

# DAILY TRUST



Monday, January 4, 2021  
Jumadal-Ula 20, 1442 AH

www.dailytrust.com

N200  
Vol. 52, No. 6

32  
PAGES

2,448 DAYS SINCE CHIBOK  
SCHOOLGIRLS WERE ABDUCTED

KEEP DONATING TO THE  
DAILYTRUST IDPs RELIEF FUND

First Bank - 2028620800    Union Bank - 0045259464  
GTB - 0175835101    UBA - 1019182505  
Jaiz - 0001706242

NIGERIA COVID-19  
CASE UPDATE

2  
JAN

NEW CASES  
576

TOTAL CASES  
89,163

DISCHARGED  
74,789

DEATH  
1,302

**Traders, others worry  
as 42 microfinance  
banks end operations** P 6

**My abductors  
spoke Chadian and  
Nigerien Fulfulde  
- Released victim** P 3

**Terrorism: Buhari calls  
for united action as 70  
killed in Niger Republic** P 4

# Why Lagos/Kebbi rice vanished from markets

- Traders, farmers lament
- 'Political intrigues responsible'

P 5



■ Dr Ahmad Gumi presenting religious books to a Fulani leader in Jere town



■ Fulani that attended the event



■ Sheikh Gumi (middle) with Fulani leaders

## Kidnapping: Gumi visits Fulani communities along Kaduna-Abuja highway

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Abuja-Kaduna train  
breaks down again

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No zoning in APC  
- Shekarau

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Kaduna sex party: Owner of  
demolished building faults govt's claim

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# Why Lagos/Kebbi rice vanished from markets

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Some picnickers coming out of Palms Mall in Ibadan yesterday

Photo: NAN

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**Ogun gov suspends commissioner  
over 'sexual harassment'**

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# >> PAGETWO

### WEATHER

<b>ABUJA</b> PARTLY CLOUDY 37 MAX 22 MIN	<b>KANO</b> SUNNY 33 MAX 14 MIN
<b>SOKOTO</b> SUNNY 34 MAX 17 MIN	<b>IBADAN</b> PARTLY CLOUDY 38 MAX 22 MIN
<b>KADUNA</b> SUNNY 35 MAX 17 MIN	<b>MAIDUGURI</b> SUNNY 34 MAX 15 MIN
<b>ENUGU</b> PARTLY CLOUDY 38 MAX 22 MIN	<b>P/HARCOURT</b> PARTLY CLOUDY 29 MAX 18 MIN
<b>JOS</b> PARTLY CLOUDY 31 MAX 14 MIN	
<b>LAGOS</b> PARTLY CLOUDY 34 MAX 24 MIN	

(Temperature in centigrade)

### Basic protective measures against coronavirus (COVID-19)

 Wash your hands frequently with soap and water	 Maintain social distancing	 Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
 Practice respiratory hygiene	 If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early	 Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider

**NCDC toll free numbers** | Call 080097000010 | SMS 0809555577 | Whatsapp 07087110839

### AFRICAN SAYINGS >>

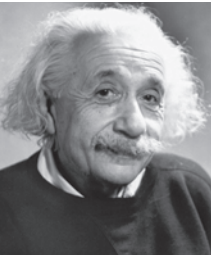
The load is lighter when two people carry it

(Nigeria)

Source: BBC collection of listeners' proverbs

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT >>

"The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive"



- Albert Einstein

## PHOTO OF THE DAY >>



■ A man recycling used tyres at Apo mechanic village Abuja. Photo: Felix Onigbinde

### PRAYERS TIMES

CITIES	FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
ABUJA	5:34	12:41	3:55	6:23	7:28
ENUGU	5:36	12:39	3:53	6:18	7:23
KADUNA	5:33	12:40	3:54	6:21	7:26
KANO	5:28	12:35	3:49	6:17	7:22
KATSINA	5:30	12:41	3:55	6:25	7:30
LAGOS	5:51	12:57	4:11	6:36	7:41
MAIDUGURI	5:11	12:18	3:32	5:59	7:04
P/HARCOURT	5:47	12:49	4:03	6:23	7:28
SOKOTO	5:41	12:49	4:03	6:31	7:36

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna

### STOCK INDEX AS AT THURSDAY 31, 2020

GAINERS	BOCGAS	NNFM	CILEASING	FCMB	BUACEMENT
OPEN	9.57	6.74	5.20	3.33	77.35
CLOSE	0.87	0.61	0.47	0.30	6.95
CHANGE	10.00	9.95	9.94	9.90	9.87
LOSERS	FTNCOCOA	ETERNA	AIICO	INTBREW	ETI
OPEN	0.66	5.10	1.13	5.95	6.00
CLOSE	-0.07	-0.51	-0.11	-0.54	-0.50
CHANGE	-9.59	-9.09	-8.87	-8.32	-7.69

## NO, THANK YOU

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# IN-DEPTH

INTERVIEW

## My abductors spoke Chadian and Nigerien Fulfulde - Released victim says

From Habibu Umar Aminu & Sani Ibrahim Paki, Kano

**C**an you briefly give us an insight into what transpired on the day you were kidnapped?

That fateful Tuesday, around 2.30 am, I heard gunshots. So, I got up to find out where it was coming from. My younger brother called me on the phone asking if it was at my house, but I told him it wasn't. Not knowing that it was close to the house. I have sight problem - I can't see well. I performed ablution and observed some prayers.

The shooting increased. I later found out it was as a result of the exchange of fire between the gunmen and the police. Then there was silence for like 20 minutes, and I thought they had left. Then suddenly I heard them climbing the roofing of the mosque beside my house. I dressed up and came to the door. By then they succeeded in crossing into the house. They broke the entrance door and my window and went upstairs where I was sleeping.

They asked me to open the door or they would break it down. I opened it for them. They asked if I had huge money with me, but I told them no. so, they said they would abduct me. They said since I was a businessman, I must have money. I told them I didn't because I am not the one running it.

**When they eventually brought you out of your house, what happened?**

When we came out, there were still gunshots. I saw others probably abducted as well. They asked us to lie down. Three of them went to exchange gunfire with the police. They succeeded in burning one police vehicle saying they were obstructing their business.

From there, they asked us to keep trekking for like one kilometre. I didn't know where we were going. They took us to a farm and kept me there. Before getting there they parked their motorcycles and we proceeded. After travelling on the main road for a very long time, we got to a house with a gate. They took me to a house along with three people to sleep there. I could hear the sound of cars passing behind the house and animals crying.

**How many were you in the house?**

I was the only person who slept in the room they kept me. Though, they said there is another room with other people,

Recently, a kidnapped Kano businessman was released after negotiation. In this interview with Daily Trust, the man, who does not want his name in print, spoke on what transpired in his abductors' den whom he identified as Chadian and Nigerien based on the Fulfulde accent in their discussions with their local collaborators. Excerpts.



but I suspect I was the only one in the house.

**When you reached the house, did they give you food?**

They woke me up in the morning, around 7:00 am, and asked me to start the negotiation for ransom. I asked them to give me water to rinse my mouth but they refused. I said I will pray, still, they said no. I saw one of them praying, then asked them why won't they allow me to pray and they said, the person was free, and I was not. They refused to give me water to perform ablution or pray, insisting that I used sand (tayammum) instead.

We continued like that until around 2 pm, then they gave me water to rinse my mouth. They later gave me bread. They called the phone in my home town. They told me that the town was now full of journalists and security people making unnecessary noise. So, they are informed of whatever was going on in the town.

They threatened to take me to a forest in Niger Republic if I refused to pay the ransom. The following day, they gave me my phone and asked me to call my relatives to give them a huge sum of money. They promised to kill me, sell me to other more deadly kidnapers or give me to

those who will sodomise me.

We started the negotiation for ransom the following day - Thursday. Then they didn't even have airtime to call my relatives; they had to wait for money which they later used in buying spaghetti to cook for us and recharge cards to call them.

**While in their custody, did they beat you?**

No, they didn't beat me. Only that when we started negotiating the ransom amount and I refused to accept their offer, they told me that they will leave me with the youths among them to torture me. They said I should pay N100 million, which I told them I never had. Then one of them, called Commander Falalu, tied my left hand with a rope because I already had dislocation on the right one when we fell on the motorcycle they took me. As a result of tying the hand, my fingers got swollen. I felt seriously tortured and asked them to untie me, that I will add one million to the earlier amount but they refused. Then I added two, three, yet they refused, till we got to the price convenient for them and they kept contacting my relatives.

The leaders then left the house, leaving me and two of their informants who were part

of those that abducted me. They are Nigerians, I even recognised their voices from the kind of Fulfulde they speak; they are not even far from our town. I know the Fulani of Cameroon, Niger, Chad and Nigeria.

**Those that captured you, which Fulfulde dialects were they speaking?**

There are Nigerians among them, then there are foreigners. It is the foreigners that ask the local Fulani to kidnap wealthy individuals for them, then they settle them. I understand Fulfulde and the different dialects.

**What vehicles did they use in carrying you after the kidnap?**

They were all on motorcycles, but we also trekked some kilometres.

**Can you specify the number of vehicles?**

Well, you know I have told you earlier that I have sight problem. However, I could remember seeing like 5-6 motorcycles.

**How were you released?**

When they finally agreed on the negotiated price, they told me "Old man, you are going home today. Your people are trying to send the money." Around Zuhr (noon prayer), they threatened me and asked those guarding me to tighten security. When I heard that, I was thinking maybe it was the ransom that they are still not satisfied with or they are afraid of being tracked.

They set up their guns. After sunset prayer, they allowed me to pray Maghrib and Isha'i prayers and told me that we were about to leave, but warned me that if I attempted to shout for help while passing through any village, they would kill me. "Remember that no village can overpower us. We have shown you our guns," I told them I won't shout.

They then gave me another shirt because the one I had been wearing since they kidnapped me was dirty and stained with blood as a result of the injury I had when we fell from the motorcycle. They gave me one Ankara shirt to wear instead.

**Where did they drop you?**

When we left the place after Isha'i prayer, we travelled for like 15-20 minutes in the forest, then we reached one tarred

road and followed it to a village then they were called by their colleagues who confirmed that the ransom had been paid. They even organised a phone conference call, speaking with those collecting the ransom, my relatives and I. Then they asked where I should be dropped.

They said I should be taken to a village called Kirya in Babura Local Government in Jigawa State. They then diverted from the tarred road to another road in the forest. I didn't have any idea where we were. We fell again with the motorcycle before they finally decided to just drop me somewhere in the forest.

I also told them to just drop me there but they asked me to shut up. They dropped me by the roadside and rode off. I stood there for about 30 minutes, as all the motorcycle riders I tried to stop refused to carry me. One of them whom I stopped several times after coming back like three times to meet me there finally agreed to take me to the town where I explained what happened to me.

**So how would you describe the whole scenario?**

I take it destiny and I thank God for my safe return. I appreciate all the prayers of Minjibir people and even the entire Nigerians for their prayer for me, and to the police in Minjibir for the role they played in it. I appreciate the media also for the coverage and for people to keep praying for me.

**Those that kidnapped you, were they youths or elderly people?**

Two of them were youths of between 20-22 years, while the rest were elderly people from Chad and Niger Republic. The elderly ones know how to shoot very well, they know how to operate guns well.

**How many were you on the motorcycle when they took you?**

There were two motorcycles each carrying one passenger, with me in between them, each carrying gun. They showed me the guns they have. They said the ordinary ones were the ones the Nigeria police have, while the sophisticated ones are the ones used in war. They could hit 1.5-2 kilometres.



■ Former Sokoto State Governor Attahiru Bafarawa who for the first time in 15 years visited his former deputy and one time governor of the state, now Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako, to condole him on the death of Dr Bello Wammako yesterday in Sokoto

## Terrorism: Buhari calls for united action as 70 killed in Niger Republic

By Muideen Olaniji

President Muhammadu Buhari has said that "terrorism has now become like a contagion of evil that can spread anytime if united action is not taken."

Buhari stated while reacting to the killing of 70 persons in Zaroundareye, a border town between Niger Republic and Mali by militants.

The president in a statement by his spokesman, Garba Shehu, condemned the incident, saying it was another clarion call for united action by African leaders

against terrorism.

The President said: "I am profoundly shocked by the large scale death of innocent people at the hands of these callous militants who have no regard for the sanctity of human life.

"We are facing grave security challenges on account of the evil campaign of indiscriminate violence by terrorists in the Sahel and only united action can help us defeat these vicious enemies of humanity."

He said instability in one part of Africa had implications for the security of others.

He recalled that "the destabilisation of Libya in 2011 is producing domino effects on the security of other African countries including Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and others.

"The looting of Libyan armouries in the aftermath of Gaddafi's fall has put dangerous weapons into the hands of terrorists and other criminals who now pose security challenges to other countries.

"We are united by common fate and therefore we must act in concert to defeat these evil men who target innocent people," said President Buhari.

## COVID-19: Mixed feelings as FG places 6-month travel ban on 100 passengers

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

The federal government has published the passport details of 100 travellers who reportedly failed to comply with the COVID-19 protocols, placing them on a six-month travel restriction.

The affected travellers, it was learnt, failed to undergo the mandatory COVID-19 test after their return to Nigeria.

Daily Trust reports that the government had vowed to go hard on travellers circumventing the protocols stipulated to curb the spread of the COVID-19, especially amidst the second wave of the virus.

To make good its threat, the government imposed a six-month travel restriction on 100 Nigerians.

Their passport details were published on Saturday by the Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19 (PTF).

It said the restrictions started from January 1, 2021 and would last till June 30, 2021.

The PTF also confirmed that the affected passengers have been notified and will be prevented from travelling out of the country during the period.

'Immigration not aware' When contacted yesterday on the development, spokesman of the Nigeria Immigration

Service (NIS), Sunday James, however, said he was not aware of the travel restriction.

"I just saw it on social media too. Until I get to the office tomorrow (today) before I know what it is all about."

Daily Trust reports that the restriction has also sent fear into some airlines over the \$3,500 fine imposed by the federal government through the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

Aviation analyst Group Capt. John Ojikutu said the responsibility for publishing names of the defaulters should have been the NIS' which is in charge of border management.

## NIN: Cybercriminals target phone users, FG suspends staff over extortion

By Zakariyya Adaramola

The rush to get the National Identity Numbers (NIN) link SIM cards is making some bank customers targets of cybercriminals, findings by Daily Trust have shown.

Though the federal government has extended the deadline handed phone users in the country to get their NIN linked to their SIM cards to January 19 and February 9 for users with NINs and those without NINs respectively, the rush has continued unabated and this is making some phone users susceptible to antics of internet criminals.

Reports by some phone users show that they are now being targeted with a 'number spoofing' scam to trick them into thinking they are talking

to either their bank or agents of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC).

Experts said this scam is known as 'number spoofing' because the fraudsters call customers using a phone number which mimics that of their bank or a NIMC agent.

The fraudsters pretend they are calling to help their would-be victims in their NIN registration process, some of those who have experienced this scam told Daily Trust.

Experts said they do this using a device which can copy any number - even if the one they are calling from is entirely different.

A cybercrime expert, Bibiolu Ogunmeyin, said telecom customers should be suspicious if they are asked their bank

details like their four-digit PIN, full online banking passwords, or to transfer or withdraw money.

Both the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and NIMC have warned customers to be wary of unsolicited calls or clicking on any unverified link in the bid to link their NINs with their SIM.

Meanwhile, the federal government has suspended some staff of the NIMC over extortion of NIN applicants.

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Ali Pantami, directed the immediate suspension of the staff on Sunday, a statement by NIMC said.

They were involved in extortion of applicants at the NIMC Bauchi and Kaduna offices, the statement added.

## APC, PDP in Oyo bicker over security votes

From Jeremiah Oke Ibadan

The Oyo State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), through the Pacesetters Initiative (TPI), yesterday, asked Governor Seyi Makinde to account for the security votes he received from the federal government since his assumption of office.

The group, after its meeting in Ibadan on Sunday, said unofficial sources have it that the state in recent times emerged the most troubled in the southern part of the country.

Listing some of the challenges facing the state, the group in its communiqué, said cases of armed banditry, kidnapping, attacks by hoodlums, murder, extra-judicial killings, gang wars, among others are being reported on a daily basis across the state.

The coordinators of the group, Afeez Bolaji Repete and Olawale Sadare, blamed the spate of insecurity in the state on "Gov. Makinde's alleged incompetence, inexperience and grandstanding."

Reacting to the allegations, the publicity secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state, Engr Akeem Olatunji, urged the group to talk to President Muhammadu Buhari on the security challenges in the country, saying security lapses were not limited to Oyo State.

Olatunji said the state government was investing huge resources on Amotekun and other security agencies to ensure the state is well-positioned to tackle insecurity in the state.

## With prayer, Nigeria will overcome insecurity - NCPC Boss

By Olayemi John-Mensah

The Executive Secretary, Nigeria Christian Pilgrim Commission (NCPC), Rev. Yakubu Pam, has said with prayers, the country will overcome the insecurity challenges bedevilling it.

Pam, in a statement, commended the Nigerian Armed Forces for their gallantry at combating the menace of insurgency, particularly in the North

East and North West. He urged church leaders to work closely with the government to bring the dividends of democracy to the people.

He assured that the COVID-19 pandemic would be contained globally this year.

The NCPC boss also commended the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 pandemic for their selfless and untiring

efforts at mitigating the spread of the virus in the country.

"Nigeria would bounce back economically this year because the Lord rules in the affairs of this great nation. Nigeria would continue to play a leading role in Africa and in sub-Saharan Africa, considering its numerical strength and abundant natural endowments," he said.

## Yuletide: NEMA records 2 fatalities, 21 emergency cases in FCT

By Maureen Onochie

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) office of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said it recorded two fatalities in 21 emergency cases during the yuletide in FCT.

The Head, Search and Rescue of the agency in FCT, Mr Labaran Ahmed, disclosed this over the weekend in Abuja while inspecting the six emergency response units, set up under the 'Operation 'Eagle eye' initiative.

"So far, we have responded to about 20 to 21 incidences from the beginning of this operation with two fatalities; majority of these incidences, if not all, are road-related crashes.

"There was only one fire incident which occurred in

Gwarimpa Estate on Christmas Day," he said.

A volunteer, Abraham Machu, who is a dentist and retired civil servant, called for the extension of the operation to minimise road crashes in the FCT.

"If it is all year round, the

incidences of accidents will be reduced drastically but if it is only in the festive period, we will not achieve much.

"I suggest that government should think deeply and try to do more and to employ the very young volunteers," he said.

# Why Lagos/Kebbi rice vanished from markets

By Muideen Olaniyi (Abuja), Abdullateef Aliyu (Lagos) & Aliyu M. Hamagam (Birnin Kebbi)

Many rice dealers and retailers in Lagos State and other places are still in shock over the disappearance of the LAKE RICE, which used to be visible in markets during the festive period from 2016 when the state government under Governor Akinwunmi Ambode signed a partnership with his Kebbi State counterpart, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu.

The MoU between the Kebbi and Lagos State governments for the supply of LAKE RICE, an acronym of Lagos and Kebbi, was birthed in 2016.

But no sooner than Ambode left that the project suffered a serious setback and as of today, there are indications that the MoU between the two states had collapsed.

The agreement was meant to be mutually beneficial as Kebbi is famous for rice production and Lagos has a huge market. Those behind the initiative said it was meant to create a value chain whereby thousands of farmers in Kebbi would be involved while merchants in Lagos would have unfettered access to the produce.

While some officials said the stoppage of the partnership was a temporary setback, others said political intrigues were responsible.

According to some of them, the purported rift between Bagudu who is the Chairman of APC Governors Forum and the National Leader of the party, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, affected the MoU while others said the initiative could not last because of market forces.

The rice, which was sold at N12, 000 and N6, 000 for 50 kg and 25 kg, respectively, was largely embraced by residents of Lagos and other states in the South-West that usually thronged the many sale points.

However, soon after the 2019 elections when Ambode lost out, the supply of the rice became epileptic until it finally disappeared from the market.

Some of the marketers who spoke with one of our correspondents said they were at a loss as to the reason for the disappearance of the rice almost immediately after Ambode left office.

One of the dealers, Mrs Risikat Adam, said: "I used to purchase the rice in bulk at the rate of N12, 000 per bag from the state government and sell at between N13, 000 and N14, 000. We also had the 10kg, which was sold for N2, 500. This was an initiative we all applauded because it helped a lot in making rice available for the poor."

Another dealer, a civil servant in the state who wouldn't want his name in print, said they used to buy the rice with ease while some of them also served as retailers earning additional income.

"Throughout the period LAKE RICE was in the market, things were easy and many people could afford it but now prices of rice have gone astronomically high," he said.

A major rice dealer, Mr Sulaiman, said the partnership deal might have collapsed because of the springing up of many local rice firms due to the closure of all land borders in 2019.

"This made the demand for paddies to be on the rise and from what I gathered, Lagos was not getting as much supply as they used to get," he said.

"Again, there are many locally produced rice varieties, which are even



better than LAKE RICE. I am telling you this because I deal with different varieties of rice. We have several of them, which competed with LAKE RICE and which filled the vacuum when LAKE RICE disappeared from the market though at a relatively higher price.

"Also, you cannot rule out politics from the whole saga because the initiative virtually collapsed as soon as Governor Sanwo-Olu took over. It appears he was not disposed to continue with the initiative," he said.

A rice value chain expert, Tolulope Daramola, said the disappearance of LAKE RICE could not be unconnected with high wire politics.

Daramola, who is the Founder of Menitosh Farm, said the fact that the Lagos State Government was developing its rice mill in Imota, should not have "killed" the Lake RICE, noting that Imota should have been an expansion to the Lake RICE project.

She said: "I am aware there is politics involved, the structure for business should not be fluid but that is what we have in the country. Another government will come in soon and insist on a new agreement and brand. But politics aside, the yield is lower. The amount invested is already invested and Imota should have been an expansion in the capacity not a nail in the coffin for the LAKE RICE."

Sani Aliyu, a rice farmer in Kamba, Kebbi State, said it was unfortunate that a laudable programme was allowed to die.

"I am sad that the arrangement has collapsed. When they started the partnership, some people normally come to these areas in search of paddy. Some of us collected loans from banks and expanded our production capacity but a few years after, the much-celebrated partnership has fizzled out simply because of politics," he said.

*Daily Trust* made several attempts to speak to the Commissioner for Agriculture in Lagos, Ms Bisola Olusanya, to no avail.

She did not respond to our correspondent's enquiry. It is the same with the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Mr Gboyega Akoshile.

It was learnt that the Lagos' multi-billion naira 32-metric tonnes per hour rice mill at Imota, in Ikorodu,

was initially billed to start production by the end of December 2020, but the take-off date has been pushed to the first quarter of 2021.

Former Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Gbolahan Lawal, had said last year that when the mill comes on board, it will ensure a steady supply of freshly processed rice of about 2.4 million bags of 50kg per annum to Lagosians, in addition to over 250,000 jobs to be created in both the upstream and downstream sectors of the rice value chain.

Former Governor Ambode could not be reached for comment yesterday. His spokesman while he was governor, Habib Haruna, did not respond to our correspondent's request for comment on the alleged neglect of his principal's project.

However, a council chairman close to Ambode, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the government had only cut ties with the Kebbi State Government, saying the rice value chain project "is still very much on course."

He, however, said the Imota Rice Mill project being undertaken by the government would produce more than double of Lake Rice turnover.

He also said he could not rule out politics from the stoppage of the Lake Rice project.

Also contacted on the status of the MoU, the Kebbi State Commissioner for Agriculture, Attahiru Maccido, referred our reporter to one Usman Balkore.

The commissioner forwarded the phone number of Balkore but it was switched off. He did not also respond to the text message sent to him.

A text message was sent to Governor Baguda yesterday but there was no response as of the time of filing this report.

A similar text message was earlier sent to his spokesman, Yahaya Sarki when he did not pick his call but has not responded.

*Daily Trust* reports that Bagudu had in October 2020, told a national daily (not *Daily Trust*) that "nothing has gone wrong with the MoU. It is just that we haven't grown it (rice) to replace the market.

"When we entered into a partnership with Lagos, we did not intend the two

states to be selling rice; we did it to demonstrate that Nigerians produce good rice.

To provide a platform where people would move it to the highest standard so Nigerians would recognise the potential we have and have a great mindset about made in Nigeria rice.

"Now across the nation, there is belief and confidence in Nigerian rice, whether it is from Abakaliki, Ogoni, Kebbi, Jigawa, Taraba, and across the country. That is our first objective in that MoU," he said.

## The political connection

Governor Bagudu is reportedly angry with Tinubu because of how Ambode was pushed to political oblivion.

According to sources, this is why the governor is one of the anti-Tinubu figures within the APC.

It would be recalled that many APC governors rallied round Ambode to secure a second term but the APC leadership in the state rejected the former governor at the instance of Asiwaju.

A source said the LAKE RICE project would not have been dead if Ambode had remained in office.

With the 2023 politicking already dominating the discourse in the polity amidst the speculated ambition of Tinubu, many APC governors are reportedly working to scuttle the ambition.

Another source in Tinubu camp, however, told our correspondent that no amount of opposition could truncate the rising popularity and acceptability of Asiwaju.

Also speaking with our correspondent, Hon. Kunle Okunola, one of the strong voices advocating for Tinubu presidency through his political movement, Tinubu 2023 Non-Negotiable (TNN), said no amount of conspiracy and gang-up could stop Tinubu in 2023.

He said his Presidency appeared a fait accompli, something that has the support of the majority of Nigerians.

When contacted, media aide to Asiwaju, Mr Tunde Rahman, insisted that the APC leader had no problem with Governor Bagudu.

He said: "Asiwaju has no problems whatsoever with Bagudu," he said.

# Bandits on vengeance mission kill 15 in Kaduna village

From Lami Sadiq, Kaduna

Suspected bandits on a vengeance mission on Saturday invaded Kaya village in Fatika district of Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State and killed 15 people, while nine others sustained various degrees of injuries from gunshots.

The bandits, who arrived in the community on about 50 motorcycles around 8 pm, also razed several shops and five vehicles, including three Volkswagen Golfs, a bus and a Peugeot 406.

Residents and security agents told Daily Trust that the attack was a likely reprisal after residents of Kaya burnt down the home of a suspected warlord and killed three of his relatives for allegedly abducting five people from neighbouring Kaura village and for killing a resident of Kaya.

Ibrahim Ahmed Fatika, who visited Kaya on Sunday morning, told *Daily Trust* that eight of the residents killed were indigenous to Kaya, while the remaining seven, including a trailer driver who brought chicken manure, were visitors.

Ahmed told *Daily Trust* that

among the 15 people killed, one had died in the hospital while a funeral prayer was conducted for others on Sunday morning. He, however, said about 10 military personnel and additional police officers had been deployed to the community.

Another resident of the village, Abdu Saidu told our correspondent that the attack was linked to the burning of the house of an alleged warlord called Filani and the killing of three of his relatives on Friday.

He said Filani's gang was suspected to have abducted five people including a soon-to-be

bride from Kaura village, which is barely three kilometers away from Kaya. He said the people of Kaura had sought assistance from residents of Kaya to rescue their people.

"On their way to render assistance, one of the villagers went missing," he said.

Sai'du further stated that when the villagers found the corpse of their missing companion on Saturday morning, they ambushed Filani's brother and two other relatives while on their way to the hospital and killed them, then burnt their remains.

Kaduna State Government,

in a statement, said several lives had been lost in a series of killings and counter killings in Kaya village.

A statement issued by the state Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, confirmed that nine people were recuperating at the Ahmadu Bello Teaching Hospital, Shika in Zaria.

Also, the Kaduna State Police command confirmed that the attack on Kaya village was linked to the attack on the suspected warlord and cautioned residents against taking laws into their hands.

## Police probe fire incident that killed 5

From Nabob Ogbonna, Abakiliki

The Commissioner of Police in Ebonyi State, Mr. Philip Maku, has ordered a full scale investigation into the fire outbreak, which occurred on New Year day at Akaeze in Ivo Local Government Area of the state. The police spokesperson in the state, Mrs. Loveth Odah, disclosed this while briefing newsmen yesterday in Abakiliki on the fire incident. The fire incident, *Daily Trust* gathered, left no fewer than five persons, including a three-year-old baby, dead. Residents alleged that the fire was caused by local cannon, which was fired during the crossover night celebration in the area.

"The commissioner of police has ordered a discreet investigation into the incident to ascertain the actual cause of the fire outbreak.

"We do not believe that someone can fire cannon all in the name of celebrating the New Year, because even during traditional burials, we normally approve before cannons can be used," Odah said.

## Gombe to resume paying N30,000 minimum wage

From Haruna G. Yaya, Gombe

The Gombe State Government said it would resume paying N30,000 new minimum wage to civil servants in the state beginning from January 2021. The state Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, Muhammad Gambo Magaji, disclosed this while giving a breakdown of the state's 2021 budget signed into law by Governor Inuwa Yahaya. The state government had in March 2020 suspended the payment of the N30,000 minimum wage after paying for one month, citing dwindling revenues as the reason.



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## INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UN

# APPRECIATION



**SENATOR SAIDU UMAR KUMO  
(GARKUWAN GOMBE)**

With the permission of my senior brother, Hon Umar Lamido Chikaire (Ajiyan Akko), I wish to express on behalf of Modibbo Muqaddam family our deep and profound gratitude to the teeming personalities who came from far and near to sympathise with us on the death of Senator Saidu Umar Kumo (Garkuwan Gombe) the leader of our family before his demise.

Without a doubt 2020 was **annus horribilis** for the Muqaddam Umaru family with the lost of Senator Saidu Umar Kumo (Garkuwan Gombe) who during his lifetime rendered good, compassionate stewardship of the family after the passing of our late elder brothers Alkali Usman Akko, Alh Hashiru Umar and Alh Hammadu Kumo respectively, who were leaders of the family at one time or another after the death of the patriarch Muqaddam Umaru (Ajiyan Akko). We pray to Almighty Allah to forgive their shortcomings and reward them with Aljanna Firdaus.

We were immensely comforted by your presence during the Janaza, burial and later through your condolence visits, phone calls and messages. Even though too numerous to mention all who came or send messages in this space, we beg your indulgence to single out just a few for recognition as protocol demands. **We begin by thanking the President of the Federal Republic Nigeria, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari** for his kind words of condolence broadcast over the NTA network news extolling the good virtues of late Senator Kumo. Our sincere appreciation to the President of the Senate, Senator Ahmad Lawan, who personally came to Gombe to condole us. Their Excellencies former Heads of State, President Olusegun Obasanjo; General Ibrahim B. Babangida, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, and former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar for their phone calls and messages. We are equally grateful to Governor Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State who was with us throughout the mourning period, their Excellencies Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State and Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State for travelling all the way to Gombe to be with us and Governor Nasir El-Rufa'i of Kaduna State and JK Fayemi of Ekiti State for their messages.

We also seize this opportunity to thank several former Governors, serving and former Honourable Ministers, Distinguished serving and former Senators as well as serving and former, Honourable Members of the House of Representatives. A special thank you to: HRH Emir of Gombe, Abubakar Shehu Abubakar, the Emirs of Akko, Dukku, Pindiga and Gona for personally visiting us. We are also immensely grateful to all Royal Fathers and traditional Title holders for their heart warming messages. Our gratitude to Speaker & Deputy Speaker of Gombe State House of Assembly; Justice Muazu Pindiga, (Ag. Chief Judge of Gombe State), Abdullahi M. Usman (Grand Khadi, Gombe State) and Members of the Judiciary at the state and federal levels, all the members of the Gombe State Executive Council and State Assembly as well as Chairmen of LGA's in Gombe State.

Our gratitude to our revered elders and leaders, Maj. Gen (rtd) Abdullahi Mohammed; Lt. General Aliyu Mohammed Gusau, Maj. Gen (rtd) AB Mamman; Maj.Gen (rtd) Leo Ajiborisha, Lt. Gen TY Buratai (COAS), Alh Ahmed Joda; Alh Tanko Yakasai; Alh Adamu Fika (Wazirin Fika), Alh Bashir Tofa; Maj. Gen (rtd) Haliru Akilu, Alh. Yusuf Ali, Adamu Maina Waziri, Sen. Ibrahim Nasiru Mantu, Sen. Bello Maitama Yusuf, Sen. U.U Dukku, Sen. Danjuma Goje, Sen. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, Sen. Ali Modu Sherrif, Sen. Bala Kariya, Sen. Yusuf A. Yusuf, Sen. Ibrahim Shekarau, Sen. Saidu Alkali, Sen. Muhammadu Ibrahim, Sen. Lawal Shuaibu, Sen. Haruna Garba, Sen. Teslim Folarin, Sen. Amos Bulus, Sen. Salisu Matori, Sen. Abubakar Maikafi, Sen. Abubakar Gada, Sen. Abdullah Wali, Alh. Attahiru Bafarawa, Alh. Umarun Kwabo; Alh Abdulsamad Isyaka Rabiu; Alh Dahiru Mangal. We sincerely thank Sheik Dahiru Bauchi, Sheik Taliyawa, Sheik Yahaya Jingir, Sheik Bala Lau, Sheik Yusuf Sambo Rigachukum, Sheik Kabiru Gombe and all our Ulama that came or send messages.

Finally, we seek forgiveness for not mentioning everyone that came in person for the Janaza or to offer condolence to us in this short message. Be rest assured that we were fully aware of your presence. We pray that Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala rewards you abundantly beyond our imagination.

**Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar  
(Danburam Gombe)**



# NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT (NDE)

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THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT (NDE)  
**MR. FESTUS KEYAMO, SAN, FCI Arb (UK)**

## Announces

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**His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR**  
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



**Mr. Festus Keyamo, SAN, FCI Arb (UK)**  
Minister of State for Labour and Employment and  
Chairman of the Board of the National  
Directorate of Employment (NDE)

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021

**TIME:** 11:00 AM Prompt

**VENUE:** Old Parade Ground, Area 10, Garki, Abuja

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:  
**MOHAMMED MUSA BELLO,**  
HONOURABLE MINISTER FCT

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**Gambo Dori**

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**2020: Oh what a bleak year!**

My eldest sons now getting into their late thirties would rightly be excused if they say that 2020 is the most remarkably bleak year they have witnessed so far. They would probably have a point because we have never seen the entire world shut down, with no movement whatsoever, as we all witnessed in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It may arguably be the worst year ever, but my generation has seen some equally bad years. 1966, for starters. That year, I had barely crossed into my teens and was about to round up primary schooling in Maiduguri. We woke up one morning, in January, to find that many of our leaders, political and military, had been murdered in the night, in the most gruesome manner.

The nation's Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa, Northern Region's Premier, Ahmadu Bello, top shots of the Nigerian Army including a beloved Brigadier Zakariya Maimalari, the Commander of the 2nd Brigade, Apapa, Lagos, were all wiped out in that night of misguided fury. It was the first military coup ever, when some young majors had turned their guns on the political and military leaders of the country while purporting to be on a nationalistic mission. When it turned out to be a sectional crusade, a chain of events was unleashed on the whole country. That year was bleak – two bloody military coups, wholesale social disorder with the killing of unarmed citizens in many towns and villages of the country, which degenerated into a civil war that lasted for three years. I spent most of my secondary school years under the cloud of the civil war, experiencing the shortages of many necessities of life as occasioned by the war situation.

1984 was another year many of us would wish to forget. The military had struck again, this time on the last day of 1983, toppling a civilian government and in the new year had established a military regime, replacing the democratic structures at all levels. They then clamped down on all the politicians that held office in the civilian administration and kept them under a decree endlessly, and without trial. They also unleashed a number of austerity measures all aimed at salvaging the economy which the soldiers claimed had been mismanaged under the civilian administration. They changed the currency swiftly but in a society full of the uneducated, many lost their capital and life savings. They imposed price controls, restrictions on imports, and decreed heavy penalties on smuggling and foreign exchange offences.

Many industries found it difficult to import essential raw materials. Some closed

and left the country. Then, the unintended consequences of the measures set in on the general populace. Severe shortages of commodities became rampant. We went through untold hardships as many essential commodities disappeared from the market. It became common to see citizens lined up to buy rice, flour or even Maggi cubes. Mercifully the regime was short-lived as they were overthrown by their colleagues shortly.

2020 would go down in the annals as uniquely bleak. Early in the year, COVID-19 took all the nations of the world by surprise. It was the first pandemic in the living memory of almost every one of us, necessitating the panic measures of total lockdown in most nations of the world. Here in Nigeria, despite our experience with dealing with epidemics such as the Ebola and Lassa Fever, we tarried a while before closing up the nation. Like other nations, we paid the price to the relentless march of the pandemic. The human loss was telling and particularly depressing affecting all classes of citizens without showing any difference.

Materially, it affected the nation grievously. Even before the pandemic, Nigeria was struggling to adjust to low oil prices. During the pandemic due to very low demand, it became the first time in our memories to witness selling our oil below the cost of production. The loss to the Treasury must have been colossal. But it is to the businesses, large and small, that the effect was immediately startling. I suppose statistics of the losses are being assembled now and it is when the figures are released that we would know how close we were to the brinks of failure. A pointer to that is the recession that we are in now.

A few months into the pandemic, as we got accustomed to the ways of the virus and its mode of containment, things eased up and the world opened up afresh. Sadly, we are back now into its second wave. Fortunately, experience, as they say, is the best teacher. The second wave is obviously better managed now as we have avoided the sharp disruptions of the first wave. However, I hope the government is cranking up its Think Tanks to keep keen eyes on happenings and be prepared to come up with blueprints on how to deal with the after-effects of the pandemic.

**Re – Borno raises the Bar:**

“Great piece, thanks! Just wondering however if the trend (of recruiting Professors from the Universities into political assignments) continues, it runs the risk of draining the already shallow pool of academics from the ivory towers into the political arena.” *Ibrahim Imam, Consultant Neurologist at Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust, UK.*

**THE FILTER LANE****Nasir Yammama**

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**Much ado about Artificial Intelligence**

In 2017, I visited one of the world's first and most innovative Artificial Intelligence companies, DeepMind Technologies on Pancras Square in London. This was an eye-opening experience for me as it heightened my understanding of what the best people in the game worked on and just how far exactly the technology has reached beyond the hype. I came face to face with applications that not only demonstrated the immense possibilities of Artificial Intelligence like the Alpha, which famously beat the human world champion of the complex board game, 'Go' but also some great examples of how machine learning is helping revolutionise areas like Healthcare with DeepMind's work with some hospitals and even the United Kingdom's NHS. However, my earlier observation was that Artificial Intelligence was at best aspirational at the time, with a lot of future potentials but not quite there yet as the best examples where games, or toys or social media influence.

Since my visit to DeepMind, they have gone from AlphaZero to AlphaGo and now to AlphaFold, which is far from a chess winning machine learning algorithm. AlphaFold accurately predicts the shape of proteins. Not the protein in the context of nutrition but the self-assembling nanomachines that do almost everything in the body. Our cellular

decisions for themselves when faced with new situations.

**Machine Learning**

The quest for artificial intelligence and its builders is the creation of machines that can reason, learn, and act intelligently. Most of the advancements in AI you hear about today are machine learning-based. Machine Learning is, therefore, a type of artificial intelligence that utilises statistics to find patterns in huge sets of data. Data here refers to anything in the digital form fed into the machine learning algorithm ranging from numbers, words, pictures, likes, clicks, etc. Popular examples of machine learning applications are recommendation systems on YouTube and Netflix, search engines like google, social network feeds like Facebook and voice assistants like Siri. Within all these examples is the deep observation of your behavior whether it's what you watch, click, listen to, like or what you ignore, dislike or say in the case of voice assistance. A pattern is then established by machine learning and an educated guess is made about what you may like or do on the platforms.

**Deep Learning**

This brings me to a type of machine learning called Deep Learning. Imagine a tremendously better machine learning that can identify and amplify even the smallest pattern. It is also referred to as a deep neural network due to its multi-layered computational nodes that work cohesively to predict, with relative accuracy, based on the data it is fed. So, in essence, deep learning is basically neural networks; which get their name inspired by the inner workings of the human brain with the nodes acting like neurons and the network acting like a brain.

You now get the idea of Artificial Intelligence and you know that Machine Learning is by far its most prevalent application. You understand how machine and deep learning work. To complete this gamut, you should know that machine learning (and deep learning) has three varieties. Supervised, unsupervised and reinforced learning. Supervised learning is the most prevalent variety whereby the computer or machine is told what to look for by labelling the data in order to signal to the machine to look for similar patterns. Every time you watch a show on Netflix, the algorithm will remember it and try to find similar shows based on that reference.

On the contrary, unsupervised learning allows the machine to look for whatever patterns it can find. Here the data has no labels and the algorithm just combs through everything and sorts or arranges based on a wide-ranging parameter identified in the patterns. This is way less popular than supervised learning but has strong applications and is gaining a lot of ground in cybersecurity.

Lastly, there is Reinforcement Learning, which involves the algorithm learning from trial and error to achieve a clear objective. Many consider this to be the latest frontier of machine learning. The algorithm tries out various things towards achieving the set objective and gets either rewarded or penalised depending on how much the particular behaviour helps or hinders it from achieving the set objective.

These are the basic concepts around artificial intelligence and are pretty much the areas to get the most attention from this decade onwards, as we set into a different type of world where artificial intelligence will take on new definitions and become much more practical rather than aspirational as it has been in the past decades.

**The quest of artificial intelligence and its builders is the creation of machines that can reason, learn, and act intelligently. Most of the advancements in AI you hear about today are machine learning based. Machine Learning is, therefore, a type of artificial intelligence that utilises statistics to find patterns in huge sets of data**

processes — everything, which can be said to make us alive — are tasks carried out by proteins. Protein folding (one of the toughest problems in science) could thus help scientists understand the biological processes of every living thing. This is because a protein's shape is closely linked with its function, and the ability to predict this structure unlocks a greater understanding of what it does and how it works. This means drugs could be discovered more rapidly, diseases treated faster and the unlocking of many great mysteries. Thanks to Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. But just what are these terms that people throw around a lot and how do these techniques work?

**Artificial Intelligence**

In global terms, 2021 heralds us into a new decade of exciting advancements in technology. One of the most talked-about aspects of technology is Artificial Intelligence or AI. Because it is constantly evolving and transforming, the definition of AI is complicated, depending on who you ask. Hollywood movies have for long used sentient humanoid robots to define it, while another popular culture has popularised self-driving cars and chess-playing bots. In simple terms, AI refers to machines that can reason and act on their own. Like humans and animals, artificially intelligent machines can make

## Letter to the Editor

e-mail letters@dailytrust.com text 08131800030

CARTOON by AKILA JIBRIN



# How Buhari can win Nigerian youth

In his New Year address to Nigerians on January 1, 2021, President Muhammadu Buhari said his government had heard; listened and is committed to fulfilling the demands of the Nigerian youth following the nationwide #ENDSARS protests. Although, the government has fulfilled most of the initial demands of the #ENDSARS protest, the most important demand is providing productive employment for the youth and creating easy access for them to participate in governance, politics and decision-making. Although, political-power is not given freely, one must work for it, but the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said both formal and informal engagement of youth can be understood as political participation, and both are beneficial for a vivid and resilient democracy and should be supported.

President Buhari has acknowledged that young Nigerians are the most valuable natural resource the country has. But, sadly, most young Nigerians feel under-represented in Buhari's government.

## What should he do?

In terms of political participation and engagement in governance, the President should appoint 12 young people not above 40, two

from each of the six geo-political zones, as Senior Special Assistants with full cabinet status. This will greatly impact on the youths' perception of the government and give the government the 'strength' to boast that youth are adequately represented in the government. This will also create a strong link between the government and the youth, who form more than half of Nigerian voters.. This would also serve as an impetus for a good image and a sound political strategy for the All Progressive Congress (APC) towards the 2023 elections.

On youth employment, the government already has some good programmes, like N-Power, SurvivalFund, Presidential Youth Empowerment Scheme (P-YES) etc. However, a veritable approach to tackle this is agricultural entrepreneurship programme. It is good news that the government is already looking at that direction. It, however, needs to re-model some of its agricultural programmes. The government can partner with the private sector to establish rice mills, poultry, fisheries, dairy and plantations in various locations in the country. The participating youths should receive hands-on training on how to manage the

farms. After passing-out from the scheme, the farms should be transferred to them. The scheme should work in such a way that local councils and state governments provide land and other logistics, the private sector provides the fund while the federal government stands as the guarantor of the fund. This will be done through the issuance of either callable, par value or coupon rate bonds. The private investors or financial institutions who will participate in the scheme are not to give money directly to the governments in order to receive the bond-certificate, but it would be a kind of batter arrangement. They would setup the farms, and put in place all structures required for the farms to function optimally. After which a bond certificate equivalent to the pre-agreed cost, will be issued to them. The youth, to whom the farms are to be transferred, should gradually pay back money to the government. This approach will make the scheme sustainable.

The Buhari Government should take advantage of this situation because its opponents are already doing so.

Zayyad I. Muhammad writes from Jimeta, Adamawa state

## Pressure to falter power sector reform

As someone with interest in the power sector, particularly the Rural Electrification Agency, I am compelled to raise some issues regarding happenings that could frustrate our national development. My observations are borne out of the importance of the power sector to the fabrics of our national development.

I have also watched with keen interest Engr. Sale Mamman's resolve to focus on the assignment given him by the President, Muhammadu Buhari, to fix the power sector.

I must confess that his efforts as Minister of Power are commendable. Engr. Mamman Sale has performed beyond expectation. The country may not be there yet in terms of enjoying full scale electricity but there has been tremendous progress under his watch.

One of the biggest achievements under his supervision is his resolve and commitment to effect changes that would ensure adequate full budget implementation for results. Many have scored him high on this note.

However, recent developments at the Rural Electrification Agency wherein some elements have resisted the wind of positive change are becoming worrisome. My checks reveal that high wired conspirators are bent on employing every means possible to distract the ministry from achieving the Presidential Mandate given it to satisfy Nigerians with adequate electricity.

I am in the know of recent disturbing happenings within the power sector, in which sinister moves, underhand tactics, subtle blackmail and dropping of 'powerful' names by some persons referred to as 'Kwara Mafia' to influence and mount undue pressure on the Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, who is from Kwara State to talk to the minister in order to do their inordinate bidding.

Their intention is simply to pressure and mislead him into doing the wrong thing that would at the end of the day be detrimental to his integrity.

Apart from undue pressure on the Chief of Staff, there are also cases of insubordinations within the agency against the leadership of the ministry.

This is because the ministry's leadership has been trying to right some wrongs and put round pegs in round holes at both the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and the ministry but a top gun at the agency has been frustrating these efforts by not releasing the letters of redeployment accordingly due to his perceived connections in 'higher' places.

Pressure is being mounted on the leadership to rescind some of these good decisions taken in good faith, which is for the good and benefit of the country.

The situation at the REA is so worrisome that some of those affected in the recent redeployment are beating their chests and boasting that no one can move them because of their high connection with Prof. Gambari.

In fact, it beats my imagination that a civil servant will fight a redeployment that is a normal routine procedure.

In this regard, all and sundry must note that undertaking such proper service procedure must be seen in good light and above primordial sentiments driven by ego.

Chinedu Odinta writes from Stadium Road, Enugu

Text us on 08131800030 &amp; 08112661608



### Ending banditry in the North

Finding lasting solution to banditry in the North should be a priority to the government. For this to be achieved, governors in the region must follow aggressive policies on population control and education. The sooner we realize this the better for the future of the region.

Yunus Ahmed Kabo - 07036967\*\*\*

### Appeal to Governor Okowa

We appeal to Delta State governor, Ifeanyi Okowa to deploy more doctors to Geeral Hospital Ogwashi-Ukwu as the hospital has limited staff to cater for the patients who come to the hospital. They come from many communities in

Aniocha South Local Government Area.  
Feyisetan Akeeb Kareem - 08035612\*\*\*

### Zulum and Professors as LG chairmen

The news that two professors were recently elected to lead local councils in Borno State is interesting. Although Zulum's popularity, modesty and performance may not be due to his qualification but it helped in achieving these. These professors must govern with difference so as to help do away with the unhelpful notion that anyone can be a leader for lack of difference in their performance.

Mohammed Bagudu, Minna - 08104843\*\*\*

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

## UNTL Kaduna must not die

Nigeria's textile industry is, once again, heading for a total collapse as the management of the United Nigeria Textile Limited (UNTL) recently sacked 300 of its workers, which constitutes 30 percent of its entire workforce. UNTL with subsidiaries that include Supertext, Funtua Textile, Zamfara Textile, Unitext and Nichem Text was founded in 1964. The company shut down operations in 2007. Although it re-opened in 2010, its operations have since then been on very shaky ground.

In March 2020, UNTL shut down activities after a state-wide lockdown was imposed by the Kaduna State Government to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Pressure from the National Union of Textile, Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTWN) compelled the company to recall its workers a few weeks ago. This, however, led to what some of the workers call 'restructuring'.

UNTL is the only surviving textile company in Kaduna, which in its heyday was the Manchester of Nigeria. It would be recalled that the company, which was once the largest textile factory in West Africa, had about 10,000 workers on its payroll before it suspended production in 2007. When the company was operating at maximum capacity, it ran three shifts: morning, afternoon and night, in addition to a permanent day shift for administrative staff members; making the textile community busy even at night. With a loan facility from the federal government, UNTL reopened on December 3, 2010; a ceremony performed by the then Nigeria's Vice President, Namadi Sambo. The federal government had put in place N100 billion Cotton, Textile and Garment Development Fund through a bond issued by the Debt Management Office (DMO) in 2010. Yet, the company has since then, been operating at a comparatively low capacity.

The story of UNTL is the actual account of Nigeria's textile industry. Inadequate supply of raw materials has been a major challenge to the textile industry. Such only reflects the country's unserious attitude to industrialisation generally. Production in factories can only be sustained when there is an unbroken chain in the supply of raw materials. The fact that farmers complain of bandits and kidnappers not allowing them to go to their farms is a recent phenomenon that is not tenable.

Electricity supply from the public power source has remained one of the sector's teething problems. If the company decides to run its factory on power generating plants, the cost of producing fabrics with its multiplier effect would put the final products beyond the reach of many. This is one area that government intervention is strategic to the survival of the UNTL and other industries.

Although the federal government's Executive Order 003 compels government institutions to patronise the locally produced materials, this order lacks any semblance of implementation. Nigerian markets are full of imported fabrics. For Nigeria's textile industry and its local market to survive, the government must proactively stop unscrupulous Nigerian business organisations from importing the same products from China where the cost of production is cheaper. The local market cannot survive at the rate at which fabrics are being smuggled into Nigeria.

Beyond saving the UNTL with any bailout funds is the need for the articulation and earnest implementation of a sustainable industrial policy for the country. The ban on imported fabrics must be enforced. Executive Order 003 should be genuinely and passionately implemented so that the army, air force, navy, police, DSS, customs, immigration, civil defence, fire service, road safety, and VIOs are compelled to purchase materials for their personnel's uniforms from the country's local industry. This can go far to sustain the country's textile industry.

While textile manufacturers need support from the Bank of Industry (BOI), the Bank of Agriculture (BOA) is encouraged to support cotton farmers to access hybrid cotton seeds and other inputs at subsidised rate. This is a major key to sustainable textile industry. The government's quick intervention is thus required to save UNTL, which is the only surviving textile factory in Kaduna. With the huge number of workers employed by Nigeria's textile industry, the government cannot afford to allow the UNTL to die considering the socio-economic consequences that are naturally associated with the retrenchment of workers in any sector.



**NURA DAURA:** Ag Chief Executive Officer  
**NAZIRU MIKAILU:** Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief  
**HAMZA IDRIS:** Editor  
**AHMED SHEKARAU:** General Manager, Business & Strategy

# Five decades of shared journey

By Zhao Yong

On February 10, 1971, China and Nigeria established diplomatic relations. This year marks the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic ties. For the past five decades and especially after the establishment of the strategic partnership in 2005, the all-dimensional, wide-ranging and high-quality bilateral cooperation has been a pacesetter in China-Africa cooperation. In recent years, under the strategic guidance and personal attention of President Xi Jinping and President Muhammadu Buhari, the brotherly relationship between China and Nigeria has reached new heights unmatched in history, bringing tangible benefits to our two countries and peoples.

The past 50 years have witnessed our increasingly enhanced political mutual trust. On October 1, 1960, Nigeria declared its independence. On the same day, the Chinese government recognised the political independence of Nigeria. In 1971, Nigeria

**In 1971, Nigeria with other African countries firmly supported China's restoration of its legitimate seat in the UN. In recent years, the two countries have enjoyed frequent high-level exchanges and enhanced mutual trust, putting China-Nigeria relations on a fast track development. In 2017, then Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi paid his first and successful official visit to Nigeria**

with other African countries firmly supported China's restoration of its legitimate seat in the UN. In recent years, the two countries have enjoyed frequent high-level exchanges and enhanced mutual trust, putting China-Nigeria relations on a fast track development. In 2017, then Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi paid his first and successful official visit to Nigeria. In 2018, President Buhari was the very first head of state President Xi Jinping met with bilaterally after the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and Nigeria formally joined the big family of the Belt and Road Initiative by signing a governmental MoU. In 2019, President Xi's special envoy Yang Jiechi paid a visit to Nigeria and held fruitful discussions with President Buhari. In 2020, President Buhari attended the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19.

The past 50 years have witnessed substantial progress in our mutually beneficial cooperation. In 2019, the two-way trade between China and Nigeria reached 19.27 billion US dollars, which was around 1900 times that of 1971 when the diplomatic ties was established. And the trade growth rate was 26.3%, ranking first among China's top 40 trading partners. In 2000, Nigeria's trade with China accounted for merely 1% of the total of Nigeria's foreign trade. Nowadays, China is one of Nigeria's top trade partners. In the area of infrastructure, there are so many examples of mutually beneficial cooperation, such as Abuja-Kaduna Railway, Lagos-Ibadan Railway, Abuja Light Rail, airport terminals in Abuja and Port Harcourt.

The past 50 years have also witnessed the thriving of cultural and people-to-people exchanges. As the most populous countries in the world and Africa respectively, there is an enormous potential in the area of people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and Nigeria. The Spring Festival Temple Fair, which has been held in Abuja for 4 consecutive years, attracted more and more local people. In 2019, the number of Nigerian students studying in China rose to 6800, which stands first in all African countries. Many of them covered by a wide variety of scholarships, studying for their master's and doctorate degrees in engineering, medicine,

**In the common fight against COVID-19, China and Nigeria supported each other from the beginning. President Buhari commended China's efforts in fighting against COVID-19 in his statement of solidarity as early as February 2. When the pandemic broke out in Nigeria, China was among the first to offer help, and has sent medical supplies and shared experience on treating COVID-19**

agriculture and other majors. 2020 is an extraordinary year. In the common fight against COVID-19, China and Nigeria supported each other from the beginning. President Buhari commended China's efforts in fighting against COVID-19 in his statement of solidarity as early as February 2. When the pandemic broke out in Nigeria, China was among the first to offer help and has sent medical supplies and shared experience in treating COVID-19. The mutual support between China and Nigeria vividly proves that solidarity and cooperation is the most powerful weapon to defeat COVID-19.

Today, the world is being shaped by changes unseen in a century, a process accelerated by COVID-19. China is prepared to be a partner of Nigeria to stand up to challenges. At this critical juncture and on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of China-Nigeria diplomatic relations, H.E. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China is going to visit Nigeria for the second time in 4 years, which will definitely uplift the China-Nigeria strategic partnership to new heights.

(Mr. Zhao Yong is Chargé D'Affaires of the Embassy of China in Nigeria)



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## TRIBUTE

# PROF. FEMI ODEKUNLE: THE EXIT OF A GREAT ACADEMIC AND A PATRIOT

**P**rof. Femi Odekunle (1943-2020) was born in the ancient city of Ilesha, Osun State. He grew up in relative comfort and had an excellent education from the start. He enjoyed very good education within and outside Nigeria which prepared him very well for the tasks ahead in life.

Prof. Odekunle has been an academic per excellence. His career in the famous Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria was legendary and historical having left his indelible mark there. He has trained numerous Nigerians across all divides many of whom are occupying key positions of authority in Nigeria and abroad. Truly, he has left his footprints on the sands of history to the benefit of humanity.

The death of Prof. Odekunle has come to many of his friends, colleagues, former students and the entire nation as a big shock at a time his dexterity and wise counsel are needed most.

Prof. Odekunle, as an academic and elder statesman, touched many lives. The people who knew him well will report that though he was friendly, sociable and warm, Prof. Odekunle was courageous, bold, assertive, forthright, principled and value-oriented. Again, the facts of his sojourn revealed him as a brilliant scholar and an academic mentor to many younger colleagues.

He is called the Father of criminology in Nigeria because he took the discipline to greater heights in ABU, Zaria and all Nigerian Universities. He served the University system: HOD Sociology, Dean of Faculty; member of Council University of Lagos; Chairman of Council, Federal University of Technology, Minna, and lately member of ASUU/FG Negotiating Team.

To his students, Prof. Odekunle was a fountain of knowledge in which they learnt dedication, diligence, thoroughness, insight and maturity.

His close students used certain words to describe him: dedication; commitment; integrity; empathy; due diligence; care; kindness; respectful, merit, excellence, patriotism, nationalism, detriabalized, objectivity, sacrifice, etc.

As he was adding value to the Nigerian society President Buhari made him a Member, Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption established in 2015. Upon receiving the news of his death, the President said '...the government has lost a valued friend.'

The Committee that is helping the President in tackling corruption in Nigeria will miss his wise counsel and valued contributions.

This is because as a member of PACAC, Professor Odekunle was most forthright in his contributions internally and externally. He was a man who had the courage of his convictions and was always blunt when the situation demanded it. His impact on the work of PACAC was therefore tremendous.

Individuals, groups and the nation are touched by his death because he means a lot based on his character content and academic stature

Prof. Femi Odekunle is no more. As painful as it is, we are consoled that, having died in the line of duty, he had paid his due. He lived a fulfilled life having raised very successful children, academics, bureaucrats and technocrats. His academic contributions, character and social disposition have made Prof. Femi Odekunle a well-known and respected person in the Nigerian society.

The Committee extends its deep condolences to his family and may they be consoled for he died for something noble: Prof. Odekunle died struggling to make Nigeria and humanity better.

May he rest in perfect peace. Amen.



Signed:

1. Prof. Itse Sagay, SAN-Chairman
2. Prof. Etannibi Alemika-Member
3. Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN-Member

4. Hadiza Bala Usman-Member
5. Prof. Sadiq Isah Radda-Executive Secretary/Member

# MONDAY BUSINESS

**CBN EXCHANGE RATES**

	US DOLLAR	Pound STERLING	EURO	YUAN/ RENMINBI	RIVAL	CFA
<b>Buying</b>	379	508.54	462.11	57.97	101.004	0.688
<b>Central NGN</b>	379.5	509.21	462.72	58.04	101.138	0.698
<b>Selling NGN</b>	380	509.88	463.33	58.12	101.271	0.708

December 30, 2020	
COMMODITIES PRICE	
CRUDE OIL BRENT	\$51.29
GOLD	\$1,873.90
SILVER	\$25.76
NATURAL GAS	\$2.61

**BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES**

BUYING	Dollar	Euro	Pound S.
	N460	N568	N621
SELLING	Dollar	Euro	Pound S.
	N475	N580	N632

By Chris Agabi

## Traders, others worry as 42 microfinance banks end operations

Small business owners, traders, especially market women, have expressed worry over the high mortality rate of microfinance banks (MFBs) just as the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) begins process to wind up 42 MFBs that failed recently across 17 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had revoked the licence of the failed MFBs in November 2020 just as NDIC recently began the customer verification process towards winding up the affected entities.

Some traders who spoke in Abuja were apprehensive over the rising cases of failed MFBs. Also badly impacted are women traders who are one of the biggest patrons of microfinance banks.

Musa Aliyu, a fruit dealer at the Fruit Market, Lugbe Abuja said he was scared of maintaining an account with any microfinance bank because a lot of them have failed.

“How much do I have that I will allow myself to lose in a microfinance bank? I will rather put my money in the big banks,” he said.

Joyce Maduka, a bread seller also in Lugbe said though microfinance banks help with small loans compared to the big banks, if they are failing, that is a problem for small depositors.

She said the government should pay attention to microfinance banks as they are



■ NDIC headquarters in Abuja

helping small businesses.

Several other small traders expressed similar sentiments.

According to NDIC records, at least 145 MFBs have failed over the years. The breakdown shows that 103 were liquidated by NDIC earlier over insolvency issues.

However, recently, 42 others have been added to the list bringing it to 145 liquidated MFBs. Analysis of the recent 42 failed MFBs shows that they are distributed across 16 states and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja with Lagos having the highest casualty of nine, followed by Kano with seven failed MFBs, and Kogi with six.

Abuja and Akwa Ibom have three failed MFBs each while Kebbi and Imo have two failed MFBs each.

There is one failed MFB across 10 other states. They

include Kaduna, Ogun, Osun, Anambra, Bauchi and Jigawa. The rest are Ondo, Adamawa, Rivers and Delta.

Each depositor in MFB is entitled to a maximum of N200,000 to be paid by NDIC when the bank liquidates.

As of 2019, data showed that NDIC had paid about N2.97 billion to 83,415 depositors of the earlier failed MFBs.

NDIC announced two weeks ago that it has commenced the verification and winding up of the 42 MFBs whose operating licences were recently revoked by CBN.

The first step is to verify their depositors, the corporation said in a statement by the Director, Claims Resolution Department, Mrs. Nurat Ajigbewu.

It said CBN revoked the operating licences of the failed MFBs since November

12, 2020. It requested the depositors to visit their banks from December 2 to 24, 2020 where NDIC officials would verify their accounts status and claims.

On December 24, 2020, there were no NDIC officials at two of the affected MFBs in Abuja when our reporter visited. A security official at Future Growth MFB, Utako in Abuja said he did not see the NDIC officials adding that the bank was closed in October and belongings evacuated.

When our correspondent asked the NDIC why physical verification had not commenced, Mr. Gbenga Fabuyi, one of the spokesmen at NDIC said he would get clarification but did not revert even after several reminders.

The Director of Corporate Communications, NDIC, Bashir Nuhu, also didn't respond to messages sent to his phone on the issue.

However, a former deputy governor of CBN, Dr. Kingsley Chiedu Moghalu, said: “A significant number of microfinance banks were deficient in their understanding of the microfinance concept and the methodology for delivery of microfinance services to target groups.”

In his comments, Prof. Uche Uwaleke, a professor of Finance and Capital Market said, MFBs operate under a very

harsh business environment characterised by inadequate power supply, transport, insecurity which increase their cost of operations.

“Undercapitalization is the bane of microfinance banks in Nigeria. Part of the solution is to prescribe new minimum capital requirements for MFBs which CBN has done by giving Tier 2 and Tier 1 MFBs up till April 2022 to recapitalize to a minimum of N50m and N200m respectively.”

He said CBN can include MFBs like commercial banks as participating banks in disbursing its interventions.

Still reacting, the National Association of Microfinance Banks (NAMMB) supported the CBN licence revocation for the 42 MFBs.

The national president, Alhaji Yusuf Gyallesu, said the CBN action aligned with the association's plan to conduct nationwide existence checks (membership audit) of MFBs.

He hinted that the leadership of the association was making arrangements to ensure that the proposed existence check of MFBs by the association is finalised in the first quarter of 2021 fiscal year.

Gyallesu, said with over 600 MFBs financially and operationally strong, customers should not entertain any fear about the safety of their deposits in the MFBs.

## Cement producers to slash price for FG's 300,000 houses

By Muideen Olaniyi

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has said cement manufacturers have agreed with the Federal Government to give discounts for the product purchase for the 300,000 low cost housing units to be built under the

Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP).

Osinbajo disclosed this last weekend while visiting the completed model houses in Dei Dei in Abuja, one of the sites of the Social Housing scheme.

Fielding questions from reporters, Osinbajo said: “They have agreed to give cement for this project at considerable

discount which is a very helpful thing to do and we really commend and thank them.

“On the average, anybody who is earning N30,000 a month and is ready to spend a third of that amount, will be able to afford one of these houses, that is the plan. What I have seen so far, there is

a one-bedroom unit and there is a two-bedroom unit, both coming under N2 million.

“I think that this is a very good thing indeed. And a point has been made that it is possible to build good, decent accommodation that isn't out of the reach of practically everyone,” he noted.

### 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	-	-	-	-	From ABUJA	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	From KADUNA	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL				
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	IDU	07:00	18:00	-	-	RIGASA	06:40	18:00	-	-
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

## CEO INTERVIEW

# Agriculture, minerals can lift Nigeria out of recession — ACCI ex-head, Kayode

By Francis Arinze Iloani

**W**hat does the current economic recession mean to ordinary Nigerians?

A recession is a technical term for when a country, a region, or the world is not performing up to particular indexes, like the growth rate is kind of negative. When the growth rate becomes zero, when it's flat, you are out of recession. Immediately it climbs above zero, let's say 0.1 per cent, you are out of recession. So, it's just a technical term.

It simply shows that the economy is not working. You cannot meet your cost, you cannot meet your key responsibilities and you are not making progress. Yes, Nigeria has entered its second recession in as many as five, six years and the reasons are very obvious. Our economy is the most transparent economy in the sense that our foreign exchange is principally sourced from a single product. That's why we are called a mono-economy, a single product economy. So, immediately after the price of oil crashed late last year, we knew we were in trouble.

To complicate matters, the COVID came in, which itself is a recessive condition. Nigeria was projected to do about 3.5 per cent growth this year. We knew that we were going to get into the negative because this impact is across the board. It affects everybody.

**How soon will Nigeria come out of it?**

Nigeria will come out of this recession. Soon, I don't see why not if the oil price goes up a little bit and if we have good rains and agricultural output

Prince Adetokunbo Kayode, SAN is the immediate past president of the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI). He is also a former minister of defence, culture and tourism, Labour, and Attorney General/ justice minister. In this interview shortly before he left as ACCI's President, Prince Kayode said the federal government's failure to diversify the economy left it vulnerable to a decline in oil price and COVID-19 pandemic which led to the economic recession.



■ Prince Adetokunbo Kayode

will assist Nigeria to stabilise the economy. But the most critical thing is not whether we come out of the recession, but making sure we don't slide back into it because going in and out of recession is a typical, normal economic experience. Will we come out of it, but we will go back again unless we learn lessons from the reasons for going into recession.

**What do you think caused the current recession?**

We have failed to diversify the economy. The government has been singing about diversifying the economy in the past 10 to 15 years now; we have not yet done it. If we had, we would not be in recession today. We may have reduced growth rate, instead of doing five or six per

cent, we may be doing one to two per cent. But we would not go into recession. So, whatever anybody may say, we have not diversified the economy. We have to do that.

**How should Nigeria diversify the economy?**

Agriculture is still dominated by the federal government. It will never work. This idea of focusing on rice is again trying to create a mono-economy within the agricultural space by talking only about rice. We don't export rice. We eat rice. And we expend so much energy and time on rice whereas there are a lot of other things that we import and eat. We have to target not only the products that we consume, like rice, but products that in the

past we used to shore up our foreign exchange inflow like cocoa, groundnut, palm oil and now, beniseed and a lot of other things. We have to actively and deliberately increase the output. And this can only be done at the state level; not from Abuja. So, how do you do that at the state level? By using the National Economic Council (NEC) - it was the creation of the constitution and it is deliberate. The structure of our constitution is such that the president will handle politics. The vice president will handle the economy. It pains some of us that the leadership of the country does not understand that. Leave the work of the economy to the vice president. And he must take it very seriously. The economy affects everybody; the economy is based on the states performing. That is why it is mandatory for every governor to attend NEC meetings and come up with ideas on how to develop the critical sectors.

We can use agriculture to diversify the economy. The same theory applies to minerals. There is no state; about 32 states have minerals in commercial quantity and at least one, which we can concentrate on. Not only mining and export; there is what we call beneficiation; you have to add value to it. When you export raw minerals to India, and in exactly 90 days, India sends it back to us processed and we pay 10 times more than we got from the raw

material. So, agriculture and mineral sectors must be taken as seriously as most import sectors.

**What is your take on the high unemployment rate?**

We need to get people off the streets. There are too many people in the streets. You can see what happened; this EndSARS thing. It shows the three divides in Nigeria: the government and the so-called big people in the country, the young people in the offices and the young people in the streets. There is a big divide and you can see it very clearly. Government could not talk to the young people in the offices. They said they would do EndSARS, but the boys in the streets took it over and everything in Nigeria went to hell. It's a big challenge but it was a very interesting challenge. Government must begin to understand that it must engage the young people in the offices who have education and jobs, but who are not satisfied with what is going on. Two, it must also find a way to engage the people in the streets. That's one level. The second level is that the young people in the offices must too find a way to create a bridge between them and the people in the streets.

Create these opportunities: allow agriculture to work, allow processing to work. Every agricultural process in Nigeria has a lot of value chains that could create opportunities for young Nigerians to be gainfully employed.

## TEF to support 3500 entrepreneurs with \$5,000

From Sunday Michael Ogwu, Lagos

At least 3,500 entrepreneurs will benefit from the \$5,000 seed funding from the Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Programme this year.

The Chief Executive of TEF, Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu, while speaking at a press conference to herald the call for applications said 1,000 entrepreneurs will be selected from the 230,000 applications received in 2020 for training and funding alongside the 2021 successful applicants.

The Tony Elumelu Foundation's \$100 million Entrepreneurship

Programme, launched in 2015 to empower 10,000 entrepreneurs over 10 years, is now entering its 7th year and has empowered over 9,000 young African entrepreneurs from 54 African countries.

Ugochukwu noted that while the foundation has spent \$77m of the \$100m target on more than 5,000 entrepreneurs, it plans to take the entrepreneurship programme beyond the initial 10 years and reach up to 1m businesses instead of 10,000 entrepreneurs.

"Looking at the impact that this programme has, we can say that it is here to stay even beyond the 10 years.

"So, beyond the 10 years, the programme will not only continue but will scale up greatly. We had an initial plan to train 10,000 entrepreneurs, we tell you now that our plan over the next 10 years is to empower one million Africans."

Ugochukwu, who also spoke about the effects of the pandemic, said, "The pandemic has created challenges across the continent, but we know that with the Tony Elumelu Foundation's tried and tested programme, we can execute the largest COVID-19 economic recovery plan for African SMEs and break the cycle of poverty in Africa."

## 'Fair creates platform for 400 start-ups in Kano'

From Habibu Umar Aminu, Kano

The Glitz Fair has in the last four years created opportunities for about 400 business start-up founders to showcase their potential in Kano State, the Project Director and Founder of the fair, Ahmad Adam has said.

At the end of the 7th edition of the fair in Kano, Adam said over 5,000 people have patronised the vendors during the editions with transactions worth N60 million.

He also said through billboards, handbills, posters, electronic and online social media, the Glitz Fair and its partners' brands have reached over 3m people.

Adam said there are plans to

open a Glitz Shop, a permanent site where the shop will take the responsibility of sales, managing and marketing the businesses that are situated in the mall.

"This 7th edition of Glitz Fair tagged, The Rebound, was meant to provide hope for SMEs and other multinational companies to bounce back from the devastating economic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event has an exhibition area, a kids' playground and a VIP lounge.

"The event was designed to be taking place three times in a year, with a specific time of training and business coaching to the SMEs and start-ups," he said.

## ECONOMIC INSIGHT

## Abuja-Kaduna train breaks down again

By Chris Agabi

The Abuja-Kaduna train has broken down again as it returned from Kaduna on Sunday.

The train was on the morning schedule from Rigasa, Kaduna to Idu, Abuja when it broke down around Akere, a rural area within the route.

Our Correspondent learnt that the Nigeria Railways Corporation (NRC) engineers battled to fix it for over three hours.

When contacted, the Operations Manager, Abuja-Kaduna Train

Service, Mr. Victor Adamu, confirmed the incident on the telephone but claimed it was a minor issue.

"It's a small problem and it has been fixed. It happened at Akere, and the train was en-route Idu, Abuja from Rigasa in Kaduna."

He said he was on transit and could not provide further information. The train has broken down severally in the past, leaving passengers stranded.

Less than three months ago, the breakdowns became too frequent

that the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi, had to publicly apologise to commuters for the embarrassing situation.

He ordered the Chinese contractor, CCECC to fix or replace the locomotives that were recently procured from China by the federal government to boost train services on the route.

Just five months after the trains were deployed, they had continued to break down, leaving passengers stranded, disrupting their travel plans and also

exposing them to undue security risks.

"I would like to apologise to Nigerians over what's happening at the Abuja to Kaduna

rail line. It is worrisome in the sense that they are brand new locomotives. We may be forced to bring back our old locomotives if the breakdown persists,

Amaechi had said.

It was not immediately clear if NRC has deployed the old locomotives or still using the Chinese-deployed trains.

## Notore records N9.48bn profit in 12 months

From Sunday Michael Ogwu, Lagos

Notore Chemical Industries Plc has recorded an operating profit of N9.48 billion in 12 months, which ended in September 2020. The profit is 177 per cent more than the N3.418bn it made in the period that ended in 2019.

The company disclosed this in its audited financial statement for the twelve-month period ended September 30, 2020.

In a statement, the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Notore Chemical Industries, Mr. Onajite Okoloko, said the increase in the company's operating profit is due to surpluses from the professional revaluation of investment properties class of its asset.

He said, "The increase was mainly attributable to surpluses from the professional revaluation of investment properties class of its asset."

Okoloko added that the company is diversifying its revenue stream through

the optimisation of its assets

He also explained that Notore achieved several important milestones to position the company for a great future, noting, "First, was the disbursement of the 13.32bn Afreximbank facility on December 31, 2019, which set the stage for the commencement of the Turn Around Maintenance (TAM) programme for our plant."

He also disclosed that a significant part of all the equipment and spares ordered during the year for the TAM programme have been delivered, while most of the others are in transit.

"The TAM is on course and expected to be completed at the end of January 2021, barring any further shutdowns or restrictions, occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic."

For the 2021 Financial Year, Notore expects to significantly exceed its 2020 Financial Year production volumes, revenue and operating cash flows, thereby returning the company to profitability.

## Dana Air completes maintenance of 2 aircraft

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

Dana Air said it has received two of its Boeing aircraft fresh from maintenance overseas to add to its fleet.

It had returned one aircraft to service in December 2020 and is adding another two. The Chief Operating Officer of Dana Air, Obi Mbanuzuo also apologised to passengers over recent disruptions to its flight.

Daily Trust reports that two of the airline's aircraft were grounded recently following a snag, which affected its schedules.

With this addition, the airline assured its passengers of improved on-time performance, which it is known for.

"The safety of our guests and crew will continue to take priority in our operations and we will continue to keep our safety standards

with zero tolerance for violations irrespective of the situation or circumstance," Mbanuzuo said.

"The return of another of our aircraft in late December, helped mitigate the schedule disruptions we experienced recently and we have been able to ferry a good number of our guests to their destinations while working to ensure all-round customer satisfaction and schedule reliability for our guests."

"We once again acknowledge the frustrations of our guests and wish to use this medium to once again apologise to them for the schedule disruptions experienced some weeks back. We are deeply sorry about it and we are working tirelessly to improve on our known schedule integrity and overall operational efficiency."



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- 2. METHOD OF APPLICATION:** Application forms can be obtained from the School of Post Basic Psychiatric Nursing, Federal Neuro Psychiatric Hospital Kaduna.
- 3. APPLICATION FEE:** A non refundable fee of **N10,000.00** for application form payable through Remita in favour of Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Kaduna.
- 4. CLOSING DATE:** Completed application forms should be submitted with photocopies of relevant credentials and two (2) passport photographs (colored on white background) to the above address on or before Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. Pre-test and interview will be on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 respectively.

Please note that successful candidates would be expected to resume training first week of May, 2021.

For further enquiry contact the Programme Coordinator on **08028434918, 07034693344.**

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# The Effect of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on Medium Small and Micro-scale

## INTRODUCTION

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are established components of regional integration and have been known to promote commodity trade and investments flows by creating an enabling and improved environment cross-border transaction (Kawai & Wignajara, 2008). Besides, the processes may also prompt diversion of trade and investment away from countries with less favourable business conditions (Yunling, 2010). Thus, the impact of FTAs widely differs across countries on account of a multitude of factors that affect the business environment.

For Nigeria, the impact of AfCFTA as with any other FTA, could vary on account of a number of market opportunities and constraints to production. Amidst this discourse, the potential impact of the AfCFTA on MSMEs is the least understood. MSMEs are critical constituents of the Nigerian economy, as they represent about 96 percent of Nigerian businesses and contribute 75 percent to the national employment (SMEDAN, 2019). One predominant concern is deficient human and technological capacity of MSMEs in Nigeria predisposes them to the negative spillovers potentially associated with free trade and investment exchanges within the continent. Yet, MSMEs can benefit with greater access to new market and possible economic transformation that competition could promote. With the conversation on the recent ratification of the AfCFTA in Nigeria growing, it is therefore imperative to evaluate the extent to which the economic expectations and growth potential of the AfCFTA will benefit Nigerian MSMEs and at what costs are these economic opportunities and business growth potential.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

The data collection procedure for our study focused on four key sectors within the Nigerian economy: wholesale/retail trade, the agricultural and food processing sector, the manufacturing sector and the services sector. These sectors were selected given their high business potentials and contributions to GDP, employment and exports.

### Sampling of enterprises across states

The study employed a multi-stage sampling procedure. In the first stage, Abia State, Anambra State, Kano State, Lagos State and Abuja (FCT) were purposely selected because of high presence of MSMEs and national representativeness. In the second stage, a proportionate sampling technique was used to determine the number of MSMEs to be sampled in each state. This is based on the sectoral (MSMEs) contribution to GDP, export and employment as reflected in the National Survey of MSMEs by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2019). Thereafter, in the final stage, simple random sampling was used to select MSMEs for interview through the sectoral MSMEs register. The distribution of the sampled firms (by sector and size) is presented in figure 1.

### Focus Group Discussion

To strengthen the reliability of our results, and to enrich and triangulate findings from the field survey structured interview with key informants were conducted. The focus group discussion held in three different sessions with participants grouped into manufacturing, agricultural and services sector. In addition, a telephone interview was conducted to elicit the perceptions of business leaders regarding the AfCFTA.

## SURVEY RESULTS: MSMEs' Perceptions of AfCFTA

### Knowledge of AfCFTA

Figure 2 reveals that there is a low level of awareness regarding the existence of the Agreement among MSMEs, as demonstrated by the 67 percent of respondents answering "No" to the above question. Disaggregated analysis of the MSMEs' awareness by enterprise size shows that only about 18 percent of the micro and small enterprises were aware of the AfCFTA policy. Oppositely, a significantly more substantial portion (67 percent) of the medium-sized enterprises declared their awareness of the agreement.

Further disaggregation by enterprise sectors shows that 97 percent of agricultural MSMEs were not aware of the agreement, while 50 percent of manufacturing sector enterprises are also not aware of the agreement (see Figure 3).

### The Potential Impact of AfCFTA

Among the minority of respondents aware of AfCFTA's existence, there is a general optimism surrounding the prospective effects of its implementation. The pooled results show that 61 percent of this subsample are optimistic of a positive effect of the AfCFTA on their market size while 60 and 59 percent are optimistic of positive effects on cost of materials/inputs and cost of machineries respectively (see Figure 4). Moreover, a majority of the medium enterprises surveyed opined that the AfCFTA will have positive effects in terms of cost of materials/inputs, cost of machineries, market size and production capacity. A high proportion of the small enterprises perceives that the agreement will have positive effects on their businesses in terms of cost of materials/inputs, costs of machinery, production capacity, market size and price of products. Micro enterprises report a lower level of optimism across all categories, perhaps reflecting the smaller-scale, less internationally-minded scope of their operations.

Disaggregating the enterprises further by economic sectors, the manufacturing sector displays the most positive attitudes regarding the possible future effects of the AfCFTA on market size, cost of material/inputs and cost of machinery.

### Perceived Threats of AfCFTA to MSMEs

While general optimism could be perceived among respondents (again, limited to the minority aware of the deal in the first place) Figure 5 reveals the share of respondents worried about five potential adverse effects of the AfCFTA to MSMEs in Nigeria. Most prominent among the threats is the fact that cheaper goods from other African countries will be competing for local goods in Nigeria. Other threats to MSMEs in Nigeria that could be associated with the AfCFTA include increase in foreign competition, reduction in the demand for local goods and dumping of sub-standard products.

### 3.3.5 Perceptions on Coronavirus Effects

The survey period overlapped with the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak which, among other things, has also led to the postponement of the commencement period for the AfCFTA. The survey, therefore, sought to explore the likely impact of COVID-19 on the MSMEs and to draw implications to facilitate an expedited and efficient implementation of AfCFTA in Nigeria. Figure 7, shows that 25 percent experienced significant impact of the pandemic on their preparations for AfCFTA; about 46 percent experienced significant effect of the pandemic on their future expansion plans to export abroad; and 63 percent experienced significant effects of the pandemic on their plan for import from abroad.

There is no doubt, therefore, that an effective strategy for the implementation of AfCFTA will not only have to incorporate a concerted effort to extend awareness of the deal's existence itself, but also account for the further challenges brought about by the pandemic.

## CGE MODEL

### QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

We calibrate the model to data in 2018 for 60 countries and 20 tradable and non-tradable sectors. Then we allow free trade for all African countries while leaving tariffs on non-African countries to be at 2018 level. Although, this paper has implication for all countries in our sample, we mostly report detail result of the effect of AfCFTA on Nigeria. Welfare effects are decomposed into volume of trade and term of trade at the sectoral level.

Nigeria records a modest welfare effects compare to other African countries. AfCFTA raises real wage by 24 percent for Benin, 16.6 percent for Botswana, 8.89 percent in Burundi, and 14.3 percent in Tanzania. Our simulation result indicates that agriculture, mining, food, and machinery dilutes the overall gains from terms of trade as the price of export for these commodities decline relative to the price of their imports. Although there is growth in export of agricultural products, the term of trade deterioration in this sector dilutes the overall gains from trade and changes in real wage from the agricultural sector. All together agriculture, mining, food and textile industries contribute about 37 percent to the deterioration in Nigeria's term of trade. Other manufacturing, wood, paper, and metal products accounts for over 90 percent of Nigeria's total gain from term of trade improvements and volume of trade.

Moreover, there are significant reduction in export prices of tradable goods. Changes range from 0.8 percent in electrical & machinery and 8.0 percent decline in prices of metal products; a sector that account for 13.3 percent in gains from term of trade. Tariff reductions on imports not only affects prices in that sector but interestingly impacts prices of non-tradable sectors highlighting the importance of supply chain.

Further, we report the changes in Nigeria's import as a result of AfCFTA. Based on model prediction, Nigeria's imports from several African countries including Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, and Namibia decline by more than 10 percent as well as imports from China and Canada by 29.5 and 11.3 percent respectively. Nigeria's imports from Ethiopia triples while import from Italy (108.8 percent) Japan (100.96 percent) and Zimbabwe doubles. Imports from OECD and North American rises. Nigeria's import from Italy, Japan, Netherlands and rest of Europe rises by 108.83 percent, 100.96 percent, 92.73 and 70.83 respectively. On export, Nigeria records growth in exports of agricultural products, food, electrical, and machinery products while exports decline significantly in wood and paper industry.

### Immediate Actionable Plans for Government

The implementation of AfCFTA will require targeted, intelligent government intervention strategies. The findings in our report suggest the following priorities:

1. Develop a context-specific awareness dissemination strategy
  - a. The findings in our report suggest a high level of unfamiliarity with the AfCFTA's existence. MSMEs will not be able to prepare effectively, let alone take full advantage of, AfCFTA without prior awareness.
  - b. Special attention should be paid to non-digital dissemination strategies to ensure full reach of Nigerian businesses irrespective of their technological participation levels.
  - c. Partnerships should be developed with local BMOs and business group representatives to better assess how best to engage entrepreneurs.

### Long Term Actionable Plans for Government

2. Develop a context-specific training programme
  - a. Many MSMEs are often disenfranchised from international trade as a result of the complications associated with compliance to FTAs. Ensuring localised training programmes through partnerships with the private sector and international donors can help fill the technical skills gap that will hamper MSME uptake of AfCFTA.
3. Investment in the creation of a more competitive business environment
  - a. Electrification and transport infrastructure deficiencies are particularly problematic in Nigeria and risk putting Nigerian businesses at a significant disadvantage in relation to continental competitors.
  - b. A targeted, strategic investment plan should therefore be a priority.
4. Facilitate access to finance for businesses
  - a. A strong re-emergence from the COVID crisis is a necessary condition for successful uptake of the AfCFTA agreement. A vast majority of MSMEs declare that easier-to-access business loans are the key policy requirement to ensure post-COVID enterprise sustainability.
5. Evaluate the progress on AfCFTA
  - a. Creation of platform for regular monitoring and evaluation of progress on AfCFTA is required at national and sub-regional levels.

### Long Term Actionable Recommendations for Business Representatives

1. Active participation and partnership with government
  - a. Given the weakness in information sharing and awareness about AfCFTA, more direct engagement of BMOs will be crucial. This can include in the design of messaging, communication medium and even engaging the BMOs for advocacy and public awareness campaign.

- b. BMOs can shape the direction and structure of the trade agreement in way that supports their members and engenders Nigerian economic development. This is dependent on their active engagement in deliberation and discussion on key issues arising from the negotiation.
- 2. Establish channel of support for members
  - a. BMOs need to work with their members on an individual basis to understand the benefits that they can tap into with AfCFTA, while at the same time empowering them with knowledge on mitigating the likely threats.

**Short Term Actionable Recommendations for Business Representatives**

- 3. Partnership to mitigate threat:
  - a. There are many steps that firms on their own can do to address threat. For instance, upscaling business management skills and tapping into human resources made available by AfCFTA are things that depend on firms' decision or indecision.
  - b. A platform to track progress of AfCFTA in terms of awareness and economic impact on BMOs should be setup. Firms that are negatively impacted should be reintegrated and supported to compete favourably.

- c. Given that low comprehension of rules of origin contribute to low uptake of previously agreed FTAs, BMOs need to participate actively on the discussion on how to streamline this issue. This will be key in removing obstacles that apparently affected other FTAs.
- 4. Partnership for standardization:
  - a. BMOs need to partner with specific agencies such as SON and NAFDAC to ensure adherence to standards. This will boost the capacity of Nigeria businesses to compete in AfCFTA.
- 5. Partnership with donors:
  - a. BMOs need to partner with donors to develop a context-specific information dissemination strategy to allow MSMEs to overcome their inherent knowledge deficit.
  - b. Donors can also support BMOs in terms of standardization and meeting the process requirements of AfCFTA.
  - c. Targeted funding to support government and BMOs in trade facilitation and other modalities for aid to trade.

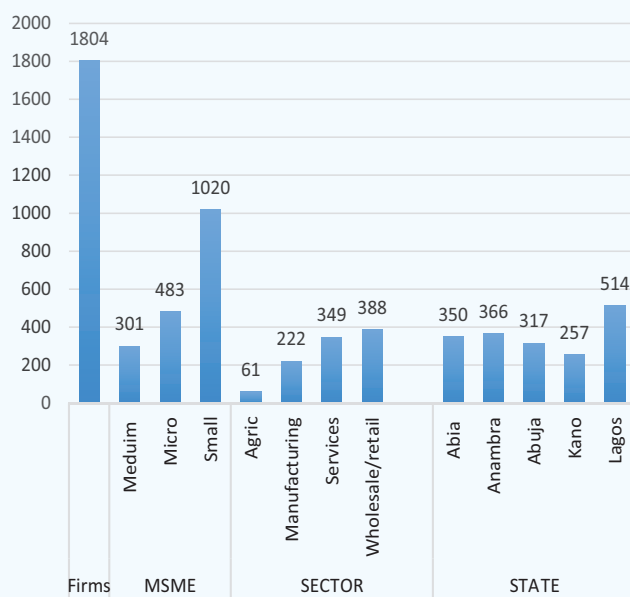


Figure 1: Distribution of Sampled Firms (by Sector and Size) Sectors

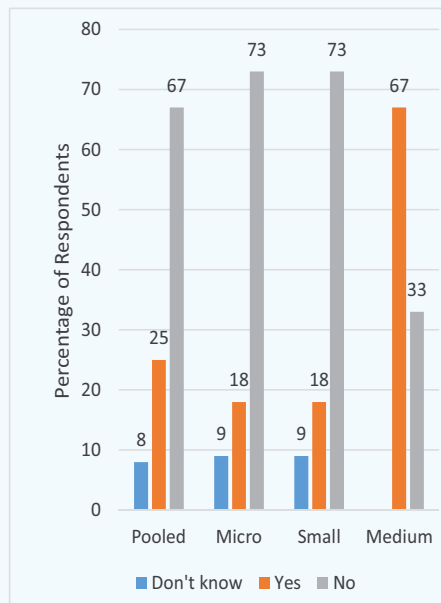


Figure 2: Reported Awareness of AfCFTA by Enterprise Size

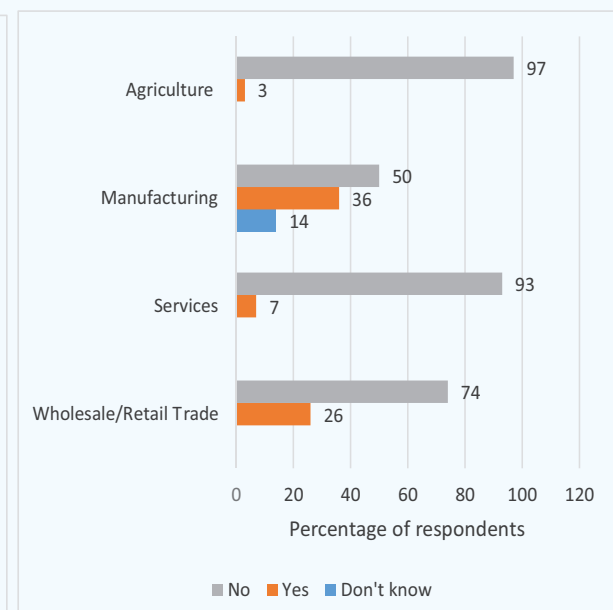


Figure 3: Reported Awareness of AfCFTA by Enterprise

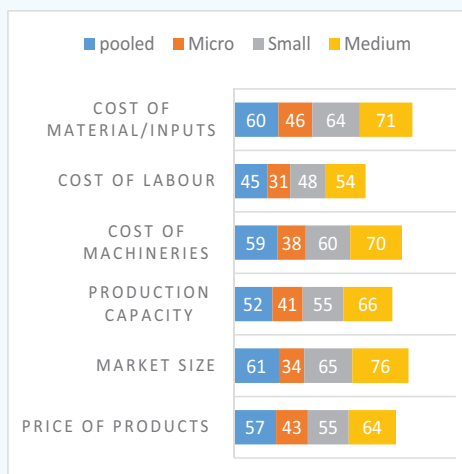


Figure 4: Beliefs on Positive Potential Impacts of AfCFTA

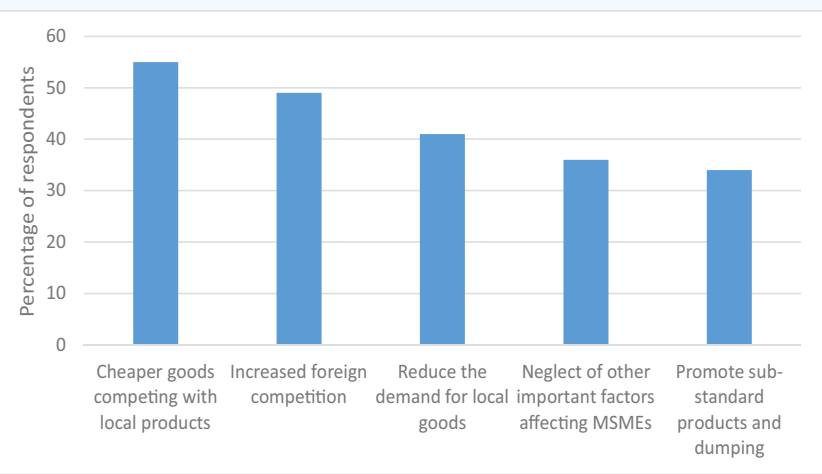
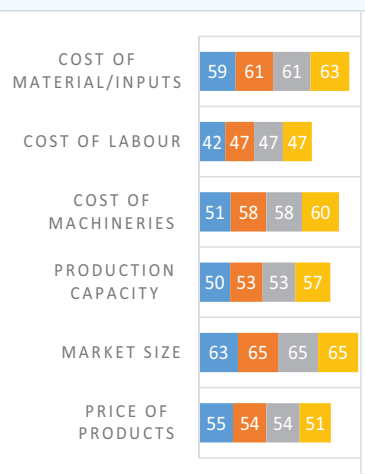


Figure 5: Perceived threats of AfCFTA to MSMEs

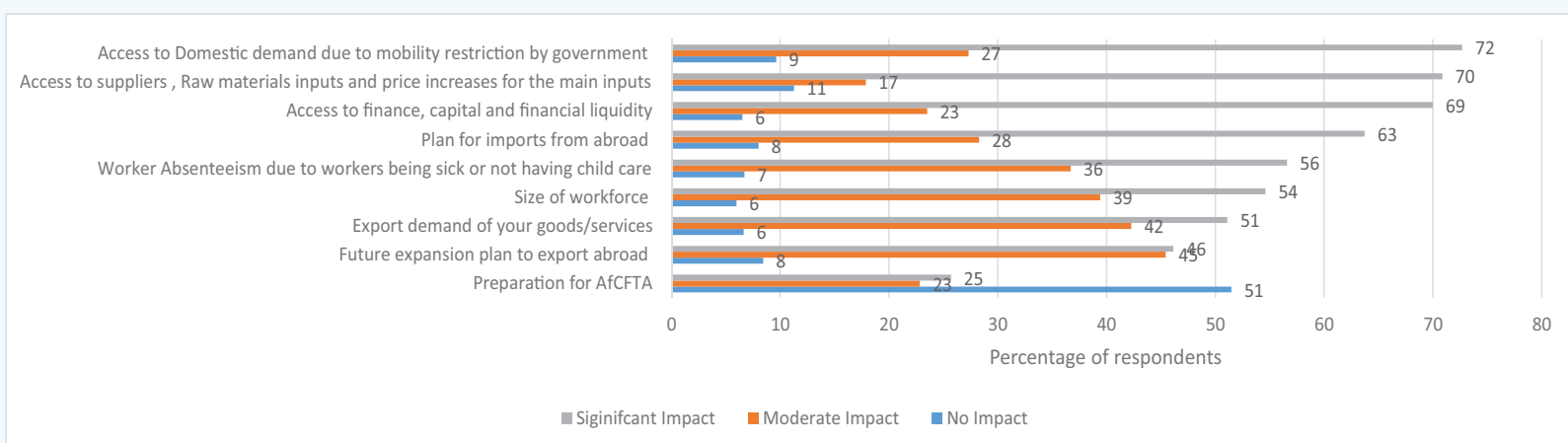


Figure 6: Reported Effects of COVID-19 on MSMEs

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## How we'll reposition engineering profession-COREN President

By **Terkula Igidi**

**N**ational President of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), Engr. Ali A. Rabi, has said the council has initiated programmes that would reposition the engineering profession.

Rabi spoke at the end of year briefing with journalists, saying the council carried out some aspects of its core mandate to ensure professionals in the field lived up to expectations.

"In order to reposition

COREN for effective service delivery, we carried out verification exercises across the country so as to place square pegs in square holes and also carry out our regulatory functions seamlessly.

"The Engineering Regulatory Monitoring (ERM) is another mandate of COREN and to get this programme started properly, we set up national technical committees at the national level and state technical committees at the state level.

"So far we have inaugurated the state technical committees in seven states of the nation,

- Nasarawa, Katsina, Gombe, Bauchi, Edo, Jigawa and Kano.

"These committees will drive the ERM programme in the states while the national technical committee will make policies for the programme," he said.

He added that COREN also registered engineering personnel and firms and accredited engineering courses in Nigerian universities and polytechnics.

"In the outgone year, we were able to register 4,509 engineering personnel, made up of 3,796 engineers, 622 engineering technologists, 29

technicians and 62 craftsmen.

"The engineering profession is a family made up of four cadres; engineers, technologists, technicians and craftsmen. We all work together to ensure the success of whatever project we are handling. This is the number we have been able to register in this outgone year in spite of the numerous challenges of COVID-19," he further said.

Engr. Rabi said further that the council visited 11 universities to do accreditation programmes in engineering faculties and accredited 44 programmes which were all

approved.

"One of the programmes very dear to the present administration is to develop our permanent site at Jabi, Abuja. Initially we started the project on a PPP arrangement but we want to jettison that and source funds through IGR and budgetary allocations to carry out that project. We hope to commence the project proper this year 2021.

"We also have some capital projects ongoing across the country in Benin, Edo State, Lafia, Nasarawa State and in Katsina State capital," the COREN president added.



■ Foreign Affairs Ministry in Central Business District, Abuja.

Photo Ikechukwi Ibe

## 2020 required us to deliver unusual responses –CEO Purple Group

From **Sunday Michael Ogwu, Lagos**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Purple Group, a real estate firm, Laide Agboola, has said the COVID-19-imposed challenges of year 2020 impacted negatively on the real estate sector.

He, however, said his company had been able to come up with unusual responses which helped it stay afloat during the challenging year for businesses.

"The year had been a steep learning curve for many businesses as it showed the survival instincts of businesses in the face of unexpected economic disruptions.

"For Purple, the challenges led to a continuous reconfiguration of our capital structure, quick response to market changes and customer/partner changes to the market.

"Therefore, we have been able to test our products in the worst of market conditions both in 2016 and now in 2020. We continue to work towards maintaining our continuous confidence amongst our domestic and international alliances," he said in an interview.

Agboola added that the firm's major concern has been to assure investors their returns are achievable and how to deliver on the proposed assets amidst lockdowns and a contracting economy.

"Fortunately, our mixed use

development products have been designed specifically for this market based on deep research analysis and as a response to the market both in 2016 and now validated as the appropriate product for our Nigerian market even in 2020," he said.

Asked if the challenges in 2020 affected the company's occupancy rate for Purple Maryland, one of its flagship properties in Lagos, he said "At Purple, our relationship with our tenants/partners and the growth of their businesses remain paramount.

"This has made those partners remain with us despite the several economic issues."

According to him, the group has continuously prioritised brand awareness, and marketing with an unusually lower priced rental regime derived from lower priced building strategy supported by smaller fit for purpose spatial planning.

"This has been our strategy in maintaining our 97 per cent occupancy level. Albeit, this has not been without some sort of grant period in 2020.

"It has been an unusual year and has required us to deliver unusual responses tailor-made across our partners to arrive at sustainable businesses within our built environment going forward.

He stressed that experiences of year 2020 have also reinforced their belief in mixed

use retail strategy, focusing on essential services and domestic retailers, who are flexible and have shown adaptability to the peculiarities of the Nigerian property market.

Speaking further, Agboola said the strategy for forging ahead in 2021 is to improve the end user's lifestyle and experience by delivering world standard real estate assets that continue to be viable and impactful.

"Hence our enhanced focus on the lifestyle development of our consumers by accelerating our natural evolution from pure brick and mortar centres to include our online market place.

"The online market, purple.shop, includes all our in-store retailers and a well curated selection of new vendors, who we have vetted and trust to deliver high quality products and services to our customers.

"In addition, as an improvement to customers' lifestyles, we have also launched new products like Nano apartments that tackle some of the long-held issues in the residential, short and long stay space.

"We have commenced construction of these Nano apartments in Lekki Phase 1 and would be delivering more to our mainland customer base starting in 2021," he added.

## Valington Homes unveils unique business model for 2021

By **Terkula Igidi**

A leading real estate development and marketing company, Valington Homes and Properties Ltd has unveiled its business model for 2021, stating that it will use top-quality building materials and ensure timely delivery of projects, transparency and accountability to customers.

The Managing Director, Mr Valentine Abiji, who spoke during the unveiling of the model in Abuja at the weekend, said it is a top priority of the organisation to ensure customer satisfaction, noting that the presence of customers at the event was a reciprocation of the organisation's gesture.

Chairman of the ceremony Chief Steven Nweze, who spoke at the event which also witnessed awards presentation ceremony, said "Valington Homes and Properties Ltd will strengthen its commitment to quality and affordability of homes to Nigerians," reiterating that housing is one of the essential needs of man.

"Irrespective of whether or not you are working in the private or public sector, Valington Homes and Properties Ltd has put in place very flexible payment methods that will enable you to fulfil your dream of home ownership," the chairman added.

In his speech, the Executive Director of the firm, Engr Darlington Ugota, said the organisation is committed to 'bridging the gap between estate developers and residents of the Federal Capital Territory,' and that "professionalism, excellence, integrity and mutual respect will continue to be the watchwords" of the organisation.

"We have expanded our frontiers and now market for very reputable estate companies like SEMAN metropolis estate, Leisure court estate, Iman estate, Royal City Luxury Homes, Palazzo estates, Mckesson luxury homes and others."



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(Established under the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act, 2007)

Maritime House: 4 Burma Road, Apapa, P.M.B. 12861, Lagos.

E-mail: [procurement@nimasa.gov.ng](mailto:procurement@nimasa.gov.ng) Website: [www.nimasa.gov.ng](http://www.nimasa.gov.ng)

PROC. 01/21/SN01

## INVITATION TO TENDER/EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), a Parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Transportation in compliance with the Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2007, invites reputable contractors/firms/companies with proven records of accomplishment to tender/Express for the under-listed projects appropriated in the Agency's Budget.

### 2. SCOPE OF WORKS/SUPPLIES/SERVICES

#### CATEGORY A: INVITATION TO TENDER

LOT-1	Rehabilitation of NMRDC Guest House and Landscaping, Lagos
LOT-2	Remodeling of Administrative Building at NMRDC, Lagos
LOT-3	Renovation of the Multipurpose Hall at NMRDC, Lagos
LOT-4	Landscape Upgrade of NMRDC Complex, Lagos
LOT-5	Supply and Installation of Furniture at NMRDC Guest House, Lagos
LOT-6	Supply of Office Equipment at NMRDC Guest House, Lagos
LOT-7	Cladding of the Administrative Building at NMRDC, Lagos
LOT-8	Re-construction of collapsed fence at Diamond Hill Transit Quarters, Calabar, Cross River State
LOT-9	Furnishing of 1st Floor Western Wing NIMASA Head Office Building, Apapa, Lagos
LOT-10	Sundry Works at the NIMASA Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Satellite Base, Takwabay, Lagos
LOT-11	Procurement of Mobile Phones
LOT-12	Supply and Sundry Work at Head Office Canteen
LOT-13	Remodeling of Nigerian Ship Registration office
LOT-14	Renovation of 3rd Floor and Relocation of Units
LOT-15	Remodeling of 1st – 9th Floor Lift Lobbies and Internal Staircase of NIMASA Head Office
LOT-16	Construction of Block of 3 Classrooms at Apapa Junior High School
LOT-17	Establishment of Mini Fire Station and Fire Truck Deployment
LOT-18	Designations of Marine Protected Area, Western Zone
LOT-19	Designations of Marine Protected Area, Eastern Zone
LOT-20	Designations of Marine Protected Area, Central Zone
LOT-21	Supply and Installation of 200KVA Generator Set at Takwa-bay
LOT-22	Construction of Generator House at Takwa-bay
LOT-23	Sundry Works at Federal Ministry of Transportation, Abuja
LOT-24	Purchase of Operational Vehicles
LOT-25	Dredging of Continental Shipyard
LOT-26	Movement of Modular Floating Dock from Naval Dockyard to Continental Shipyard
LOT-27	Renovation of Continental Shipyard
LOT-28	Construction of Gangways
LOT-29	Re-construction of Continental Shipyard Jetty
LOT-30	Re-construction of Dolphin Structure

#### CATEGORY B: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

LOT-31	Engagement of Transaction Adviser for Offshore Waste Reception Facility
LOT-32	Consultancy for the Development of Designs for Building of Zonal Offices
LOT-33	Consultancy for the Development of Strategy Document on the Agency's Performance Tripod
LOT-34	Consultancy for the Development of Maritime Strategy for 2030
LOT-35	Consultancy for Deep Blue Economy
LOT-36	Dockworkers Training on Modern Cargo Handling and Attitudinal Change for Dockworkers at Western Zone
LOT-37	Dockworkers Training on Modern Cargo Handling and Attitudinal Change for Dockworkers at Eastern Zone
LOT-38	Dockworkers Training on Modern Cargo Handling and Attitudinal Change for Dockworkers at Central Zone
LOT-39	Cyber Security Implementation
LOT-40	Automation of the Nigerian Ship Registration
LOT-41	Provision of Electronic Archiving and Record Management (EDARMS) Towards ISO 9001: 2015 Certification and Lloyd's Register

### 3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Prospective bidders are required to submit the following documents:
- Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), including Certified True Copy of Form CAC7 and CAC 2.1 or CAC1.1. Business Name is also acceptable for Category B;
  - Copy of Company's Income Tax Clearance Certificate (or Personal Income Tax Clearance Certificate of all the Partners in case of Business Name) for the last three years (2017, 2018 and 2019) valid till 31st December 2020, with a minimum average annual turnover of **₦50 Million for works.**
  - Evidence of current Pension Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December 2020;
  - Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December 2020;
  - Evidence of Registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by submission of valid Interim Registration Report (IRR) expiring 31/12/2021 or valid Certificate issued by BPP;
  - Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December 2020;
  - A Sworn Affidavit:
    - disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency or the Bureau of Public Procurement is a former or

- present Director, Shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars;
  - that none of the company's directors has been convicted in any law court for any criminal offence including fraud and financial impropriety; and
  - that the company is not in receivership, bankrupt or insolvent.
- Audited Accounts of the company for the last three years (2017, 2018 and 2019);
  - Evidence of financial capability to execute the project by submission of Reference Letter from a reputable commercial bank in Nigeria, indicating a willingness to provide credit facility for the execution of the project when needed;
  - Documentary evidence of at least three (3) similar jobs successfully executed/on-going within the last five (5) years including Letters of Award, Valuation/Job completion certificate etc.;
  - Category B: Evidence of current registration with relevant regulatory professional body(ies);
  - Company's Profile with the signed Curriculum Vitae of Key Staff to be deployed for the project, including copies of their Academic/Professional qualifications: **in case of construction: COREN, QSRBN, ARCON, CORBON etc.;**
  - List of Plants/Equipment with proof of Ownership/Lease (Works);
  - Company's Signed Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policy (Works);
  - Only companies included in the National Automotive Design and Development Council's approved list of local manufacturers of vehicles or their authorised representatives should bid for the vehicles;
  - For Supply of Equipment: Letter of Authorization as representative of the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs);
  - 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 e-mail address. The Letterhead Paper must bear the Names and Nationalities of the Directors of the Company at the bottom of the page, duly signed by the authorised officer of the firm.

### 4. COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (CATEGORY A)

Prospective Bidders for Lots 1 -36 are requested to collect Bid Documents from the office of the Head Procurement, 5th Floor, Maritime House No.4 Burma Road, Apapa, Lagos, upon presentation of evidence of payment of a non-refundable tender fee of Ten Thousand Naira (₦10,000.00) only per lot. Payment shall be made to NIMASA's remitta account in any reputable Commercial Bank in Nigeria. After payment, Teller shall be taken to the NIMASA Revenue Unit for issuance of a receipt for collection of Bidding Documents. Note that payment of Tender fee is not required at this stage for Category B.

### 5. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (CATEGORY A)

Technical documents shall be enclosed in a separate envelope (marked Technical) and Financial Bid in another envelope (marked Financial). The two separate envelopes shall be enclosed in one sealed outer envelope clearly marked "INVITATION TO TENDER" stating the "Lot No", company name and the "Project Title". The technical bid and the financial bid shall be submitted in duplicate on or before **11:00a.m. on Thursday, 25th February 2021** to the address below:  
**The Head Procurement, 5th floor, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, No 4 Burma Road, Apapa, Lagos.** Submission on the last day shall be done at the **BID OPENING Venue Multi-Purpose Hall of NMRDC, Kirikiri, Apapa, Lagos.** Late submission will be returned un-opened.

### 6. OPENING OF THE TECHNICAL BIDS (CATEGORY A)

Only Technical bids shall be opened immediately after the submission deadline at **11:00a.m. on Thursday, 25th February, 2021 at Multi-Purpose Hall of NMRDC, Kirikiri, Apapa, Lagos** while the financial bids shall be kept un-opened.

### 7. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CATEGORY B)

All EOI with supporting documents (ORIGINAL AND DUPLICATE) neatly packaged in sealed envelope, stating Expression of Interest shall be submitted to the office of Head Procurement on or before **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 21st January, 2021.** Late submission will be returned un-opened.

### 8. OPENING OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CATEGORY B)

Submitted EOI documents shall be opened immediately after the deadline for submission at **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 21st January, 2021, at NIMASA Head Office, No4 Burma Road, Apapa, Lagos.** Late submission will be returned un-opened.

### 9. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries regarding this advertisement should be directed to the Office of the Head Procurement, 5th Floor, The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), No. 4 Burma Road, Apapa, Lagos, or through the following telephone numbers during official hours (9am – 5pm) only: 08062691690; 08155775757

### 10. NOTATION:

- The document should be arranged in the order listed at 3.0 above and clearly separated by dividers;
- Failure to submit all the required documents stated above shall lead to the disqualification of the Bid;
- No bidder should bid for more than two (2) lots;
- All CAC, PENCOM, ITF, NSITF and Tax Clearance Certificates submitted may be referred to Security Agencies, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Industrial Training Fund (ITF), National Pension Commission and other relevant bodies for verification;
- This notice shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency to award any form of contract to any respondent or entitle any Company/Firm submitting documents to claim any indemnity from the Agency;
- Bidders shall be responsible for all costs in preparation and submission of Bid;
- Bidders are advised to read this solicitation carefully as failure to follow instructions may lead to rejection of bid.
- Presence of bidders/representatives and members of the public shall not be required during the bid opening ceremony in compliance with COVID-19 Guidelines. The Bids Opening will be covered by video recording with the presence of two (2) representatives of private sector professional bodies and Civil Society Organisation in the areas of Anti-Corruption/Transparency;
- Bid documents can also be collected in soft copies and Bidders can submit through Post (Courier Services);
- Category A: Only pre-qualified bidders at technical evaluation will be invited at a later date for financial bids opening, while the financial bids of un-successful bidders will be returned un-opened;
- Category B: Only shortlisted firms will be invited at a later date for collection of Request for Proposals;
- NIMASA is not bound to pre-qualify/shortlist any bidder and reserves the right to annul the procurement process at any time without incurring any liabilities in accordance with Section 28 of the Public Procurement Act 2007.

**SIGNED: MANAGEMENT**



# CITY NEWS

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■ Indigenes and non-indigenes of Osun State waiting to board the free train ride provided by the state government to their various destinations after the New Year 2020 celebration, at Osogbo Terminus of the railway corporation yesterday.

## Ona of Abaji summon stakeholders over robbery attacks

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The Ona of Abaji and Chairman of the FCT Council of Chiefs, Alhaji Adamu Baba Yunusa, on Saturday summoned a stakeholders meeting at his palace over reported cases of robbery attacks in the area.

Alhaji Yunusa said he was worried over reported cases of robbery attacks within the metropolis, saying he has received three reports of some suspected robbers attacked some shops and dispossessed their victims of undisclosed cash at gunpoint.

The monarch also called on the stakeholders to unite in order to tackle challenges facing the area, saying tackling such challenges can only be done when there is peace and unity.

"And I also want to call on you here in this palace to keep your differences aside and forgive who ever might have offended you.

Also speaking, the chairman of the council, Alhaji Abdulrahman Ajija, appreciated the efforts of the monarch for bringing together stakeholders from the area to discuss the development of the council.

He said the council under his administration had intensified efforts in ensuring adequate power supply, youth empowerment, security of lives and property and other developmental agenda.

The chairman, however, reiterated his administration's determination to continue to give priority to security in the area.

## Abiodun suspends Ogun Commissioner over 'sexual harassment'

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun on Sunday suspended his Commissioner for Environment, Abiodun Abudu - Balogun over sexual harassment allegations against him by a 16-year-old girl, Melojuekun Barakat Mayowa.

Barakat, who is a student of Victory Model College, in Ogun waterside Local Government Area, made the allegation in a video posted on facebook on Saturday.

The teenager alleged that Abudu - Balogun, who was member of the House of Representatives, connived with her uncle and a teacher lured her to the commissioner's residence at Ita Otu, Ogun Waterside LG.

She said she was lured to the commissioner's house on the pretence that Abudu - Balogun would assist her in securing a job as computer operator.

According to her, the incident happened on December 31.

In a swift reaction, the commissioner, in a statement personally signed, described the allegation as "political blackmail" by those he called his "adversaries."

"Let me state emphatically that I never attempted to sexually harrass anyone," he said.

Our correspondent gathered that Police have commenced investigation into the allegations against the commissioner.

However, a statement signed by the Secretary to the State Government, Tokunbo Talabi, on Sunday, announced the embattled commissioner's suspension from office "pending the conclusion of an independent investigation into the allegation of sexual harassment."

The Statement made available to *Daily Trust* by the Chief Press Secretary to governor, Kunle Somorin, quoted Talabi as saying "the suspension of the commissioner is to enable him cooperate fully with the independent investigation

being carried out by the Police."

He directed the commissioner to hand over mantle of leadership to the permanent secretary of the Ministry.

"Whilst taking cognizance of the principle of a suspect being presumed innocent until proven guilty and the public statement issued by Hon. Abudu-Balogun denying the allegation, as a government with zero tolerance for gender-based violence and indeed any criminality, the suspension is a further demonstration of the commitment of Prince Dapo Abiodun Administration to fairness, equity, justice and the rule of law, no matter who is involved.

"The government assures the public that it will do everything to ensure that justice is served in this case. In the meantime, the suspended Commissioner has been directed to hand over to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment," the statement said.

## Mararaba, environs to experience power interruption - AEDC

The Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) says customers in parts of Mararaba in Nasarawa State and environs will experience power interruption between Jan. 3, and Jan. 6.

Mr Oyeode Fadipe, AEDC's Manager, Corporate Communications, stated this in a statement in Abuja on Sunday.

"Our customers in the following areas under Mararaba: Aso Pada, Mararaba Guruku, Aku Village, Kabayi, part of Abacha road towards Sharp

corner, Orange market, Abbattoir.

"Others include Tudun Wada, NIMCO Qtrs, Abacha Road, GT Bank, Polaris Bank, First Bank, Zenith Bank, Boundary Road, Custom Qtrs 1&3, overhead tank and environs.

"They are hereby informed that power supply to their homes and offices will be intermittently interrupted from today, Jan. 3, to Jan. 6, 2020," he said.

According to him, the interruption is to allow AEDC's technical team replace the entire breaker

panels at the 2X15 Mega Volt Ampree (MVA), 33/11 Kilo Volt (KV) Inj. S/S J22 in Mararaba.

The AEDC, appealed for the patience and understanding of consumers in the aforementioned areas.

He, however, assured the customers that the maintenance exercise was aimed at improving the quality of AEDC services to them.

"We are available to assist with enquiries through any of our contact channels," he said. (NAN)

## QUICK READ

Kogi

### We set aside funds for payment of LG pensioners - Gov Sule

From Ibraheem Hamza Muhammad, Lafia

Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State said he has received second tranche of the State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SIFTAS) grant, and had set aside a percentage to pay pension and gratuity to local government retirees.

The governor, who disclosed this at the government house, observed that pensioners at local government level have not been receiving their monthly pensions.

He said that 5 per cent or less of the money would also be devoted to the payment of gratuity of retired workers at the state government level.

Similarly, the governor said Nasarawa state was selected to kick-start the pilot National Livestock Transformation Programme (NLTP) among selected states that include Adamawa and plateau.

Enugu

### Be patient, drive within speed limit, FRSC cautions motorists

From Tony Adibe, Enugu

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has cautioned motorists against over speeding.

The FRSC Commander for Zone 9, Mr Owoimaha Udoma, gave the warning on Sunday in Enugu, when he briefed newsmen on major road corridors he had monitored in the ongoing "FRSC Operation Zero".

The FRSC Zone 9 consists of Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States.

Udoma bemoaned the rate of impatience among motorists within the major road corridors.

According to him, the high rate of impatience among motorists had caused "lane indiscipline and driving against traffic", thereby worsening the traffic situation in some major road corridors in the South-East zone.

### Edo deputy gov's wife empowers 39 women

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

Wife of the Edo State Deputy Governor Comrade Mrs Maryann Philip-Shaibu, has empowered no fewer than 39 women from the the six Local Government in Edo North senatorial district of the state.

Speaking during the programme in Jattu, Etsako West local government of Edo state, Mrs Shaibu said the quarterly skill acquisition and empowerment programme was to provide economic safety nets for Women who are usually the vulnerable group in the society.

"My slogan is to constantly and on a daily basis empower one Edo woman. That's what I wish to be remembered for. By the time you continuously empower one Edo woman, you would have succeeded in empowering all Edo women. The multiplier effect of this decision is far reaching because when you empower one woman you are empowering a generation.



# CRIME

Contacts  
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## Hunter slaughtered in Abuja

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

**S**uspected assailants have slaughtered a 47-year-old hunter, Wabari Ukpaka, in Chiji community in Abaji Area Council, Abuja.

A resident of the

community who preferred anonymity said the incident happened last Thursday, after the deceased left home around 4pm for hunting of animals in a forest in the area.

He said the deceased parked his motorcycle in his

farm and went into the forest with his locally made gun and some assailants trailed him and slit his throat.

"The family actually waited for his return that very day he left home until Friday evening when his decomposing corpse was

later found inside the bush with his throat slit," he said.

A family member of the deceased told our reporter that the deceased normally used to go for hunting any time he finished his work on the farm.

He said there was no sign

of bullet wounds on the body of the deceased. He said the remains of the deceased were taken back home and buried.

When contacted, the spokesman of the FCT police command, ASP Maryam Yusuf, said the command was investigating the incident.

## Gunmen kidnap man, in-law in Abaji

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Gunmen suspected to be kidnapers have abducted a man, Umar Alhassan, and his in-law, Fatima Ali, in Abaji, Abuja.

A family member of the victims, who preferred anonymity, said the incident happened around 11pm on Friday, when gunmen attacked the victims' house in the area.

He said the gunmen positioned themselves when some other members of the gang forced the back door of house open and whisked away the victim and his in-law.

According to him, the gunmen opened fire and shattered the burglary proof of the windows of the house.

He said the family has been able to establish contact with the kidnapers who demanded N20 million as ransom before the victims could be set free.

"But as of Saturday evening, we are able to arrive at N1.5 million, even as we are still pleading with them to still bring down the ransom at a level we can afford because he is having some health challenges," he said.

Our reporter learnt that the victim is a teacher at Government Secondary School (GSS), Gwargwada, Kuje Area Council.

The spokesperson of the FCT police command, ASP Mariam Yusuf, said the command was not aware of the incident. "It was not reported to us".



■ Commissioner of Police in Kaduna State, Mr Umar Muri and his men inspect some of the arms recovered from 82 suspects apprehended by the command in connection with armed robbery, rape, kidnapping, culpable homicide, shop breaking, and other heinous related crimes, in Kaduna recently.

## Amotekun hands over 10 suspected robbers, hoodlums to police

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

The Oyo State Security Network, codenamed Amotekun Corps, has arrested ten suspected armed robbers and hoodlums across the state.

The corps commandant in the state, Col. Olayinka Olayanju (rtd), disclosed this to Daily Trust yesterday in Ibadan.

Olayanju said the ten suspects were handed over to the police.

He gave the suspects names as; Ibrahim Kamal, Samsideen Jelili, Hakeem Ayinde, Salam Ojo, Nabim Sani, Abati Isaac, and Abubakar Muhammed.

Also arrested were Yakubu Fulani, Elijah Ajala and Sunday Emmanuel.

"I activated all the Amotekun Corps to patrol all the City of Oyo on January 1st.

"This is necessary because hoodlums always block the roads on festive period sextorting money from people. I led the Oyo West Team and these hoodlums were arrested and handed over to the Police

at Ojongbodu Division," he said.

He said of the ten suspects, three were caught with weapons in Ibadan North West, while trying to rob in Sabo area, Ibadan.

"We handed them over to police at Mokola Police Station.

"We also handed over N60,000 cash recovered from Yakubu Fulani to Mr kunle Olaoye, a farmer on January, for the settlement of the crop destroyed by their cattle in Kajola, village.

"A suspect was also arrested in Aba- Ibeji, Odo-Ona kekere, Arapaja, New garage, Ibadan. This Suspect was apprehended for robbery. While he was arrested, the other escaped.

"Another suspect, Sunday Emmanuel was also arrested and handed over to Police at Orita police station. He was arrested with 1 small generator. Also, Elijah Ajala was arrested and handed over to Police at Sanyo Police Station," he added.

The commandant therefore advised hoodlums and robbers to leave the state in their own interest.

## Rep raises concern over spate of insecurity

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

A member representing Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Kajola/Iwajowa Federal Constituency, Hon Shina Peller, yesterday, raised concern over the spate of insecurity in his constituency, Iwajowa Local

Government Area of Oyo State.

The lawmaker said kidnapping, killing and robbery cases are rampant, particularly in Iganna area of his constituency.

Peller, who spoke shortly after a town hall meeting organised to address the increase in security

lapses, explained that two people were killed while three others sustained various degrees of injury within 8 days in Iwajowa LGA.

He called on the relevant security agencies to come to the rescue of his people.

## MD accused of carting away FG's property

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Workers at the Ogun-Osun River Basin Development Authority (O-ORBDA) have accused the outgoing Managing Director, Olufemi Odumosu, of carting away federal government's property and some "classified files."

But the outgoing MD had described the accusations as blackmail, saying his adversaries are behind it.

Odumosu is expected to hand over mantle of leadership on Monday, January 4, following expiration of his tenure.

A top management member of the agency told our correspondent in Abeokuta, Ogun State, that Odumosu had allegedly moved some items such as refrigerator, office cabinet, computer systems and beddings for his office and

official residence, preparatory to his exit from office.

The source also alleged that the outgoing MD had taken away "classified documents" bearing financial transactions of the agency, on Thursday, 31st December, 2021, which was his last day in office.

According to the source, Odumosu was spotted moving the items into a Hilux bus, but the leadership of the staff union later confronted him regarding the property he allegedly moved out of the agency.

During the encounter, the union leaders and Odumosu reportedly engaged in a shouting Match as the outgoing MD said his authority was being challenged.

Reacting to the allegations, the outgoing MD insisted that he did not cart away any property belonging to the government,

and hinted that he would hand over the baton on Monday.

"How can I go away with classified files, which are the classified files? People just want to create unnecessary issues.

"Government did not pay for the refrigerator; it's my personal refrigerator. I brought it from my house.

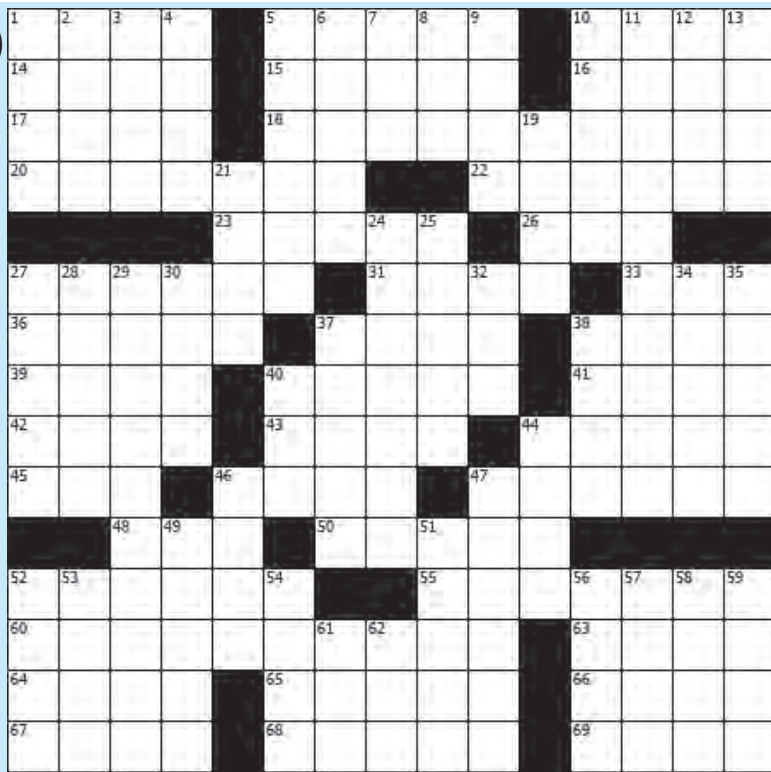
"When they came into my office taking stock of some property, I wasn't around. I met them numbering some things and I asked them "How can you be numbering something that belongs to me?"

"They should have waited for me and I told them to get out of the office. My secretary said she told them but they didn't listen. That is insubordination. Not that I am being afraid of being probed, but somebody is behind this.

"Those behind it are just looking for a way to blackmail. I didn't do all these things mentioned," he said.

(171)

EASY CROSSWORD >>

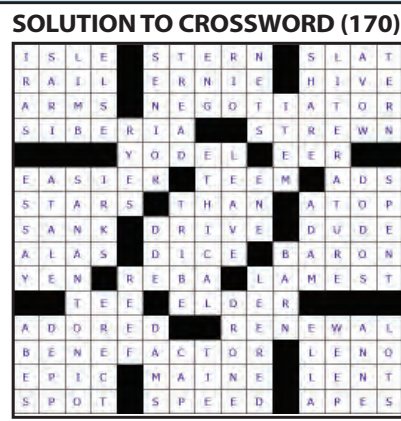


Across

- 1. Capri or Man
- 5. Strict
- 10. Narrow board
- 14. Train track
- 15. Tennessee \_\_\_ Ford
- 16. Honey factory
- 17. Munitions
- 18. Bargainer
- 20. Cold Russian region
- 22. Scattered
- 23. Alpine call
- 26. Poet's eternity
- 27. Simpler
- 31. Be abundant
- 33. Public notices
- 36. Night twinklers
- 37. Comparison word
- 38. Above
- 39. Went underwater
- 40. Operate a car
- 41. Guy
- 42. Poor me!
- 43. Gambling cubes
- 44. Nobleman
- 45. Desire
- 46. Musician \_\_\_ McEntire
- 47. Most feeble
- 48. Golf device
- 50. Senior
- 52. Revered
- 55. Restoration

Down

- 60. Supporter
- 63. Comedian Jay \_\_\_
- 64. Hero's tale
- 65. Bangor's state
- 66. Pre-Easter season
- 67. Blot
- 68. Swiftness
- 69. Mimics
- 10. Use jointly
- 11. Printed material
- 12. Assert
- 13. Coastal bird
- 19. Detail
- 21. Whiskeys
- 24. Moral
- 25. Take off
- 27. Student's assignment
- 28. Start of a Dickens title (2 wds.)
- 29. Alamo locale (2 wds.)
- 30. Annoys
- 32. Wind dir.
- 34. Extinct birds
- 35. Used money
- 37. Indian group
- 38. Eden dweller
- 40. JFK's predecessor
- 44. Horse's home
- 46. Coral ridge
- 47. Oglad
- 49. Upright
- 51. Humming sound
- 52. Lincoln, et al.
- 53. Johnny \_\_\_ of "Finding Neverland"
- 54. River barriers
- 56. She, in Seville
- 57. Bawl
- 58. English princess
- 59. Many
- 61. Beanie
- 62. Even score



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!

171

Solution to Sudoku 170

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

SNAPSHOT >>

Coin removed from man's nose after being stuck for more than 50 years



A man has finally had a coin removed from his nose after it was stuck for more than half a century. The 59-year-old unnamed Russian man was aged just six when he wedged the money into his right nostril. He was 'too scared' to tell his 'strict' mother about it and then later 'forgot,' local media reported. The man apparently managed to live for the next 50 years unimpeded by the blockage until he recently started complaining he could not breathe at all in his right nostril. He went to hospital and was given a scan which showed the unexpected object in the nasal passage. Rhinoliths - stones in the nasal cavity - had formed around the coin, constricting his ability to breathe. Medics carried out endoscopic surgery under general anaesthetic removing the stones and retrieving the Soviet one kopek coin from his nose after 53 years. The money - officially worth around one penny at the time - ceased to be used in Russia after the USSR's collapse in 1991 and the hammer and sickle emblem was no longer visible on the coin. Specialist otorhinolaryngologist Elena Nepryakhina said: 'We operated on Friday and he was discharged on Monday. He has regained full nasal breathing.'

- metro.co.uk

SIGN LANGUAGE >>

Funny signs that prove covid will never take our sense of humor



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ENQUIRIES: TEL:

Abuja: 07030054108	Maiduguri: 08060473379
Sokoto: 08035039527	Lagos: 08038600327
Port Harcourt: 07038283572	Kano: 08068077562
Jos: 08033745735	Kaduna: 08063479316

**Costing:**

Change of Name - N3,000	
Loss of Documents - N9,450	
Registration of Trustees - N15,500	
<b>Product &amp; Services (B&amp;W) (Colour)</b>	
1 x 1 col	N5,000 N8,000
2 x 1 col	N9,000 N15,000
2 x 2 col	N18,000 N27,000
3 x 2 col	N 28,000 N 42,000

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**JEZREEL: I**, formerly known and addressed as **MAHARAZU ABUBAKAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **JEZREEL ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I was formerly known as **USMAN SAHABI HARUNA** now wish to be known and called **BASHIR SAHABI**. All my former documents remain same and valid. General public should take note.

**ADDITION OF NAME I**, formerly known as **AMINA ALIYU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINA ALIYU JIMETA**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

**ALI, I** formerly known as **ALIYU JINJIRI** now wish to be called and addressed as **ALI JINJIRI**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**SEYI-BELLO: I**, formerly known and addressed as **AZEEZ OLORUNFUNMI MORENIKEJI**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **SEYI-BELLO OLORUNFUNMI MORENIKEJI**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**ADAMU I** formerly known as **Adamu Ibrahim**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Adamu Ibrahim Sabo**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

**MOHAMMED: I** formerly known and addressed as **ABDULSALAMI ANAKHIODE SULEMAN**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULSALAMI SULEMAN MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

**MUSA: I**, formerly known and addressed as **MOHAMMED MUSA YAKUBU**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MUSA YAKUBU**. All former documents remain valid. Constituted authorities and the general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **MUHAMMED SALIHU USMAN, MUHAMMAD SALE USMAN, MUHAMMAD USMAN** and **MOHAMMED USMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED SALE USMAN**. That my Date of Birth is 10/12/1984 not 7/12/1983. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

**MARYAM: I** formerly known as **MARYAM SULEMAN** now wish to be called as **MARYAM ABDULLAHI IDRIS** all former documents remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note

**OBUMNEME: I**, formerly known and addressed as **NDUBUISI OBUMNEME**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OBUMNEME NDUBUISI JOSEPH**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**MUSA: I** formerly known as **MUSA MOKO** now wish to be known as **MUSA YAHAYA**. All former document remain valid. General public should take note.

**JIMOH: I** formerly known and addressed as **MISS JIMOH JEMILAH ROSE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS JIMOH JEMILAH BESHIRU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

**JOY: I** formerly known as **JOY NATHANIEL MALLAH**, now wish to be known as **JOY PHILIP AZANGO**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concern and general public should take note.

**ADDITION OF NAME I**, formerly known as **MARYAM BELLO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MARYAM BELLO UMAR**. That my correct Date of Birth is 23/05/1985. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note, please.

**ISAH: I**, formerly known as **ISA ZANGINA**, now wish to be known and called **ISAH ZANGINA**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

**CORRECTION OF NAME** That my name was erroneously typed as **AYOMIDE FELICIA ADERONKE** but my real name is **AYANRINOLA FELICIA ADERONKE** which is official. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**YUSUF: I** Formerly known as **IBRAHIM BUBA** with **DOB 03/02/1989** now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF ADAMU**. All former documents remain valid, with **DOB 10/10/1995**. **GTBANK PLC** And General public should please take note

**BELLO: I** formerly known and address as **SHAFIU SHUAIBU** now wish to be call and address as **BELLO LAWAL KYAUTA** all former documents remain valid. authority concern and general public should take note.

**LUCIA: I** formerly known as **MISS UDECHIMA UDUMMA LUCIA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS ONYEKACHI UDUMMA LUCIA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concern and general public should please take note.

**SABIU: I** formerly known as **SABIU UMAR**, now wish to be called and addressed as **SABIU UMAR YAU**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**AUGUSTINA: I**, formerly known as **MURJANATU MUHAMMAD TUKUR**, now wish to be known and called **MURJANATU MUHAMMAD TUKUR**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

**LASISI: I**, formerly known and addressed as **ASEES MUMINI TAIWO**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **LASISI MUMINI TAIWO**. That my correct date of birth is 1st day of January, 1980. All former documents remain valid. Bank Authority and General public please take note.

**IBRAHIM: I** formerly known as **ALIYU ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. General Public Should please take note.

**ANGELA: I**, formerly known and addressed as **DANJUMA CHENEMI** with date of birth 15th April, 1990 as it appeared on my bank account and **BVN** with Union Bank Plc. now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM ANGELA** with date of birth 30th March, 1993. All former documents remain valid. Union Bank Idah and the general public to take note.

**OBI: I** formerly known as **PRINCE EKENE OBI**, now wish to be called and addressed as **KENECHUKWU UBAKA OBI**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concern and general public should please take note.

**HAMID: I** formerly known as **LAMIDO HAMMA** now wish to be called and addressed as **HAMID ALHAJI MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**MURJANATU: I**, formerly known as **MURJANATU MUHAMMAD TUKUR**, now wish to be known and called **MURJANATU MUHAMMAD TUKUR**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

**HANNATU: I** formerly known as **HANNATU EMMANUEL** now wish to be known and addressed as **HANNATU EMMANUEL ALI**. All former documents remain valid. General Public Should please take note.

**DAWAKI: I** formally known as **KABIR MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KABIR MUHAMMAD DAWAKI**. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

**DORCAS: I**, formerly known and addressed as **DANJUMA AYISHAT** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALONGE ENEZE DORCAS** with date of birth 21-10-1985. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

**BOSE: I** formerly known as **MUKAILA SERIFAT BOSE**, now wish to be called and addressed as **AKOSILE-MUKAILA SERIFAT BOSE**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concern and general public should please take note.

**MARYAM: I** formerly known as **RABI IBRAHIM** now wish to be called and addressed as **MARYAM SAMAILA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**RAKIYA: I** formerly known as **RAKIYA IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD** now wish to be called and addressed as **RAKIYA IBRAHIM** all former documents remain valid. Any authority concern and general public should please take note.

That I was formally known as **MODU ALIMU** now wish to be called and address as **FANDIMI AJIRAMBE** and general public to take note

**MUSA: I** formerly known as **MUSA MUHAMMED** now wish to be known as **MUSA MUHAMMAD BASHIR**. All former document remain valid. General public should take note.

**DONGA: I**, formerly known and addressed as **ADAMU MOHAMMED** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU MOHAMMED DONGA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

**MUKHTAR: I** formerly known as **MUKHTAR SHEHU** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUKHTAR SHEHU PANDA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**MAIYERIMA: I** formerly known as **MAI YERIMA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MAIYERIMA BULAMA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**BALOGUN: I**, formerly known and addressed as **BALOGUN ISIAKA AREMU**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **BALOGUN ADIATU AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

That I was formally known as **BAWA G GONIRAM** now wish to be called and address as **FALMATA M MODUBE** and general public to take note

**ALI: I** formerly known as **ALI IBRAHIM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ALI IBRAHIM KHALIL**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**OLUWAYOMI: I** formerly known as **JOSHUA EGUNYOMI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JOSHUA OLUWAYOMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note

**LAWAN: I** formerly known as **LAWAL SALEH LAWAL** now wish to be called and addressed as **LAWAN SALE LAWAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**KABIR: I** formerly known as **KABIRU ALI** now wish to be called and addressed as **KABIR ALIYU**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**AYOKUNNUMI: I**, formerly known and addressed as **KUNNUMI MATTHEW YELENDU**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **AYOKUNNUMI MATTHEW YELENDE**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**SANI: I** formerly known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR SAMAILA** now wish to be called and addressed as **SANI ALIYU**. All former document remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note please.

**SADDAM: I** formerly known as **SADDAM SHUAIBU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SADDAM ALHAJI BABA DOB 9-3-1994**. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**BISHIR: I**, formerly known and addressed as **BASHIR AMADU** now wish to be known and addressed as **BISHIR AMADU**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

**RUKKAYYA: I** formerly known as **RUKKAYYA ZUBAIRU AHMED** now wish to be called and addressed as **RUKKAYYA AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**ALIYU: I** formerly known as **ALIYU BAPPA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ALIYU BAPPA GOMBE**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**ADEDEJI: I**, formerly known and addressed as **MOGAJI SAKIRAT ADENIKE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADEDEJI SHAKIRO ADENIKE**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**NINGI: I** formerly known as **HUDDA UBA NINGI** now wish to be known and called **UMAR NINGI**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

**UMAR: I** formerly known as **UMAR SULEMAN** now wish to be known and called **UMAR USMAN**. All former documents remained valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

**AJEH: I**, formerly known and addressed as **AGBARA VERONICA ENE** now wish to be known and addressed as **AJEH VERONICA ENE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

**IBRAHIM: I** formerly known as **USMAN AHMED** now wish to be called and addressed as **IBRAHIM AHMED DAURA**. All former documents remain valid. **UNITY BANK PLC & GENERAL PUBLIC**.

**MAAWIYYA: I** formally known and as **ZANGINA MAAWIYYA** now wish to be call and address as **MAAWIYYA ZANGINA**. All former documents remained valid. General public to take note.

**SALIU: I**, formerly known and addressed as **SOLI OBAABI VENTURES**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **SALI OBAABI**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**YUSUF: I** formerly known as **DAN AZUMI ALHAJI MUSA** now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. **FIRST BANK PLC** And General Public Should please take note.

**JIBRIL: I**, formerly known as **Jibril Mohammed** now wish to be called and address as **Jibril Bala Muhammad**. All former documents remain valid. General Public should please take note.

I formerly known as **AHMAD TATA** now wish to be known and addressed as **BABANGIDA TATA**. All former documents should remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

**SULEIMAN: I** formerly known as **HUSAINI MAGAJI** now wish to be called and addressed as **SULEIMAN USAINI MAGAJI**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **USMAN ABDULLAHI 01-01-1985** now wish to be called and addressed as **SHEHU AHMED. 01-02-1985**. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

**ODUNAYO: I**, formerly known and addressed as **ODUNAYO FLORENCE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ODUNAYO FLORENCE ADENIKE**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

**ADAMU: I** formerly known and addressed as **ADAMU USMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU USMAN MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. 01/06/2000 to 02/02/2002 All concern and authority General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **YUSUF MUHAMMAD** Now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF DANLADI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

**RABAH: I** formerly known and address as **NASIRU ALKALI**. Now wish to be known and address as **NASIRU ALKALI RABAH**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

**MUSTAPHA: I** formerly known as **MUSTAPHA ABBA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUSTAPHA ABBA ALIYU**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **Habiba Siba**, now wish to be known as **Habiba Tabari**, all former documents remains valid authorities concern and general public to take note.

**IKPOTO: I**, formerly known and addressed as **Miss AWURI ERICA MGBE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs IKPOTO ERICA UBONG**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**NINGI: I** formerly known as **HUDDA UBA NINGI** now wish to be known and called **UMAR NINGI**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

**UMAR: I** formerly known as **UMAR SULEMAN** now wish to be known and called **UMAR USMAN**. All former documents remained valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

I formerly called as **SUNUSI MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and called as **SANUSI MUHAMMAD BOSE, D.O.B 29/04/1994** not 01/01/1991. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

**GARBA: I** formerly known as **INUWA GARBA** now wish to be called and addressed as **GARBA MU'AZU**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **Muhammad Kabeeru Saeedu** now wish to be known and addressed as **Muhammad Kabir Saidu**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern to please take note.

**OKECHUKWU: I**, formerly known and addressed as **Miss LUKE LETICIA NWAYINNYAYA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs OKECHUKWU LETICIA NWAYINNYAYA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**ADAMU: I** formerly known and addressed as **ADAMU USMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU USMAN MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. 01/06/2000 to 02/02/2002 All concern and authority General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **YUSUF MUHAMMAD** Now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF DANLADI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I was formerly called **FANNY MUNJI BAMBO**, Now wish to be called. **BAMBO FANNY**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

**ISMA'IL: I** formerly known as **ABBA DOGO** now wish to be called and addressed as **ISMA'IL ABBA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**MARYAM: I** formerly known as **MARYAM ABBA RUFAI** now wish to be called and addressed as **MARYAM SADA RUFAI**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and members of the general public should please take note.

**MUHAMMED: I**, formerly known and addressed as **OYENIYI TAIWO OYEDEPO**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMED HASSAN OYEDEPO**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

**ADAMU: I** formerly known and addressed as **ADAMU USMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU USMAN MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. 01/06/2000 to 02/02/2002 All concern and authority General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **YUSUF MUHAMMAD** Now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF DANLADI**. 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

**IAUHARA BIN SHEIKH BIN BAAZ FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT**

The general public is hereby notified that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.  
**The Board of Trustees members are:**  
1- Ahmad Othman Abdallah Mohammed  
2- Ibrahim Hassan Adam  
3- Ibrahim Abubakar Jalo  
4- Khalid Ibrahim Hassan  
5- Adam Abdulhamid  
6- Fatima Mohammad Bello Fallata  
7- Halima Mohammad Bello Fallata  
**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.**  
1. To enhance and provide assistance to the less privileged and orphans  
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION AT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI - IRONSI ST. P.M.B 198 MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION.  
SIGNED  
**BARRISTER ABUBAKAR MUSA MUHAMMAD T/WADA**  
08038135284, abummar2009@yahoo.com

**LOSS OF DOCUMENT**

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF ORIGINAL LAND DOCUMENT: ON 29/07/2020 AT ABOUT 1030HRS, ONE MAI MODU AUDU "M" OF A CLOSE OFF MAIGANA STREET LAGOS STREET AREA MAIDUGURI CAME TO GRA POLICE STATION AND REPORTED THAT, SOME TIME LAST YEAR 2019 HE MISPLACED HIS ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF GRANT RIGHT OCCUPANCY NO. BO/3091 PLOT NO.104 ON BOTP/60, BEARING THE NAME OF ISHAKU YAKIBU AND NOW BELONG TO MAI MODU AUDU, SITUATED AT MAIGANA STREET OFF LAGOS STREET. ALL EFFORT MADE TO TRACE IT PROVE ABORTIVE, HENCE THE REPORT.  
ACTION TAKEN; THE COMPLAINANT WAS ADVISED TO GO TO COURT OF LAW AND SWEAR TO AN AFFIDAVIT. TO ENABLE HIS OBTAIN REPLACEMENT FROM THE AUTHORITY CONCERN.

**LOSS OF DOCUMENT**

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Letter of Grant and Certificate of Occupancy Plot No. 804 File No. RES/2000/3686, situated at Zawachiki Quarters TP/K/246, bearing the name of **IBRAHIM DANLADI**, of KASEEPA Kano.  
All effort made to trace the original Letter of Grant proved abortive. Members of the General Public to note. If found kindly return to the nearest police station.

**Bank Details**  
Pay into any of our Accounts:  
Account Name: MEDIA TRUST LTD.  
Send your payment mandate to our email addresses

<b>Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc</b> Account No: 0000913253 Sort Code: 221081552	<b>Bank: First Bank Plc</b> Account No: 2002911690 Sort Code: 011084060	<b>Bank: UBA Plc</b> Account No: 1007117397 Sort Code: 033080013	<b>Bank: GTBank Plc</b> Account No: 0024570856 Sort Code: 058083231
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**LOSS OF DOCUMENT**

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF ORIGINAL GRANT OF RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY: ON 14TH AUGUST, 2018 AT ABOUT 17:25HRS, ONE ALI MUSA GOMBORU "M" OF ABBAKARTI MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE REPORTED AT THE STATE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (SIB) POLICE HEADQUARTERS MAIDUGURI THAT, ON 10TH AUGUST, 2018 HE LOST HIS NO OF RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY WITH FILE NO. BO/30336, PLOT NO. 46 AND 47 ON BOSA/152. HENCE HIS REPORT.  
ACTION TAKEN: THE COMPLAINANT IS ADVISED TO GO TO COURT OF LAW AND SWEAR TO AN AFFIDAVIT TO ENABLE HIS OBTAIN REPLACEMENT FROM THE AUTHORITY CONCERN.

## Gunmen invade Bayelsa community, burn 20 houses

From Bassey Willie, Yenagoa

In what appeared to be a battle for supremacy by militant groups, gunmen yesterday invaded Peremabiri community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State and set ablaze about 20 houses.

This is the second time in one week that gunmen, who

are said to be on reprisal attack, will be burning houses in Peremabiri.

Armed men had earlier on Christmas day attacked the home of an ex-militant leader, Paul Eris also known as Ogunbos, who is from the community and burnt down his private residence.

According to community sources, the armed men

invaded the community in 50 speedboats and were allegedly on a mission to take over control of the community from an ex-militant leader, Ogunbos.

A local said the gunmen chased out community members suspected to be loyal to Paul Eris and took over control of the town.

He said: "As I speak with you many people are still hiding

in the bush and many houses have been burnt down."

Bayelsa State Police Command confirmed the attack.

Police spokesman in the state, SP Asinim Butswat, said in a statement yesterday that preliminary investigations revealed that the attack occurred around 0700 hours on January 3, 2021.

"The Command has dispatched reinforcement of police marine and detectives from state's Criminal Investigation Department to beef up security in the area. Investigation into the incident is ongoing.

"Efforts are on by the state government to invite notable leaders from the community for a peace meeting," he said.

## Kidnapping: Gumi visits Fulani communities along Kaduna-Abuja highway

From Mohammed I. Yaba, Kaduna

A renowned Islamic scholar, Sheikh Ahmad Gumi, has visited some communities along Kaduna-Abuja highway over rising kidnapping cases in the area.

*Daily Trust* gathered that the areas visited by the scholar were seen as kidnappers' zone in Jere town.

Addressing a large crowd, Sheikh Gumi lamented the high rate of illiteracy among the Fulani herdsmen in the area.

According to him, the only panacea to their problem was the acquisition of both western and Islamic knowledge.

Sheikh Gumi disclosed that some Fulanis in the area would be selected for a series of training, after which they will educate their people upon return.

Some of the Fulani leaders, who spoke at the event, admitted that their major challenge was illiteracy.

According to them, they were left unattended to without education, security and basic amenities.



■ From left: The Prelate Chaplain, Methodist Church Nigeria (MCN), Very Rev. Jeremiah Shittu; Secretary of the Conference, Rt. Rev. Michael Akinwale; Prelate, His Eminence, Chukwuemeka Uche; and Bishop of Tinubu, Rt. Rev. Omotayo Babalola, during the first Sunday service in the New Year at the MCN in Lagos yesterday.

Photo: NAN

## Kaduna sex party: Owner of demolished building faults govt's claim

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

The owner of Kings and Queens Restaurant that was demolished by the Kaduna State Urban Planning Development Agency (KASUPDA) has faulted police claims that her building was the venue for the botched sex party organised by some youths.

*Daily Trust* reports that the police had on Thursday paraded the suspected organisers of the event,

while officials of KASUPDA demolished the building claiming it was the alleged venue for the event.

However, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the restaurant and owner of the building located in Sabon Tasha, Kaduna, Aisha Mercy Yakubu denied knowledge of the event. She said two of the people arrested and paraded by the police were her staff and not organisers of the event, and that no notice was served to her before the demolition.

"There was nothing of that sort taking place at the restaurant and I wouldn't stoop so low to entertain such illicit activity my place," she said.

Yakubu said she lost goods worth N32 million and other valuable items.

"I watched them pull down the building without allowing me to remove any item before the demolition. As a result of the trauma, I lost my one-month-old pregnancy," she said.

"I plan to seek legal

redress for defamation of my character and the loss of my properties in the building, plus other sundry issues as would be advised by my lawyers," she added.

Reacting to the said bail collected and the money 'collected' to track the suspects, the police Public Relations Officer in Kaduna, ASP Mohamed Jalige, asked Yakubu to contact him with the name of the person who collected the bail money from her.

## Police stop beach party in Yola over nudity claim

From Kabiru R. Anwar, Yola

Police in Adamawa State have stopped a planned beach party, organised by yet-to-be-identified youths after some residents condemned it as a nude show.

Advertisement for the Yola beach party, scheduled to hold on Sunday, had circulated on the social media platforms. It said the participants must be adults, with N2,000 gate fee. The venue was not disclosed.

The police spokesman

in the state, DSP Suleiman Yahya Nguroje, said the Commissioner of Police had ordered an investigation into the matter.

"Anyone found involved will be arrested and possibly prosecuted. The command will not condone any show or event that will cause outrage.

"The CP has ordered an investigation to unravel the sponsors and venue of the said beach party. The command will not allow any immoral act that could cause outrage in the society," he said.

## Tension as 10 suspects escape from police detention

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

There is tension in Edo as more than 10 suspected criminals allegedly escaped from police detention at the Police Command Headquarters in Benin City.

It was gathered that the suspects, held at the command's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) over alleged armed robbery, murder and cultism, escaped at about 11:45 pm on January 1, 2021.

It was also gathered that the police officers, who were on

duty at the station during the escape, have been arrested by the police for interrogation.

Police sources, who spoke to our reporter, alleged that the cell was negligently opened apparently by the officers on duty in order to aid the escapees.

"There is conspiracy in this matter because the cell was not broken into and there was no attack by anybody," a police source said. He said this was the second time suspects would be escaping from the CID detention.

The recent escape happened

because no one was punished on the first incident, he added.

But the state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Chidi Nwanbuzor, neither denied nor confirmed the incident, but said he would get back to the reporter.

But an officer, who confirmed the incident, said two of the escapees have been rearrested.

He said some of the suspects were held at the CID detention on the order of the court while others were armed robbery and cultism suspects undergoing investigations.

**5** Year  
*Remembrance*

**AHMADU ABUBAKAR**

April 20, 1957 – January 3, 2016

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un  
To Allah We belong, and to Him is our return.  
[Surah Al-Baqarah Verse 156]

O Allah forgive our living and our dead, those who are with us and those who are absent, our young and our old, our menfolk and our womenfolk. O Allah, whomever you give life from among us give him life in Islam, and whomever you take away from us take him away in Faith. O Allah, do not forbid us their reward and do not send us astray after them.

[Ibn Majah 1/480, Ahmad 2/368]



May Allah Forgive him, Rest his soul in eternal peace and Grant him Al-Jannat Firdausi. Amin.  
Always in our hearts.

**Dr. Aminat Ahmadu Abubakar – Wife**  
**Yusuf Zakiyy Abubakar – Son**  
**For The Whole Family**

# INSIDE POLITICS

## PoliQuote

It doesn't matter where that interest is coming from or which interest it is so long as it is a national interest, we (National Assembly) will give Mr President the kind of support that he requires to make Nigeria a better place, to make Nigeria a safer place and to make the economy of Nigeria work for every Nigerian - **Ahmed Lawan**

## No zoning in APC - Shekarau

● I have no problem with Kwankwaso

From Clement A. Oloyede, Kano

A former governor of Kano State, Senator Ibrahim Shekarau, yesterday said since there is no provision for zoning of the presidency in the constitution of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the "constitution of common sense" should be used.

Shekarau, who represents Kano Central Senatorial District in the Senate on the APC platform, said this during a media interactive session in Kano while responding to questions on his position on zoning for the 2023 presidential election.

He said the guiding principle should be fairness and justice to all, adding that "there is a constitution of common sense; people have to use it."

Explaining further, the Sardaunan Kano said it is similar to the principle



■ Shekarau

of the six geo-political zones though not in the 1999 constitution of Nigeria

"but today it has become a recognised principle."

Shekarau, who added that it is also not constitutional that the president and vice president must come from different zones, said it would be folly for any presidential aspirant to announce a vice presidential candidate from his zone or state.

"I don't talk of zoning but balancing," he said, adding that, "My belief is that today in Nigeria, there is no one state that does not have hundreds of qualified presidential candidates; so it should not be about killing oneself for which area produces the president. It should be 'who is it' and not 'where he is from.'"

Shekarau also commented on his relationship with his predecessor and successor as governor of Kano State, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso.

## Oke-Ogun PDP stakeholders laud Makinde

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

Leaders and stakeholders of Oke-Ogun axis of Oyo State declared at the weekend that they remain solidly behind Governor Seyi Makinde of the state.

The leaders commended the governor for undertaking several development projects and initiatives aimed at opening up Oke-Ogun to the rest of the state and the country.

Governor Makinde was equally hailed for introducing policies and programmes that had changed the standard of education for good in the state, including free qualitative education programme and the reduction of out-of-school children, among others.

Speaking to newsmen in Otu at the end of a meeting of Oke-Ogun PDP leaders and political appointees, the trio of Chief Jacob Adetoro; Oyo North PDP Senatorial Chairman, Alhaji Waheed Oluwakemi and a leader of the party from Kajola Local Government Area, Alhaji Ajadi Waheed, said Makinde had written his name in gold within a short time.

## Chairman, followers dump PDP for APC in Nasarawa

From Ibraheem Hamza Muhammad, Lafia

A PDP ward chairman has left the party for APC in Gwargwada Ward in Toto Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

The chairman, Mr Danlami Yanga and his followers announced their defection to APC at a stakeholders' meeting in Gadabuke town.

He said: "I and my followers decided to dump PDP and join APC because of the pragmatic leadership style of the APC-led administration of Governor Abdullahi Sule, and the State Assembly Speaker, Balarabe Abdullahi.

"I am calling on my supporters and people of the area to give the present administration all the needed support to succeed," he said.

It would be recalled that recently, a former state lawmaker, Madaki Ada-Goje and former administrator of Gadabuke Development Area, Benjamin Belodu also left PDP for APC.

## I've never compromised in public service - Moghalu

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

Former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and presidential candidate of Young Progressives Party (YPP) in the 2019 elections, Professor Kingsley Moghalu, has been conferred with the Nnewi traditional chieftaincy title of "Ifek'ego Nnewi" (Greater than money) by the Igwe of Nnewi, HRH Dr Kenneth Orizu III.

The title was conferred by the monarch of the kingdom at a colourful ceremony in Nnewi during the Igwe Orizu's 57th annual Ofala festival.

With this recognition, Moghalu is now a member of the prestigious Body of Titled Chiefs of Nnewi, one of Nigeria's most dynamic commercial towns.

In a statement released yesterday, Moghalu said: "My new title is a strong statement of my values in life. Integrity matters more than money. In public service for the world and for my country, I have never compromised it. It matters what we teach our society and how we are remembered.

"The recognition matters also because my traditional ruler showed appreciation for my humble contributions to my hometown. This encourages me to remain on the track of service," he said.

## Nobody will be sidelined in Ekiti APC - Omotosho

From Raphael Ogbonnaiye, Ado-Ekiti

The APC caretaker committee chairman in Ekiti State, Barrister Paul Omotosho, has promised that no member of the party will be sidelined from the ward to the state level.

Omotosho, in a New Year message released by the Public Relations Officer, Mr Ade Ajayi, yesterday, said the executive would ensure that every member of the party smiled in the New Year.

He reiterated that the party was not unaware of some

bickering among members, despite efforts to rally all, assuring that APC in Ekiti State will come out more united and stronger.

The chairman appealed to party members to remain loyal and avoid any action that could draw back some of the successes already achieved.

He rejoiced with party faithful for their trust in APC, assuring them that they shall not labour in vain.

Barr. Omotosho thanked the people of the state for their tolerance and cooperation

with the administration of Dr John Kayode Fayemi in 2020.

He noted that last year almost turned government all over the world to failure but the people of Ekiti state remained steadfast and resolute in their commitment to the APC government.

The chairman lauded Governor Fayemi for his fatherly role and efforts to ensure that the state got its benefits and positions from federal government as well as involving the party in running the affairs of the state.

## We'll teach Umahi a lesson - PDP

From Nabob Ogbonna, Abakaliki

The Acting Caretaker Committee Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ebonyi State, Fred Udogu, yesterday, said the party will soon erase the name of Governor David Umahi from the original list of its members.

Udogu, in an interview with Daily Trust, said Governor Umahi only resigned verbally but not officially.

The acting chairman, who stressed that the governor would not be re-admitted into the party if he thought of making a U-turn, said PDP had its worse experience

under the Umahi-led government.

It would be recalled that Governor Umahi dumped PDP for APC late last year.

He explained that the process for permanent deletion of the governor's name from the PDP registered members' list would soon begin.

"Nobody has the right to belong to two political parties at the same time. Very soon, we will call for the register of the party where we will remove his name as a member of PDP because he is not our member and will never be there.

"He has not resigned from

PDP. He only resigned verbally and declared for APC, but we will teach him how to declare for a new party properly.

"Again, there was no PDP under Dave Umahi.

"Dave left PDP as far back as 2017 and the owners and leaders of PDP at the national level are aware of this.

"That is why he wants to cross his legs over PDP and remain in APC and we said, no," he added.

Umahi had earlier said he officially registered at his ward in Uburu, Ohanzara Local Government Area of the state as a member of the ruling APC on November 10, 2020.










# BUSINESS

**NIGERIA STOCK EXCHANGE** MARKET CAP ▶ N21,056,759TR (1.92%) ↑ ALL SHARE INDEX ▶ 40,270.72POINTS (1.92%) ↑ MARKET TURNOVER ▶ 710,705,919BN SHARES  
(Last updated, Thursday, January 1, 2021)

 <b>OIL AND GAS</b> <b>226.20 0.65%</b>	 <b>BANKING</b> <b>393.02 -0.89%</b>	 <b>CONSUMER GOODS</b> <b>573.35 -0.80%</b>	 <b>INSURANCE</b> <b>189.50 -0.41%</b>	 <b>INDUSTRIAL</b> <b>2,052.33 3.90%</b>
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**NSE GENERAL INDEX**

COMPANY NAME	MARKET(NM)	PRICE	CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
<b>BANKING</b>					
ACCESS BANK PLC	311,020.72	8.75	-2.23	291	24,446,338
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	292,405.05	8.55	0.59	304	60,569,873
ZENITH BANK PLC	783,342.52	24.95	-0.20	485	27,541,446
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
FBN HOLDINGS PLC	258,446.11	7.20	1.41	216	13,788,609
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES</b>					
MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	3,256,722.09	160.00	-	83	125,063
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>					
DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	4,174,924.31	245.00	-	432	33,166,426
LAFARGE AFRICA PLC	338,263.71	21.00	3.57	186	9,267,115
BERGER PAINTS PLC	2,130.20	7.35	-	0	0
BUA CEMENT PLC	2,384,050.53	70.40	10.00	173	2,047,022
CAP PLC	14,000.00	20.00	-	22	3,283,770
MEYER PLC	265.62	0.50	-	2	91,783
PORTLAND PAINTS & PRODUCTS NIGERIA PLC	2,062.88	2.60	4.00	4	1,421,200
PREMIER PAINTS PLC	1,156.20	9.40	-	0	0
<b>EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION</b>					
SEPLAT PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	236,731.25	402.30	-	54	757,510
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>					
THE INITIATES PLC	462.79	0.52	-	1	78
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	1,606.00	0.73	-9.88	35	5,246,527
OKOMU OIL PALM PLC	86,805.81	91.00	-	22	31,140
PRESCO PLC	71,800.00	71.80	-	25	643,936
ELLAH LAKES PLC	8,500.00	4.25	-	0	0
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	3,900.00	1.30	-	30	1,076,872
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES</b>					
JOHN HOLT PLC	198.47	0.51	-	0	0
S C A NIG. PLC	1,903.99	2.93	-	1	10,000
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION OF NIGERIA PLC	36,989.67	0.91	-2.15	114	20,976,540
U A C N PLC	21,609.72	7.50	-0.67	49	1,863,235
<b>BUILDING CONSTRUCTION</b>					
ARBICO PLC	152.96	1.03	-	0	0
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION</b>					
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	28,195.20	17.80	-1.11	23	282,478
ROADS NIG PLC	165.00	6.60	-	0	0
<b>REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT</b>					
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	14,662.38	0.79	-1.25	8	479,366
<b>AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS</b>					
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0	0
<b>BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS</b>					
CHAMPION BREW. PLC	6,733.37	0.86	-	8	123,765
GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC	829.98	0.81	-	0	0
GUINNESS NIG PLC	41,617.27	19.00	-1.55	82	4,055,028
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	174,334.82	6.49	10.00	62	2,254,985
NIGERIAN BREW. PLC	447,826.51	56.00	-	78	1,577,490
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	217,429.12	17.90	-0.28	183	7,959,873
FLLOUR MILLS NIG. PLC	106,609.87	26.00	-5.45	163	5,600,012
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	9,833.45	1.24	-6.77	62	2,701,436
MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	1,340.10	0.36	-	0	0
N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	1,092.37	6.13	-	2	50,296
NASCON ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC	38,416.86	14.50	-	11	42,778
UNION DICON SALT PLC	2,993.06	10.95	-	0	0
CADbury NIGERIA PLC	16,528.18	8.80	-2.22	34	614,894
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	1,192,947.66	1,505.00	-	35	4,652
<b>HOUSEHOLD DURABLES</b>					
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	1,680.31	22.10	-	0	0
VITADAM NIG PLC	9,506.41	7.60	-	27	365,518
P 2 CLISSONS NIGERIA PLC	21,043.53	5.30	-	31	225,597
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	79,855.58	13.90	-	30	279,165
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	119,272.08	6.50	0.77	77	5,738,913
FIDELITY BANK PLC	73,595.98	2.54	-0.78	151	16,434,917
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC	956,513.32	32.50	-0.61	276	10,415,287
JAZZ BANK PLC	19,446.40	0.66	-1.52	36	2,303,197
STERLING BANK PLC	59,020.36	2.05	3.02	49	4,689,999
UNION BANK NIG. PLC	154,339.99	5.30	-5.36	50	1,667,412
UNITY BANK PLC	7,948.75	0.68	5.88	14	767,421
WEMA BANK PLC	26,616.38	0.69	1.47	31	1,724,452
<b>INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>					
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	0	0
AICO INSURANCE PLC	25,634.85	1.24	-5.65	49	4,084,596
AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC	37,800.00	1.05	5.00	78	9,307,406
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	3,425.44	0.32	6.67	8	1,144,015
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	10,718.17	0.59	-	1	500
EDORATION INSURANCE PLC	9,596.67	0.40	-	23	912,116
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	2,709.67	0.37	-5.41	68	16,881,324
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	5,200.00	0.52	8.33	3	700,000
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	3,128.37	0.28	3.70	15	6,885,911
NEM INSURANCE PLC	16,353.72	1.63	9.40	4	1,042,707
NIGER INSURANCE PLC	1,547.90	0.20	-	2	2,030,000
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	5,698.60	0.43	-4.44	5	185,563
REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC	1,467.13	0.22	4.76	4	134,152
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2,272.89	0.20	-	0	0
STACO INSURANCE PLC	4,483.72	0.48	-	0	0
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	2,582.21	0.20	-	0	0
SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC	2,800.00	1.00	-	0	0
UNIC DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS PLC	516.46	0.20	-	0	0
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC	3,200.00	0.20	-	0	0
VERITAS KAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	2,773.33	0.20	-	4	801,000
<b>MICRO-FINANCE BANKS</b>					
NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	3,841.55	1.68	-	3	5,241
ABBEY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	6,784.62	1.05	-	0	0
ASD SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	3,370.87	0.50	-	0	0
INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	5,671.82	1.36	-	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
AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	12,500.00	6.25	0.16	41	2,770,319
CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	34,408.91	5.85	-2.50	16	217,995
DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	375.00	0.25	-7.41	3	451,000
FOHB GROUP PLC	60,002.21	3.03	1.00	87	13,989,398
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	1,337.80	0.26	4.00	4	411,539
STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	489,219.19	44.05	-	27	124,785
UNITED CAPITAL PLC	28,740.00	4.79	-0.21	81	2,055,943
<b>HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS</b>					
ENCORP PLC	2,991.61	6.00	-	2	200,001
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERVICES PLC	1,137.00	0.32	3.23	8	458,904
<b>MEDICAL SUPPLIES</b>					
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC	484.69	0.49	-	0	0
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>					
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	366.17	0.50	-	0	0
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	9,388.62	4.50	-	23	349,730
GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	8,251.55	6.90	1.47	28	870,925
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	6,383.37	3.70	-	32	480,616
NEMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	4,235.12	2.23	-3.04	28	869,832
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	556.71	3.62	-	0	0
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	325.23	1.50	-	0	0
<b>COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS</b>					
COURTVILLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PLC	745.92	0.21	-4.76	12	3,018,876
<b>COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS</b>					
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	588.36	0.20	-	4	13,289
<b>IT SERVICES</b>					
CWG PLC	6,413.06	2.54	-	0	0
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	211.68	1.96	-	5	46,397
<b>PROCESSING SYSTEMS</b>					
CHAMS PLC	1,080.09	0.23	9.52	20	2,336,331
E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	9,786.00	2.33	-	0	0
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES</b>					
ARTEL AFRICA PLC	3,201,193.45	851.80	-	20	1,564
<b>ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS</b>					
AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,192.12	2.03	-	0	0
CUTIX PLC	4,051.04	2.30	4.55	28	450,519

COMMODITIES PRICE	PRICE	CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
<b>CRUDE OIL (BRENT)</b>				
	\$50.87	-	-	-
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>				
	\$2.63	-	-	-
<b>COPPER</b>				
	\$7,764.50	-	-	-
<b>GOLD</b>				
	\$1,877.59	-	-	-
<b>SILVER</b>				
	\$25.77	-	-	-
<b>SUGAR</b>				
	\$0.15	-	-	-
<b>COCOA</b>				
	\$1,710.0	-	-	-
<b>LIVE CATTLE</b>				
	\$1.12	-	-	-
<b>COTTON</b>				
	\$0.76	-	-	-


**GAINERS**

MTNN	9.9	6.19%
BUACEMENT	6.95	9.87%
BOCGAS	0.87	10.00%
NNFM	0.61	9.95%



**LOSERS**

PRESCO	-0.85	-1.18%
INTBREW	-0.54	-8.32%
ETERNA	-0.51	-9.09%
ETI	-0.5	-7.69%





# UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

The UofA of Nigeria, University for National Unity  
P.M.B 117, ABUJA, NIGERIA

## Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raaji'un

### ADIEU A QUINTESSENTIAL ACADEMIC!



### Professor Isa Baba Mohammed

**O**n behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Staff and Students of the University of Abuja, the Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah**, commiserates with the family of the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Isa Baba Mohammed, who died on Monday 28th December 2020.

The death of Professor Mohammed is a huge loss to not only his family and the University community but the entire nation.

As pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the University between

1988 and 1998, the late Professor Mohammed laid a solid foundation for its development which successive administrations have been building upon.

He was a resourceful, experienced and consummate public officer of international standing who contributed immensely to the development of the University, in particular, and the nation, at large.

May Allah in His Infinite mercies forgive his shortcomings, reward him with aljanah firdaus, and give his family the fortitude to bear this painful loss.

**Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah**  
Vice-Chancellor



# SPORT

Defending champion Sainz wins Dakar first stage

→ Pg.32



## WBF champion, Scorpion receives N6m car

Newly crowned World Boxing Federations (WBF) Super Featherweight champion 'Scorpion' Oyekola has been gifted with a jaguar car, worth over six million naira by a boxing enthusiast, Abdul Wahab Adekunle.

The donor, while

presenting the car said his action is in fulfilment of the promise he made to the boxer before his bout last month.

Adekunle said he could have given the boxing champion something more precious than the jaguar car if he could afford it, saying that nothing is too much for him to appreciate the wonderful feat the boxer achieved for Nigeria.

"Sports has become a big-

time money-spinning venture globally. All over the world, we can see the financial landmark all of them are bringing from Africa to Europe, but it seems we're yet to come to terms with this fact, but I believe we can easily get there if we keep encouraging our athletes this way and hope they will keep doing better", the donor said.

"I want to use this medium to advise the federal government to identify sports

as another income earner. It is unbelievable that the United Kingdom posted the whopping one billion pounds as foreign exchange income from football alone. We can imagine if what we will get in return if we develop and encourage our sportsmen and women by building facilities to enhance their preparations", the founder and CEO of Hamex Group remarked.

## Pillars humble Katsina Utd as Nasarawa stun Heartland

By Olusola 'Jide @jide\_olusola

Kano Pillars have secured their first victory in the Match Day 2 of the 2020/21 Nigeria Professional Football League season.

Pillars who welcomed Katsina United for the North West derby secured the maximum points with a 2-0 scoreline at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna.

As early as the 7th minute, Umar Hassan scored from close range following an assist by Auwalu Ali.

On the 27th minute mark, legendary captain, Rabiu Ali doubled the lead to maintain their dominance in the match following an assist from Yusuf Maigoro.

With this victory, Kano Pillars are third on the table with four points from two games while Katsina Utd are 14th with 3 points.

In the same vein, Nasarawa United stunned Heartland with a 2-1 victory at the Dan Anyiam Stadium, Owerri.

The Fidelis Ilechukwu side who are yet to win a match hit the ground running from the blast of the whistle but were stunned when Nasarawa's Chinedu Ohanachum in the 14th minute opened the scoring.

The search for equaliser wasn't forthcoming in the



■ Jigawa Golden Stars' Musa Lala making frantic efforts to get the ball from Sunshine Stars Bright Akpojoremho during the Match Day 1 of the NPFL

first half and the host had to wait till the 64th minute when Shedrack Oghali scored.

Heartland's momentum was cut short eleven minutes later when Silas Nwankwo with a sublime finish made it 2-1.

Nasarawa Utd, with

this victory are top of the league with six points while Heartland are on 18th position with no points.

Other results saw Enugu Rangers defeating visiting Akwa Utd by a lone goal while Dakkada FC dimmed Jigawa Golden Stars with a 2-1

victory.

Sunshine Stars shone brightly over IfeanyiUbah FC with a 1-0 victory while Lobi Stars secured the maximum points over MFM FC with a lone goal. Warri Wolves defeated Adamawa Utd by 1-0 scoreline.

## Man City win comfortably at Chelsea

Manchester City produced a ruthless attacking display to ease past Chelsea at Stamford Bridge and increase the pressure on Blues manager, Frank Lampard.

The visitors, who were without a number of first-team players following an outbreak of coronavirus at the club, stunned Lampard's side with three goals in the space of 16 first-half minutes.

Ilkay Gundogan's crisp low finish broke the deadlock before Phil Foden doubled City's lead three minutes later, tucking a superb first-time strike beyond Edouard Mendy after fine work from Kevin de Bruyne.

The Belgian then deservedly got his name on the scoresheet with a close-range finish after Raheem Sterling's curling strike had rebounded off the woodwork.

Callum Hudson-Odoi scored in second-half stoppage time for Chelsea, firing Kai Havertz's cross beyond Premier League debutant Zack Steffen.

The result lifts City up to fifth in the table, four points off Liverpool and Manchester United, and with a game in hand on both their rivals.

## Fayemi signs into law Ekiti sports development trust fund bill

Gov. Kayode Fayemi has signed into law, the Ekiti State Sports Development Trust Fund (SDTF) Bill, which seeks to promote sports, attract sponsorship and be an employment generating sector for youths.

According to Mr Ayodeji Samo, the General Manager, Ekiti State Sports Council, the fund would bring more development to the sports sector,

when implemented.

"With the fund in place, there would be Public-Private partnership in the sponsorship of sporting activities and make the sector a priority of government in terms of funding.

"SDTF is strategic for the development of sports. Now that white-collar jobs are not in place, there would be need for us to

develop the sports sector to help in generating employment for our youths and build their skills to be able to compete locally, nationally and internationally", Sami quoted Gov. Fayemi, in a statement, as saying.

The general manager applauded the governor for the development, saying it was unprecedented in the

history of sports in the state, alongside several other giant strides to develop the sector in the state.

He identified such accomplishments to include: the creation of the ministry of Sports, re-surfacing of the Oluyemi Kayode Stadium and the regular sponsorship of the Ekiti United Football Club, as well as the state's female team.

**THE MONDAY COLUMN**

with **Mahmud Jega**  
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## If you do not say something...

When I saw media images of Bishop Mathew Hassan Kukah of the Catholic Church's Sokoto Diocese struggling to explain what he said or did not say in his controversial Christmas Day message, I thought he was paying a price for not heeding the advice of the 30th President of the United States, Calvin C. Coolidge. As US Vice President in 1921-23 and as President in 1923-29, Coolidge said so little in public and in private that his countrymen called him "Silent Cal." Nearly 100 years ago, when he saw a man struggling to explain the meaning of what he earlier said, Coolidge said, "If you do not say something, you won't be called upon to explain it."

A bishop has to say something on Christmas Day, but he had options before him on what to say and how to say it. He could speak within the confines of his church, but Bishop Kukah is too used to the public stage to contemplate such restriction. He could have delivered his homily in Latin, so that only a few people in Nigeria could understand it. Or he could have devoted his message entirely to how people could enter paradise, the main reason why people still listen to clerics because we think they have a gate pass.

With two notable exceptions, the Catholic Church in Nigeria is free of controversy, having ceded controversial comments to leaders of Pentecostal churches. The most recent controversial Catholic priest is Reverend Father Mbaka of Enugu. Before him, Archbishop Olubunmi Okogie of Lagos was once very controversial. During the 1979 elections, Okogie publicly lampooned UPN presidential candidate Chief Obafemi Awolowo. The reason, according to some newspapers at the time, was that Okogie got a hint that Awo planned to appoint Tai Solarin as Minister of Education. Tai not only supported government takeover of mission schools, but he was also opposed to religious education. Okogie's attacks rankled Awo so much that in his marathon speech to the UPN convention in November 1979, he devoted 16 pages to Okogie, replete with biblical quotations. I expected President Buhari to borrow a leaf and devote ten pages of his New Year's address to Kukah.

Bishop Kukah, who probably counts me as one of his friends and intellectual sparring partners, is fast becoming the Counterfeit Sin. Let me clarify that before I also get enmeshed in controversy. He is becoming the Nigerian version of Jaime Cardinal Sin, outspoken Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila at the height of Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship in the Philippines. The Archbishop declared

himself to be "the Original Sin." He regularly lampooned Marcos and his wife Imelda from the pulpit. He once said, "There is a mining industry in the Philippines. This is mine, this is mine, this is mine." After the Iranian revolution of 1979, President Marcos told reporters that "Sin is trying to be a Khomeini." Reporters rushed from the Malacanang Palace to the Cathedral and reported the news to Sin. Who promptly said, "If there is a Khomeini in the Philippines, then there must be a Shah!"

With no vacancy for an Original Sin, our Bishop Kukah can only be a counterfeit sin. Unlike the original one, Kukah's Christmas Day message had almost no humour, which could have softened the blow he delivered. In the 1980s when Liberation Theology swept through the Church in Latin America where dictatorship was the order of the day, then Father Kukah wrote sympathetic articles in his Mustard Seed column in New Nigerian. Liberation theology was a dangerous art; goons of the far-right Salvadoran politician Roberto "Major Bob" D'Aubuisson assassinated its chief proponent, Archbishop of San Salvador Oscar Romero. His successor, Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas, also received many death threats. By recalling Romero's 1980 assassination, I am not calling for one in Nigeria. After all, Kukah himself said that just because he mentioned coup in his Christmas message did not mean he was calling for one.

Nigeria is a dangerous place right now, but not from state-sponsored agents. As far as I can see, neither the North Eastern insurgents nor the North Western bandits are sponsored by the state, even if it has incompetently fought them. Logic suggests they are not state-sponsored because the two groups' actions were collectively responsible for the severe erosion of Buhari's once unassailable political standing with the Northern masses. Yet, Bishop Kukah alleged possible collusion between the two when he said, "The spilling of this blood must be related to a more sinister plot that is beyond our comprehension. Are we going to remain hogtied by these evil men or are they gradually becoming part of a larger plot to seal the fate of our country?"

Southern Nigerian politicians know very well that the Northern elite is averse to a split of Nigeria, probably because the North lacks sea coast and oil. The latter is a temporary problem but the former is a permanent problem. This is why Southern politicians and activists frequently call for a sovereign national conference, with the hint of a break up, or a modified form of it, calls for

implementation of the 2014 national conference report, as Chief Bode George recently did. Although Bishop Kukah was secretary of the 2004 political conference, he is not pushing a similar agenda because the Middle Belt faces the same dilemma as the North with respect to the possible break up of Nigeria, perhaps worse.

Kukah's Christmas message varied substantially in tone and substance from that of Pope Francis, Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Jesus Christ. The Pope's Christmas message "To the City of Rome and the World", delivered from the Hall of Benediction of St Peter's Basilica, as reported by Vatican News, "offered words of hope and consolation." "Thanks to the Christ Child, we can all call one another brothers and sisters even as we hail from every continent, every language and culture, with our own identities and differences." The Pope "offered his prayers and encouraged all people to offer theirs to remember the many children worldwide who are victims of war, especially in Syria, Iraq and Yemen," incidentally, all three are Muslim-majority countries. He did not dwell on Christian community grievances in Syria and Iraq or allege Muslim hegemony.

The Pope also "prayed that peace may take root in Libya and that Israelis and Palestinians might regain mutual trust to continue dialogue to overcome grievances... He encouraged the Lebanese to keep hope alive..." and he prayed for an end to suffering in "Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan, Nigeria and Cameroon," many of them Muslim-majority countries. Pope Francis then remembered victims of natural disasters in the Philippines and Vietnam and he "noted the suffering of the Rohingya people and that they might find respite and hope." Incidentally, the Rohingyas are Muslims. Bishop Kukah did not pray for an end to suffering in Borno IDP camps, Katsina, Zamfara, Taraba, Benue or even Southern Kaduna State.

It was not the first time that I noticed a discrepancy between Bishop Kukah's beliefs and those of the Church leadership. In 2016, I received a call from Bishop Kukah, who expressed to me the belief that then Emir of Kano Muhammadu Sanusi II's controversial comment about the North practicing 13th century Islam was being reformist. I gently reminded him that not all social institutions are about reform. On the night that the College of Cardinals elected Pope Francis in 2013, CNN's reporter Christiane Amanpour asked Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, what reforms the new Pope will bring forth. Dolan said, "Unlike presidents and corporate leaders, I don't think he sees his mission as being to reform. He sees his mission as being to conserve the gospel of Jesus Christ. He may tinker with the way the message is delivered, but not with the message itself."

Maybe that was why Calvin Coolidge once said, "I have never been hurt by what I have not said."

**SPORT REPORT >>**

### WBF champion, Scorpion receives N6m car

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### Defending champion Sainz wins Dakar first stage



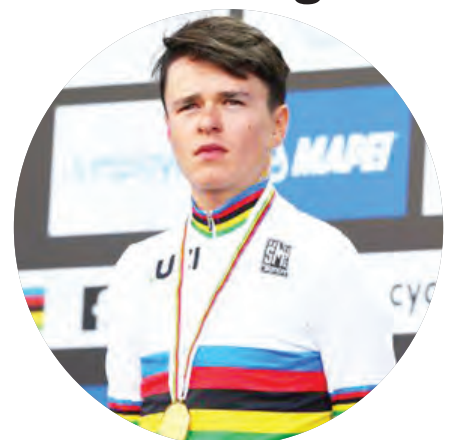
■ Carlos Sainz

Defending champion Carlos Sainz won the first stage of the Dakar Rally on Sunday in Saudi Arabia with the kingdom hosting motorsport's most punishing event for the second year since its move from South America.

The Spaniard, a three-time Dakar winner, covered the 277km special between Jeddah and Bisha in his Mini Buggy in 3hr 18min 56sec.

Sainz, whose son Carlos drives for Ferrari in Formula One, finished 25sec ahead of French teammate Stephane Peterhansel after a gripping see-saw battle which record 13-time champion Peterhansel appeared to have won until Sainz stormed home to deny his celebrated rival.

### Tom Pidcock defeated again



■ Tom Pidcock

Britain's Tom Pidcock finished third behind winner Mathieu van der Poel and Wout van Aert again in the Cyclo-cross World Cup.

Pidcock finished one minute 49 seconds behind Van der Poel and 18 secs off Van Aert, two of cycling's biggest talents.

Pidcock, 21, will race against Van der Poel and Van Aert on cycling's World Tour this year with Ineos Grenadiers.

Denise Betsema of the Netherlands won the women's race, with Britain's Anna Kay 20th.

Dutch rider Lucinda Brand won the overall title in Hulst with one race remaining, on 24 January.