this first hat-trick. But the important thing is the team, which played very well," said Ronaldo.

"We had to win to go ahead and put Inter under pressure."

Maurizio Sarri's side had been pegged back in the first half by the sixth-placed Sardinians who have been pushing for a spot in the Champions League places this season but fell to their third consecutive defeat.

Ex-Arsenal shareholder Usmanov weighing up Everton investment

Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov has revealed that he is "thinking about" investing in top-flight English soccer club Everton.

Usmanov, who also serves as president of the International Fencing Federation (IFF), previously owned 30 per cent of Arsenal until selling his shares to the Premier League club's majority shareholder Stan Kroenke in 2018.

Now, speaking to the Financial Times, Usmanov revealed that he could return to the Premier League by making an investment in Everton, who are owned by the 66-year-old's close friend and business partner Farhad Moshiri.

"Yes, with great pleasure, if [Moshiri] asks," Usmanov told the FT, when asked about investing in Everton. "I am thinking about my investment in this club.

"[But] I cannot reject Arsenal. I will not leave them as a fan. But if I join Everton, then I will wear an Everton shirt, because I am a professional."

Usmanov's holding company USM has sponsored Everton's Finch Farm training ground since 2017, and the Russian hinted that he would also be interested



■ Alisher Usmanov

in purchasing the naming rights to the club's proposed new UK£500 million (US\$654 million), 52,000-seater stadium at Bramley Moore Dock.

"It's not obligatory for me to participate myself. I could sponsor them. I could be a shareholder," Usmanov added in his interview with the FT. "They're going to build a new stadium. Why not the USM Arena?"

Everton, who recently brought in Carlo Ancelotti to replace Marco Silva as their manager, sit 11th in the Premier League, and host Brighton and Hove Albion in their next game on 11th January.

PSV set to receive up to \$44.5 m in Puma deal

Dutch top-flight soccer outfit PSV Eindhoven will reportedly earn between 40 million (US\$44.5 million) and 50 million (US\$55.7 million) from a rumoured new five-year kit deal with German sportswear giant Puma.

According to Dutch newspaper Eindhovens Dagblad (ED), the new deal, which would begin in July, will see the Eredivisie club receive three times more than they do from their current agreement with British manufacturer Umbro.

ED's report added that Umbro had until 1st January to rival an offer from Puma, which was first reported in October, but that no such offer was made before the deadline. Italian manufacturer Macron was also reportedly interested in becoming PSV's kit supplier, but dropped out when the club decided to continue negotiations with Puma.

If the reported figures are correct, it will provide a significant boost to PSV's finances, with the Boeren's current commercial contracts bringing in around 30 million (US\$33.4 million) each year, according to ED.

Puma has recently entered into a decade-long arrangement with English Premier League champions Manchester City and also partnered with Spanish La Liga side Valencia.

PSV currently sit third in the Eredivisie, ten points behind first-placed Ajax.

Germany World Cup 'ghost-goal' keeper Tilkowski dies

Former Germany goalkeeper Hans Tilkowski, who conceded a controversial Geoff Hurst 'ghost-goal' at the 1966 World Cup final, has died at the age of 84, his family told AFP subsidiary SID on Monday.

During the England v West Germany final at Wembley, Tilkowski, who made 39 international appearances, was beaten by Hurst's shot which hit the cross bar and was adjudged to have crossed the line during extra-time before England went on to lift the trophy 4-2.

The incident continues to leave a mark on German football where the term "Wembley-goal" is used to describe goal efforts which are difficult to validate.

In English, "Russian linesman" is a term sometimes used to describe controversial refereeing decisions after Azeri Tofik Bahkramov gave the green light to goal.

"I will die with the certitude that the ball didn't cross the line," Tilkowski said of the incident.

Hurst, who had been informed of Tilkowski's death by the family, paid tribute to the former keeper as a 'terrific player' and 'fine man.'

"Very sad to receive a call earlier to let me know that Germany's goalkeeper from 66 World Cup, Hans Tilkowski, has died," Hurst tweeted.

"Terrific player for his club, Borussia Dortmund, and country and a very fine man, I very much enjoyed the time we spent together over the years."

Tilkowski won the German Cup with Borussia Dortmund in 1965 before clinching the European Cup Winners' Cup a year later.

League Cup: Guardiola expects repeat game plan from Man Utd

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola expects a repeat game plan from Manchester United in the first leg of their League Cup semifinal on Tuesday.

United produced an exhilarating display of counter-attacking football to beat Guardiola's side 2-1 in last month's Premier League derby at the Etihad Stadium.

They meet again in the first leg of their semifinal at Old Trafford this week and City boss Guardiola feels he knows what to expect.

"It will be quite similar," said Guardiola. "Of course at Old Trafford it will be quite different to here but they are a team that are built to run."

"When they can run they are one of the best teams, and not just in England, I would say, because of the pace they have - (Daniel) James, (Mason) Greenwood, (Anthony) Martial, (Marcus) Rashford and (Jesse) Lingard.

"I have the feeling they are going to run, one or two or three times, or as many times as possible, and we have to reduce the mistakes in the build-up. We have to be prepared for that but we have to do our game."

United tore City's defence apart on numerous occasions on December 7 and could have had much more to show for their efforts than first-half goals from Rashford and Martial.

Nicolas Otamendi pulled one back late on but United held on to inflict a defeat that dealt another blow to City's faltering Premier League title challenge.

Despite United's win, City dominated in terms of possession and opportunities created and Guardiola did not feel his team did a lot wrong.

Liverpool players dominate FIFA 20 Team of the Year

Liverpool have dominated FIFA 20's Team of the Year as EA Sports named the best XI from the past 12 months in football.

The European champions boast five names as Virgil van Dijk is joined by fellow defenders Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andrew Robertson. Alisson Becker takes his usual spot between the

posts.

Sadio Mane gets the nod in a fearsome front three, alongside Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe. But there is no room for Mohamed Salah or Roberto Firmino.

Cristiano Ronaldo is a notable absentee after being nominated, with Messi and Van Dijk for the Ballon d'Or and Fifa's The Best award during the

calendar year, Evening Standard reports.

Making up the rest of the team, Ronaldo's Juventus team-mate Matthijs de Ligt gets the nod in defence and Frenkie de Jong is in a midfield three.

The Barcelona youngster is surrounded by Premier League talent in the form of Chelsea's N'Golo Kante and Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne.



■ Sadio Mane celebrates after scoring his team's first goal with Virgil van Dijk, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah during a Premier League match

Aubameyang quells Arsenal exit speculation

Arsenal captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang quashed speculation surrounding his future this month ahead of Monday's FA Cup clash with Leeds.

Aubameyang has scored 56 goals in 90 games since joining the Gunners just under two years ago, but has only 18 months left to run on his contract.

Reports have suggested the Gabon international, 30, is keen to make sure he is playing Champions League football next season.

Arsenal are nine points off the Premier League top four as they aim to end a three-year exile from Europe's premier club competition. They could also secure a Champions League return by winning the Europa League.

"I would also like to react to some of the rumours that are going around about me in the media," Aubameyang told Arsenal's official matchday programme.

"People like making up stories and they should focus on what's happening on the pitch. They talk too much and it does my head in!

"I am the Arsenal captain. I love this club. I am committed to it and desperate to bring it back to the top, where it belongs."

New Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said earlier this week that he is not even considering the possibility that Aubameyang could leave this month.

"I don't even think about that possibility with Auba," said Arteta. "I want him here."

Cricket: South Africa frustrate England victory push

England need eight wickets for victory on the final day of the second Test in Cape Town after being frustrated by South Africa's top order.

Dom Sibley made 133 not out - his maiden Test ton - and Ben Stokes hit 72 as England declared on 391-8 to set the Proteas a Test record 438 to win.

Joe Denly removed opener Dean Elgar for 34 and Zubayr Hamza fell for 18 to James Anderson in the penultimate over.

But Pieter Malan remained unbeaten on 63 as South Africa closed on 126-2.

Anderson's late strike provided England a welcome boost on a Newlands pitch not offering as much variable bounce as England would have hoped for by now.

They will still have to work hard and stay patient to secure victory, but have time and runs to play with, given the hosts require a further 312 to win.

ATP Cup: Djokovic-inspired Serbia beat France to reach quarter-finals

Novak Djokovic led Serbia to the quarter-finals of the inaugural ATP Cup by winning both his singles and doubles matches against group rivals France.

After France led through Benoit Paire's win over Dusan Lajovic, world number two Djokovic beat Gael Monfils 6-3 6-2.

Djokovic and Viktor Troicki beat Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin to win 6-3 6-7 (5-7) 10-3 at 00:40 local time in Brisbane.

Rafael Nadal's Spain beat Uruguay to close on the last eight in Australia.

After world number



■ Serbia tennis players at the ongoing 2020 ATP Cup tournament in Australia

10 Roberto Bautista Agut thrashed Franco Roncadelli 6-1 6-2, world number one Nadal eased past Pablo Cuevas 6-2 6-1 to seal the Perth tie before Feliciano Lopez and Pablo Carreno Busta beat Ariel Behar and Juan Martin Fumeaux 6-1 3-6 10-3 in the doubles.

The one-sided victory in the best-of-three tie completed a second whitewash for the Davis Cup champions, who beat Georgia on Saturday.

They will finish as Group B winners if they beat Japan on Wednesday.

THE TUESDAY COLUMN

with **Gambo Dori**
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One of the architects of Northern Nigerian public service

I have been bemoaning the paucity of good libraries in Abuja and access to reading material when a friend introduced me to his friend's library. And what a treasure trove! I found an assemblage of books on shelves, over shelves, over more shelves that would probably last a lifetime to read. It was during one those forays in that most private of libraries that I stumbled on a book of biography on the life of Abdurrahman Okene. I have never met him, but his name has been loud as one of the architects of the Northern Nigerian public service. The book is appropriately titled, 'In the service of my country'. It chronicles the main events of this great public servant's journey through life which I shall share with the readers today.

Abdurrahman Okene was born in 1914, a milestone whose significance had never been lost on him. In the book he wrote: "The amalgamation of the Colony of Lagos, and the Southern and Northern Protectorates into one entity which was named Nigeria was completed on 1st January 1914. I was born in the month of August that same year in Okene, situated in Kabba Province of the then Northern Region. I feel there exists a special bond between Nigeria and myself since we were both born in the same year, 1914."

He was born to the royal homestead of Ebiraland. His uncle was Attah Ibrahim, the paramount ruler of Ebiraland – the first to be installed and given staff of office by the colonial administration. Abdurrahman Okene grew up in that household among the Attah's many wives, and many children – a household that gave Nigeria many prominent sons and daughters, including Abdul Malik Attah, the first Nigeria's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Abdul Aziz Attah, a Secretary of the Government of the Federation who died in office in 1972, Adamu Attah who was Governor of Kwara State 1979-83, and Ambassador Judith Attah who in her youth married Christopher Okigbo, one of the finest poets Nigeria ever produced. Unfortunately, he was cut down in the early stages of the Nigerian Civil War. Judith Sefi Attah nonetheless went on to have a glorious career in the Federal Civil Service rising to become a Federal Permanent Secretary, then an Ambassador and capped it with a ministerial appointment in 1995.

Abdurrahman Okene, after a sound grounding in Islamic education became one of the first set to benefit from western education in Okene. He attended the first elementary school in Okene which was established in 1922. The school had no building as such and little Abdurrahman joined other boys in the only class in the premises under a tree.

Five years later the Attah enrolled him in Bida Provincial School as a boarding student. It was the first time he was out of Okene and it was an opportunity for him to see and know his compatriots from other parts of the country. It was also the first time he was away from the comforts of the palace and endured the deprivations associated with a boarding school.

Abdurrahman Okene observed that in that period the cost of living was very low. He said: "I could remember that all one needed for was just three-tenth of a penny – what was called animi – to eat breakfast. I could remember too after the seniors have deprived us of our pocket money, if we stumbled on one or two animies, we could get so excited that we hardly slept for the whole day. We could be beside ourselves with happiness. Money was so hard to come by in those days."

He also wrote about some of the exciting happenings of the times, like the day he watched one of the first planes

When the plane was coming they lit up a bonfire and the plane was guided in with the smoke from the fire. We could not believe our eyes until the plane landed and people actually came out of it. Some of us were not ourselves for the whole day and even weeks after. Many people thought that the end of the world was imminent since men had started to fly in the sky like birds. That was around 1929.

ever to land in any parts of Nigeria. He wrote: "I was in Bida when one of the first planes to arrive Nigeria landed. It landed in Minna and all the chiefs in Niger Province gathered to receive it. Many people came to watch the landing. When the plane was coming they lit up a bonfire and the plane was guided in with the smoke from the fire. We could not believe our eyes until the plane landed and people actually came out of it. Some of us were not ourselves for the whole day and even weeks after. Many people thought that the end of the world was imminent since men had started to fly in the sky like birds. That was around 1929."

In 1930, Abdurrahman Okene was among the four in his school to make it to the Higher College Katsina. The college, built in 1922, was then the highest educational institute in the north and probably the oldest higher institution in the north. The college had the distinction of producing most of the elites of the north including the

first Premier, Ahmadu Bello Sardaunan Sokoto, the first Governor, Sir Kashim Ibrahim, and Nigeria's first Prime Minister, Tafawa Balewa. It was the first time young Abdurrahman Okene had journeyed to the far northern end of the country and was troubled to discover that the weather was unlike anything he had encountered before. Unlike Okene and Bida, Katsina was hot and dry.

He persevered and graduated in 1935 with specialization to teach in the science subjects. It was in Katsina that he decided on a teaching career and at graduation worked at it for many years. He started as a science teacher in 1936 in Zaria Middle School. He spent eight years there, where he stood out as an outstanding tutor. He wrote: "All through my stay here, my classes maintained a record of high achievement in their passing-out examinations. Indeed, all the students that sat for their final mathematics and science examinations under me scored credits and distinctions. A pass result was regarded as a failure by my class."

He was posted to his hometown Okene in 1945 where he was able to establish himself as a community leader. He was away in the United Kingdom from 1948 to 1951 on government scholarship to study comparative education at the Institute of Education, London University. On his return he was made a Government Supervisor of School for Kabba Province. From there he headed to Bauchi Teachers Training College as Vice-Principal and the only indigenous staff. He later moved to Maru Teachers Training College as Principal. That was a famous school that had Malam Aminu Kano and Sheikh Abubakar Gumi as tutors in earlier years.

In Maru he had a memorable chance encounter with the Premier of Northern Region. He wrote: "Once when the Premier, Sir Ahmadu Bello, was driving with his entourage past my school in Maru on their way to Sokoto, I lined up my students on both sides of the road to wave them as they went past. The Premier did not expect this reception and he broke the journey out of curiosity to address the staff and students. When we were all gathered in the assembly hall, I introduced the Premier to the staff and students." Abdurrahman Okene went on to deliver a brilliant off-the-cuff speech. The Premier was delighted and he made an appropriate response before proceeding on his journey.

Actually Abdurrahman Okene had an earlier encounter with the Premier in Jos where he was bold enough to tell him to his face that people from the middle belt were being unfairly treated in the distribution of government appointments. Though the Sardauna made explanations he was clearly taken aback by the daring accusations. But fate was to bring them together shortly as Abdurrahman Okene would be one of the four to be selected to the highest rungs of the Administrative Cadre. He worked very closely with the Sardauna and came to admire his administrative skills.

We continue the story next week. Keep a date with this page.

SPORT REPORT >>

Why Abd'allah was sacked as Enyimba coach
 - Anyansi Agwu → P. 45

Spanish Super Cup jets off to Saudi Arabia



■ Lionel Messi

Spanish football crosses new horizons when its re-booted Super Cup competition begins on Wednesday in Saudi Arabia, a move that will significantly boost the national federation's coffers but has angered human rights groups and local supporters.

Real Madrid and Valencia meet in the first semifinal in Jeddah on Wednesday before Barcelona take on Atletico Madrid 24 hours later for a place in Sunday's final.

The Super Cup was a two-legged tie between the league champions and Copa del Rey holders but federation chief Luis Rubiales oversaw a dramatic shake-up last November, striking a three-year deal to play the tournament in Saudi Arabia.

The federation has not confirmed financial details but Spanish media reports say the deal is worth around 40 million euros annually.

Muguruza fights back to reach Shenzhen round two



■ Garbine Muguruza

Former world No 1 Garbine Muguruza recovered from a slow start to avoid an upset at the Shenzhen Open on Monday.

The 26-year-old Spaniard beat Chinese youngster Wang Xinyu 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 and plays the American Shelby Rogers in round two in southern China.

The Shenzhen Open serves as build-up for the Australian Open at the end of the month.

It was the two-time Grand Slam winner Muguruza's first match since an early exit at the China Open in late September.

"I think it was my first match in a long time and you cannot expect to play your best tennis," said Muguruza, now 35th in the world.