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## FRONT PAGE COMMENT

### Do not let the Mambilla dream die

When the Nigerian government announced its approval for the Mambilla Hydro-electric project more than two years ago, many people thought the Buhari government has untied the Gordian knot regarding perhaps the most ambitious power projects in the country. More than two years and still counting and with not a single equipment mobilised, compensation unpaid and

worst of all, a less enthusiastic Chinese government that will provide 85% of the cost of the project, it is not far-fetched to say the project could suffer a still birth.

In his article celebrating the Federal Executive Council (FEC) decision to go ahead with the project over two years ago, one of

the two presidential spokesmen, Garba Shehu, claimed that "various governments made effort, or to put it in a better way, pretended to be committed to actualising the project but nothing came out of it."

He went on to say "sham attempts to make the project on a Build-Operate-Transfer

(BOT) also failed to achieve the commencement of construction."

In fact in that opinion article published after the FEC approval for the project on August 30, 2017, the presidential aide called the Mambilla Hydro-Electric "Buhari's Big Bang project."

The Senior Special Assistant

was not the only one celebrating as Babatunde Raji Fashola, then minister of Power, Works and Housing waxed lyrical on the project saying "it will have transformational effect on all of Nigeria's socioeconomic development. During its construction and upon its completion and subsequent operation, it will have considerable positive impact

— Contd on page 12

# 101 police killed in 2019: Rivers, Bayelsa, Edo, Kaduna lead

By Ronald Mutum, Ismail Mudashir, Abbas Jimoh, Haruna Ibrahim, Simon Echewofun Sunday (Abuja) & Titus Eleweke (Awka)

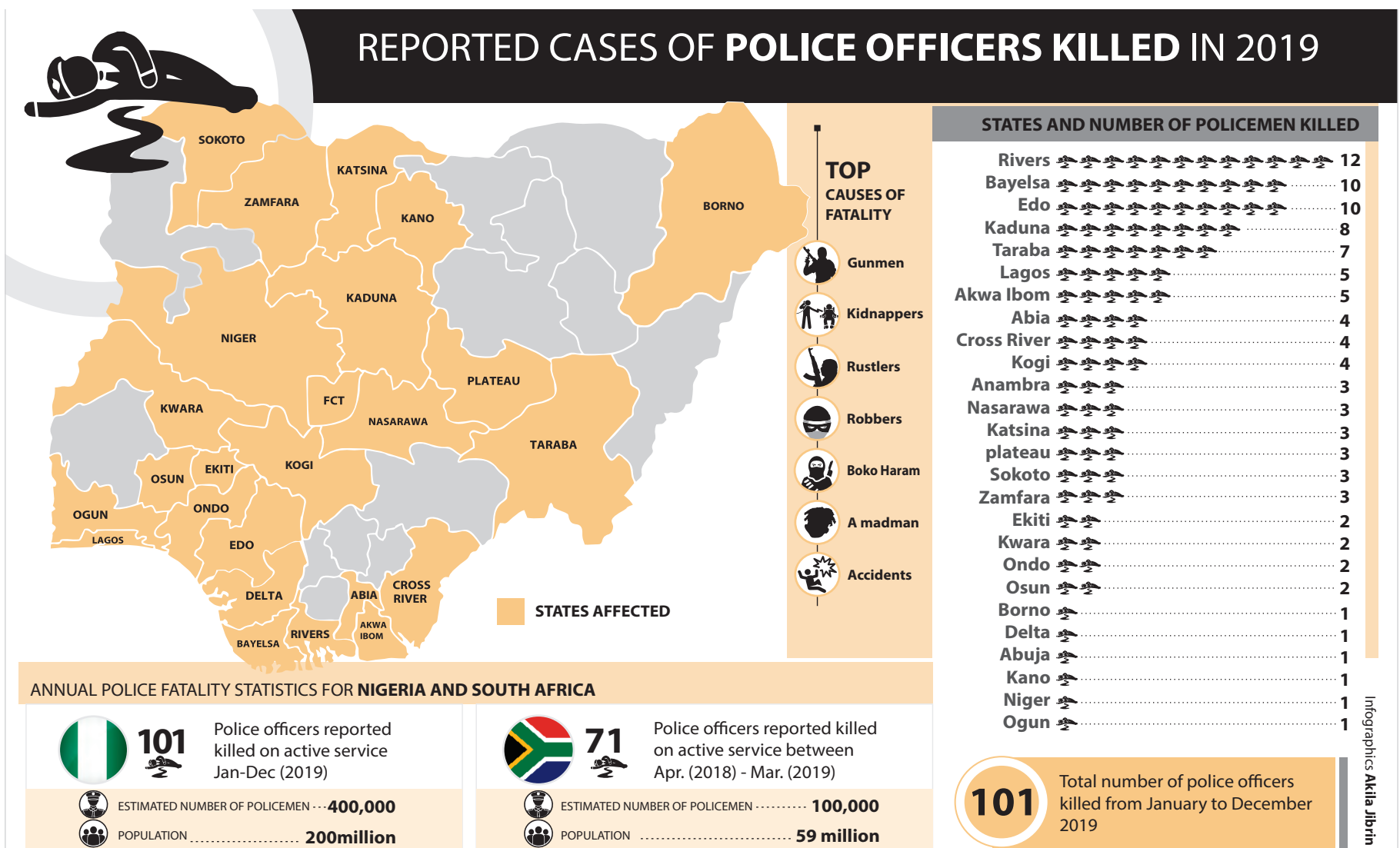
A total of 101 police officers and men were killed by gunmen in the line of duty in Nigeria in 2019, a *Daily Trust* yearlong tally has

revealed.

A list compiled by our correspondents from January to December showed that besides those

that died of natural causes, 101 police personnel were killed by armed

— Contd on page 5



Gunmen kill 4 soldiers in Niger community

P 6

PDP bigwigs in secret battle for 2023 presidential ticket

P 39

Northern govts caution FG on troops' withdrawal

P 3

# >> PAGETWO

Compiled by  
JAMIL H. SALIM

## WEATHER

ABUJA  SUNNY 34 17 MAX MIN	KADUNA  SUNNY 27 13 MAX MIN	KANO  SUNNY 24 11 MAX MIN	MAIDUGURI  SUNNY 26 11 MAX MIN	JOS  SUNNY 24 8 MAX MIN
SOKOTO  SUNNY 26 13 MAX MIN	IBADAN  SUNNY 35 19 MAX MIN	ENUGU  SUNNY 34 19 MAX MIN	P/HARCOURT  PARTLY CLOUDY 30 14 MAX MIN	LAGOS  SUNNY 35 19 MAX MIN

(Temperature in centigrade)

## AFRICAN SAYINGS >>

You think of water when the well is empty.

(Ethiopia)

Source: BBC collection of listeners' proverbs

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT >>

Government always finds a need for whatever money it gets.

- Ronald Reagan



## PHOTO OF THE DAY >>



Employees at the main restaurant in Sushizanmai chain fillet a bluefin tuna bought for £1.4m in Tokyo, Japan yesterday

Photo: Kazuhiro Nogi/AFP via Getty Images

## PRAYER TIMES

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

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna

## STOCK INDEX AS AT FRIDAY 3, 2020

GAINERS	NIGERINS	CORNERST	AFRIPRUD	ETI	MBENEFIT
OPEN	0.22	0.53	4.25	6.95	0.21
CLOSE	0.02	0.04	0.25	0.40	0.01
CHANGE	10.00	8.16	6.25	6.11	5.00
LOSERS	DEAPCAP	OMATEK	NEIMETH	LINKASSURE	INTERLINK
OPEN	0.36	0.45	0.56	0.48	2.91
CLOSE	-0.04	-0.05	-0.06	-0.05	-0.29
CHANGE	-10.00	-10.00	-9.68	-9.43	-9.06

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## NEWS

# Northern govts caution FG on troops' withdrawal

From Lami Sadiq, Jos

**The Northern Governors Forum weekend urged the Federal Government to exercise great caution in its plan to withdraw troops from volatile areas.**

The Federal Government had, last Monday after a meeting of the National Security Council chaired by President Muhammadu Buhari, disclosed that beginning from the first quarter of this year, it would gradually withdraw military operations in some volatile areas in the country.

The Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, who briefed journalists after the meeting, had clarified that withdrawal of troops would be done after an "assessment" to determine areas where peace

had returned in order to enable civil authorities to assume full control of security.

President Buhari had also on Friday reassured that withdrawal of the military from areas where peace had been restored would not be done in a manner that would expose communities to more risks of attacks.

The president had assured that the withdraw exercise would be gradual and carefully planned not abrupt or arbitrary to jeopardise the success already recorded by the military.

But the chairman of the Northern Governors Forum and governor of Plateau State, Simon Lalong, in a chat with Daily Trust, at the weekend, advised that great caution be taken in withdrawing troops, especially from volatile states where governors and other stakeholders were beginning to

build confidence in the people.

Lalong, in a chat relayed through his Director of Press and Public Affairs, Dr Makut Simon Macham, stated: "I think we should do that (military withdrawal) in a gradual process and with great caution for volatile areas, especially now that we are beginning to build confidence and encourage the return of Internally Displaced Person's (IDPs) to their original homes."

Lalong's Plateau State has witnessed almost two decades of ethno-religious crisis and is currently under the security control of Operation Safe Haven, a multi-security Special Task Force set up by the Defence Headquarters in 2010, comprising the armed forces, the Department of State Services (DSS), the Nigerian Police Force and selected paramilitary organisations.

## Iran: IGP places policemen on red alert nationwide

By Ronald Mutum

The Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, yesterday placed police commands and formations nationwide on red alert.

The spokesman of the Nigeria Police Force, Frank Mba, in a statement said this followed the intelligence report that sequel to the recent killing of an Iranian General, some domestic interests were planning to embark on massive public disturbances and sabotage.

He said consequently, zonal AIGs and police command commissioners had been directed to ensure

maximum surveillance and security of lives and property across the nation.

Mba said the police commanders were directed to ensure strategic deployments of both overt and covert police operatives to ensure adequate security and safety of citizens and foreigners, especially diplomats and diplomatic missions domiciled in Nigeria as well as the protection of critical national assets.

He said the IGP assured all Nigerians and foreigners resident in Nigeria of adequate security, while warning all potential troublemakers to steer clear of the streets and territory of Nigeria.

## B/Haram: Rep wants security beef-up in Michika

By Balarabe Alkassim

The member of the House of Representatives representing Michika / Madagali Constituency of Adamawa State, Zakariah Nyampa, has called on authorities to beef up security in Michika to avert the recurrence of the Thursday's attack by Boko Haram there.

He also urged government to secure the release of a cleric, Reverend Father Lawan, who is the DCC Secretary of Michika whose whereabouts is still unknown after the attack.

The lawmaker, in a statement yesterday, said more soldiers should be deployed in Michika with more logistics support to withstand attacks by the terrorist group.



■ President Muhammadu Buhari (right) with President-elect of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Umaro Sissoco Embaló, during Embaló's courtesy visit to the Presidential Villa in Abuja to formally invite the president for his inauguration in February at Bissau

Photo: State House

## No electricity tariff increase yet - FG

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) says it has not approved any tariff increase yet.

Usman Arabi, General Manager, Public Affairs, NERC, clarified this in a statement issued on the agency's website, obtained by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos on Sunday.

Arabi said: "The attention of the NERC has been drawn to the publication in several electronic and print media that end-user electricity tariffs have been increased following the approval of the minor review (2016 - 2018) of the 2015 Multi Year Tariff Order on Aug. 21, 2019.

"We wish to provide guidance that the minor review implemented by the commission was a retrospective adjustment of the tariff regime released in 2015.

"This is to account for changes in macro-economic indices for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 thus providing certainty about revenue shortfall that may have arisen due to the differential between tariffs approved by the regulator and actual end-user tariffs.

"The commission therefore wishes to notify the general public that no tariff increase has been approved by the commission vide the order."

He said, however, that NERC, in the

discharge of its statutory responsibilities enshrined under the Electric Power Sector Reform Act, would continue to undertake periodic reviews of electricity tariffs in accordance with the prevailing tariff methodology.

According to him, in all instances of such reviews and rule making, the commission will widely consult with stakeholders and final decision will take due regard of all contributions.

Meanwhile, electricity consumer groups in the country have kicked against increasing tariff for end-user customers.

The Energy Consumer Rights and Responsibilities Initiative and the All Electricity Consumer Protection Forum told the News Agency of Nigeria in Lagos that increase in electricity tariff was unjustified based on present realities.

Sural Fadaio, National President, Energy Consumer Rights and Responsibilities Initiative, noted that increasing the cost of electricity was not the panacea to Nigeria's energy crisis.

Also, Adeola Samuel-Ilori, National Coordinator, All Electricity Consumers Protection Forum, said the increase was totally uncalled for in all ramifications. (NAN)

## Rejig security architecture to end killings, PDP tells Buhari

By Saawua Terzungwe

The Peoples Democratic Party has asked President Muhammadu Buhari to rejig the nation's security architecture to end the wanton killings and bloodletting in the country.

The party said Nigeria could not afford to continue to be a large funeral parlour and a country where citizens have to contend daily with the fear and pain of death.

Describing the Thursday's killing of about 23 innocent Nigerians by marauders in Tawari Community in Kogi State as dastardly and completely unacceptable, the PDP, in a statement yesterday by its National Publicity Secretary, Kola Ologbondiyan, said Buhari must inject new blood into the security system.

"The PDP notes that the invasion of the helpless Tawari community and the killing spree, which reportedly lasted unrepressed for several hours, despite earlier security apprehensions in the area, points to government's direct negligence to its primary duty to protect the people.

"The PDP blames the unabated killing and violence in various parts of the country on security lapses under the present administration as well as the manifest failure of the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration to decisively track down and prosecute killers and perpetrators of violence in our country.

"Our party recalls that no decisive steps have been taken to prosecute the perpetrators of mass killings that shook our nation in Benue,

Kaduna, Katsina, Bauchi, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara, Kano, Niger, Rivers, Ebonyi, Abia and of course Kogi state, under the All Progressives Congress administration.

"It is indeed disheartening that the APC administration is now trying to reduce the functions of the office of the Commander-in-Chief of our nation to issuing press releases and condolences message each time marauders invade communities and massacre defenseless compatriots, instead of tracking down and dealing with the perpetrators.

"Such failures by government embolden killers, insurgents, marauders and kidnappers who have now virtually taken over our highways and holding citizens hostage in their homes, forests and caves," the PDP stated.

# CRIME

CLEMENT A. OLOYEDE

HEAD, CRIME DESK

Email: [crime@dailytrust.com](mailto:crime@dailytrust.com)

## THE BIG STORY

## How citizens assisted police in arresting 'habitual' phone snatcher

From Eugene Agha Lagos

A father of one, who police describe as an unrepentant robber, has been arrested by operatives of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) of the Lagos State Police Command with assistance from citizens, for allegedly snatching phones and other valuables.

The suspect, Tunde Ajeigbe, according to the police was first arrested by RRS operatives for such offence and charged to court in 2017 and remanded.

It was learnt that the 27-year-old suspect, with two other accomplice (Ekene and Bolenbe) allegedly rode a motorcycle to 7Up area of Lagos to rob unsuspecting members of the public. Ajeigbe reportedly jumped off from the bike and snatched an android phone from a passenger traveling in a commercial bus. Bala Elkana, Police Public Relations Officer, who confirmed the arrest of the suspect, said after snatching the phone, Ajeigbe joined his cohorts on the bike and sped off.

Elkana said luck went against the suspect as witnesses, who were at the scene of the crime, gave them a hot chase up to Otedola Bridge where they alerted RRS men underneath the bridge.

He said the policemen gave the fleeing thieves a hot chase forcing them to abandon

their motorcycle and run into the bush before Ajeigbe was arrested while the two others escaped with the stolen phone.

In his confessional statement with the police, Ajeigbe admitted to have been arrested for similar offence sometime in 2017 and was charged to court for the crime.

"I was arrested around Ojota after I snatched a lady's phone and got caught by the police. I was remanded in prison and released on 19th of November 2019 but couldn't go back to my wife and child," he said.

He further stated that he went back to the house he rented before going to prison but couldn't find his properties and his family again, so he "made for the street again."

He said, "I went back to Oshodi under bridge and joined my friends again who gave me clothes to wear and bought me food before we went back into our usual job."

"Although, after spending some days in Mushin, some of my area brothers who knew I just came from prison helped me secure a motorcycle on hire purchase but that wasn't enough for me as I wanted to make quick money to go and see my mother in the village after leaving home for three years without seeing her.

"My aged mother would be worried after I left home without



■ A suspect, Tunde Ajeigbe, after his arrest by RRS operatives of the Lagos State Police Command for allegedly snatching phones and other valuables

returning and no one knew my whereabouts as my wife never informed my family that I had been arrested and remanded in prison. I therefore sought to steal again to raise some money but unfortunately I was caught", the suspect was quoted to have written in his statement.

Commenting on

the development, the Commissioner of Police Hakeem Odumosu warned criminal elements in the state to stay off as the command will not allow any hiding place for them.

He ordered the case be transferred to the Special Anti-Robbery squad for further investigation.

## 3 cops arrested in Enugu over assault on citizen Obasi

From Tony Adibe, Enugu

The police command in Enugu State has arrested and detained three policemen serving in the state for allegedly beating and battering one Justice Obasi.

Spokesman of the command, Ebere Amaraizu, said in a statement yesterday that the Commissioner of Police, Ahmad Abdur-rahman has directed for a full-scale investigation into the incident to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Amaraizu stated: "The Enugu State command of the Nigeria Police Force wishes to inform members of the public that its attention has been drawn to a video in circulation in relation to unprofessional conduct of some police personnel in the assault of one Justice Obasi on 4/1/2020 around Kenyatta Uwani axis and further wishes to inform members of the public that the command views such act by the personnel as reflected in the said video as unprofessional as the force frowns at such."

The video of the assault

which reportedly occurred at the Kenyatta Uwan area in Enugu South Local Government Area of Enugu State, has been trending on the social media.

Also, a statement from the Force Public Relations Officer, DCP Frank Mba said the arrest of the cops followed the directives of the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu.

Mba stated that "the Enugu State Police Command has since identified, traced and arrested the three policemen involved in the assault of citizen - Justice Obasi. "The policemen are currently in custody pending the commencement of their Orderly Room Trial - an internal disciplinary procedure of the force.

"As we begin the New Year, IGP M.A Adamu wishes to restate his zero tolerance for the abuse of the rights of Nigerians and his commitment to running a citizens' friendly and rule of law compliant police force.

"He further assures that citizen Justice Obasi will certainly get justice in this case."

## NDLEA arrested 127 suspects, secured conviction of 34

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Adamawa Command, said it secured the conviction of 34 drug offenders and arrested 127 suspects in 2019.

Alhaji Idris Bello, the commander of the drug agency in the state, stated on Saturday in Yola that the suspects comprised of 125 males and two females, while the 34 convicts were all males

aged between 18-50 years.

"In the year under review, a total of 605.555kgs of assorted drugs were seized by the command.

"The seized items included Indian hemp, 313.342kg, and psychotropic substances, 292.213kgs.

"The command also made a first time, exceptional seizure of five cartons of Pentazocine injections which weighed 21.00 kg. (NAN)

## Man, 23, docked over assault, attempted rape

A 23-year-old man, Bashir Aminu, who allegedly assaulted and attempted to rape a 15-year-old girl in Kano has been docked before a senior magistrate court in the state.

The defendant, who claimed to be a businessman, and a resident of Tudun Rubudi village, Kano, is facing trial on a three-count charge of criminal force, assault and attempt to commit an offence to wit rape.

The prosecutor, Mr Yusuf Sale, told the court on Friday that one Usman Musa of Rimin Auzunawa Quarters, Kano, reported the case at Rijiyar Zaki

Police Division Kano, on Sept. 20, 2019. Sale said on the same day at about 12:00 p.m, the defendant lured the complainant into an uncompleted building along Rimin Auzunawa Quarters, Kano while she was selling sweet potatoes in the area.

"The defendant led the victim to the uncompleted building on the pretence to buy the sweet potato.

"The defendant struggled with the victim, who had the intention to have unlawful sexual intercourse with her, but she escaped and reported the case to her father."

## 5 persons abducted in Taraba regain freedom

From Magaji Isa Hunkuyi, Jalingo

Five persons abducted by gunmen in Taraba last week have regained their freedom. Daily Trust gathered that families of the victims paid a ransom of N300,000 on each of the five abducted persons.

It was further gathered that it took days of negotiation between the kidnappers and families of the victims before the total sum of N1.5 million was dropped at a location along Sabongida-Sansani road on the instructions of the kidnappers.

A source at Sabongida town, Dauda Adamu, said the victims were released shortly after the ransom was dropped and have since reunited with their families.

Meanwhile, a Tiv community leader, Zaki Daniel, who was abducted five days ago at Dananacha in Gassol local government of Taraba State is yet to regain his freedom.

A family source in Dananacha told our reporter that the kidnappers insisted that the sum of N50 million must be paid for the release of Daniel.

## Police rescue 3 from kidnappers in Kogi

The police in Lokoja on Saturday rescued three kidnap victims from their abductors who had kept them for six days.

In a statement, the Kogi State Police Command said the victims - Mr Mohammed Salisu Cache, Mr Abdulrazaq Mohammed and Abdulraq Anataku - were rescued unhurt in the early hours of Saturday.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP William Aya, who signed the statement, said the victims were kidnapped at about 2:15p.m. on December 30, 2019 at Eika/Itakpe junction, off Lokoja-Okene Road.

He noted that they were travelling in a vehicle from Lokoja when kidnappers opened fire on their vehicle and killed a co-traveller, Mrs Afusat Suberu, on the spot, and thereafter abducted the three.

Aya said the victims regained their freedom when a combined team of operatives from the Federal Anti-Robbery Squad Special Forces, Police Mobile Force as well as conventional police officers were mobilised for a massive manhunt for them.

Aya said the effort led to the victims' safe release from a thick forest where they were kept by the kidnappers.

"After some intensive pressures from the team of operatives, the kidnappers released all the three victims unhurt," Aya said.

# 101 police killed in 2019: Rivers, Bayelsa, Edo, Kaduna lead

— Contd from page 1

robbers, kidnappers, bandits and other criminals. *Daily Trust* reports that the fatalities in the police are traceable to poor or

substandard training and lack of equipment for the personnel to confront adversaries while discharging their responsibility of protecting Nigeria's over 200 million people.

Experts and concerned citizens spoken to decried the needless killing of police personnel and other security operatives, describing them as people who sacrifice their lives to keep the rest of society safe.

## We deserve empathy - Police operatives

Many police operatives spoken to said they deserve empathy and respect from Nigerians.

"We are an endangered species in Nigeria and this is sad," said a police sergeant who gave his name only as Ali. "In some countries, you see the government declaring national mourning and the populace on solidarity march on the streets when a policeman is killed but honestly, some people here in Nigeria celebrate when there is mob action against the police," he said.

"We are an easy target during civilian unrest," another

police officer who gave his name as Joshua, said. "Most of the time we confront trouble makers without protective garments, not even helmets. And we are insignificant when you compare the number of civilians a single policeman is expected to protect," he said.

Some families of the slain policemen spoken to said life has not been easy for them following the death of their breadwinners.

When contacted, police authorities were not willing to speak on the actual number of their officers and men killed in the line of duty within the time under review, but credible

sources and security experts said the federal government must take steps to protect its security personnel, make policing more attractive and responsive to emerging challenges.

But records show that it is not only in Nigeria that policemen are being killed by mobs. In South Africa, recent annual crime statistics revealed that 71 police officers were reported killed between April 2018 and March 2019 while in active service. There were also 39 attempted murders of police officers in the Western Cape region during the period.

## States where more policemen were killed

The highest of the fatalities in Nigeria occurred in Rivers State in the South South where 12 police personnel died between February and September 2019 from incidents involving gunmen, kidnappers and robbers.

The neighbouring state of Bayelsa also in the South South came second with 10 policemen killed by gunmen in January, March, July and November.

Edo which is also in the South South also has same rating with 10 policemen losing their lives within four months, between January and October. The attacks were by gunmen and kidnappers.

In Kaduna State in the North West, gunmen and kidnappers killed eight policemen in February, April, August and November.

Then seven others died in Taraba State in the North East from attacks by militia, soldiers. The incidents occurred in May, August and September of last year.

Five policemen were killed in Lagos in the South West from attacks by cultists, mob, armed robbers, accident and a fire incident. Another

five died in Akwa Ibom in the South South in May and July following an attack by gunmen.

Four policemen were killed in each of the states of Abia (South East), Cross River (South South) and Kogi (North Central). The death toll resulted from a combination of attacks by gunmen, kidnappers, soldiers, herdsmen and robbers between February and November 2019.

In Anambra State in the South East, three policemen died in July and December in an attack by kidnappers and a clash with IPOB. Another three officers in the convoy of the Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State in North Central were killed by robbers in Akwanga area of the state in August.

Twelve policemen were also killed in the four states of Katsina (North West), Plateau (North Central), Sokoto (North West) and Zamfara (North West). Reports said three of them died in each of these states killed mostly by gunmen, bandits and through an accident between January and August 2019.

Eight policemen died in separate attacks that happened between January and November 2019 in four states. The attackers were identified as gunmen, robbers, kidnappers, and a madman. Two of these security personnel died in Ekiti, Kwara, Ondo and Osun, respectively.

There were other separate incidents that resulted in the killing of six police personnel in six states. Analysis of this trend shows that a policeman was killed in a Boko Haram attack in May in Borno State (North East) and another was killed by kidnapers in September in Delta (South South).

A clash with the Islamic Movement of Nigeria in July 2019 left a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) dead in Abuja (FCT); another inspector was killed after he was stabbed by unknown persons in Kano (North West) in August 2019.

Rustlers killed a policeman in September in Niger State (North Central), while gunmen killed a policeman in Ogun (South West) in February 2019.

## Life not easy for us - Families of slain cops

Some family members of the slain policemen interviewed have lamented the problems they are passing through, describing their conditions as critical.

Speaking to our correspondent in December, Mrs Olubunmi Ediale, who is wife of one of the policemen that died in the line of duty, demanded the payment of compensation to cushion the effect of the loss of their breadwinner.

Her husband, Inspector Mark Ediale, was among the policemen gunned down by soldiers in Ibbi, Taraba State on August 6, 2019.

*Daily Trust* reports that Inspector Ediale, Sergeants Usman Danazumi and Dahiru Musa, and two civilians were killed during a confrontation with soldiers along Ibi-Jalingo Road in Taraba State.

The policemen had an encounter with the soldiers while conveying a kidnap

kingpin, Hamisu Bala (Wadume) from where he was arrested.

"I am a fulltime housewife. If not for his boss, Abba Kyari, my children would have been out of school by now. He was the one that paid for their school fees last term," she said.

Also speaking, Mr. Ahmed Audu whose brother, Sgt Dahiru Musa, was also killed in the Wadume encounter, said the entitlements of his brother were still being processed.



■ Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu

## 'Nigerian policemen are vulnerable'

On December 2, 2019, an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Oliver Abbey and Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Joseph Akubo were killed in a clash between the police and some people suspected to be members of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) in Oraifite, Ekwusigo LGA of Anambra State.

Witnesses said the police personnel stormed the family house of one Barr. Ifeanyi Ejiofor, a legal counsel to (IPOB) and Nnamdi Kanu, in Umunakwa Ifite village. The suspected IPOB members engaged the police in a gun duel in which the two officers were killed. When *Daily Trust* visited the scene, our correspondent observed that a police patrol vehicle, some residential buildings, shops and motorcycles had been torched. While ACP Abbey was the Area Commander of Oraifite Division, ASP Akubo who led the operation was the Commander of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

Families of the deceased officers are already seeking for justice, saying the perpetrators should be brought to book. Wife of the slain ACP Abbey, Rita Abbey, who is also a police officer, said she had handed everything to God.

A retired security personnel, Ali Musa said: "All these things are happening because the policemen are vulnerable and they are overburdened. You will be appalled when you look at the ratio of policemen in Nigerian and the people they are policing.

"Government must adopt new technology in training; it should also pay the police well and give them assurance that even if they die in service,

their families would be taken of," he said. A retired Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG), Austin Iwar, told *Daily Trust* that the vulnerability of police men on duty has to do with capacity.

He queried the individual capacity of policemen in terms of proficiency, skill and competence, noting that the men need to be proficient in the use of equipment if it is available.

He said: "Training is dead in the police," explaining that, this has to do with government's poor funding of the police.

He noted that in the 2018 budget, police got only 20 per cent of their budget requirements, arguing that, "There is no way 20 per cent can solve both the internal and external challenges that the police are supposed to deal with."

"There are about 32 police colleges but none of them is properly equipped. So if somebody that is not trained is asked to do the work, naturally you expect there will be fatalities...You post police officers on operational duty and many are not trained in tactical operations so they cannot protect themselves," he added.

Also speaking to *Daily Trust*, retired Commissioner of Police Lawrence Alobi said the Nigeria Police Force is the least paid on the African continent.

He said it is sad that Nigeria is a society that is not interested in protecting its police force, adding that they don't have the equipment, they don't have the protective gears and some don't have bulletproof vests.

He said the police have been neglected and their loyalty has been taken for granted.

## Why policemen are being killed

The Convener of Good Governance Team (GGT), Mr. Tunde Salman, decried the killing of policemen saying, "A general value reorientation is needed. The state, society and individual family have important roles to play. There is need to also intensify efforts to curb drug abuse."

The Executive Director YIAGA Africa, Mr. Samson Itodo called on Nigerians to uphold the dignity of the human person and right to life.

He also asked the police operatives to do soul-searching so as to endear themselves in the hearts of the public.

"When some police officers are notorious for extrajudicial killings, unlawful detention and human right abuses, they lose the public sympathy because it is considered tit-for-tat. Notwithstanding, it is unlawful for anyone to kill a policeman," he said. Hajiya Salmat Abdulwaheed of the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) said, "The Nigeria police system does not treat ordinary citizens the way their counterparts in other countries treat ordinary citizens. I believe that these and more are the reasons why some Nigerians tend not to be sympathetic when it is announced that policemen were attacked."

## Gunmen kill 4 soldiers in Niger community

From Romoke W. Ahmad, Minna

**A**rmed bandits numbering about 30 on Sunday morning were said to have killed four soldiers and injured three others in an ambush in Sarkin Pawa in Munda Local Government Area of Niger State.

The four soldiers included a captain who led the soldiers in the operation, a staff sergeant and two corporals. Some civilians were also said to have been killed in the attack.

The soldiers were said to have responded to a distress call from Gwar community in Munya local government that armed bandits had invaded the community going from house-to-house and shooting sporadically.

The soldiers, on receiving the distress call, mobilised from their base in Zazzaga community and headed to Gwar accompanied by some armed policemen in an armored vehicle.

It was learnt that before their arrival, the bandits were said to have escaped, but the soldiers decided to pursue them not knowing that they (bandits) had laid an ambush.

The bandits were said to have opened fire and killed the captain on the spot while the remaining soldiers engaged them in a gun battle which lasted for almost one hour.

Three other soldiers were killed and their two Hilux vans burnt by the bandits who absconded with the soldiers Machine Gun (MG)

rifle.

A source close to the community said the soldiers were overpowered by the bandits who numbered about 30 when they invaded the community on about 10 motorcycles.

The chairman of Munya Local Government, Alhaji Mohammed Garba Dazz, who confirmed the incident said the bandits held the community hostage for several hours before the arrival of the soldiers.

"The bodies of the soldiers have been brought to the Sarkin Pawa police station and I am just from there. That is all I can tell you for now", he said.

Salihu Bakari, a retired military officer condemned the killing, describing it as "heinous

and a call to action."

According to him, "The killing of the soldiers in Niger State shows the level of vulnerability of our troops. There is no reason bandits should hold a section of Nigeria hostage.

"But the bigger picture is that the bandits are inching closer to the centre... Niger is not faraway from the centre. They held sway in far North West but they should not be allowed to continue expanding their frontiers towards the FCT.

"Government must be decisive in ending killings not only in the North East or North West but in all parts of the country by making security agencies battle ready," he said.



■ Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum alights from a van owned by vigilantes, during his visit to Damboa town in the state to distribute food items to hundreds of internally displaced persons at the weekend

## DPR blames Kaduna gas explosion on illegal transfer of LPG to cylinders

The Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) says preliminary investigations have revealed that the Kaduna gas explosion was caused by illegal decanting (transfer) of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) into another cylinder by operators of the facility.

DPR Head, Public Affairs Mr Paul Osu, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday in Lagos.

"In line with our regulatory oversight on the oil and gas industry, the agency

immediately mobilised staff to the scene to investigate the cause of the explosion.

"We wish to inform the public that we are carrying out further investigations on the incident, and we will update as soon as we conclude.

"The department will continue to monitor and sensitise members of the public on safe handling of petroleum products to prevent the occurrence of incidences like this.

"We appeal to members of the public to continue to assist in reporting the activities of illegal operators to the nearest DPR office," he said.

Osu said the DPR was saddened by the unfortunate incident which occurred at an unlicensed LPG retail shop in Kaduna state, resulting in fatalities. The explosion occurred at about 1:00 p.m., at a gas shop located by the main road opposite Total filling station. (NAN)

## 2 suffocate from charcoal smoke in Jos

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

Two friends, Saminu Idris and Idris Dahiru both aged 25 and residents of Gangare area of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State have died of suffocation from charcoal smoke on Saturday.

*Daily Trust* gathered that the incident occurred around 12:30am after the deceased started a charcoal fire to warm their room due to the extreme cold from the harmattan being experienced in the city.

Our correspondent reports that the deceased were believed to have inhaled smoke from the charcoal

fire which resulted to suffocation from the toxic fume due to absence of ventilation in the room.

Idris Aliyu Adam, father to one of the deceased (Saminu Idris), who confirmed the incident yesterday at his residence said his family received the news with shock, saying "what happened was the will of God. We love them but there is nothing we can do. That is their destiny."

The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), had on Friday stated that the temperature in Jos had decreased to 6.7 degree Celsius making the city the coldest in the country.

## 2 billion van drivers, 73 others arraigned for traffic law violation

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

Two billion van drivers are among 73 others who were at the weekend arraigned before the state mobile court for allegedly violating the Lagos State traffic Laws.

The accused whose names were not given as at press time also forfeited their vehicles to the state government.

The accused were charged with offences ranging from driving against traffic to indiscriminate parking on a "No-Parking zone" thereby causing gridlock along the road.

Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Bala Elkana, who confirmed the incident, said

## AIB probes Turkish Airlines incident at Port Harcourt airport

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

The Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) has commenced investigation into the incident involving Turkish Airlines, which happened in Port Harcourt International Airport (PHIA).

The incident involving an Airbus 330-300 aircraft with registration number TC-LOL occurred on December 31, 2019 when the aircraft had a burst tyre on landing on the airport's runway.

The General Manager, Public Affairs of AIB, Mr. Tunji Oketunbi, said the bureau was notified of the serious incident about 3:30am local time, on the fateful day.

He said the aircraft was enroute Port Harcourt from Istanbul, Turkey with 295 passengers and 11 crew members on board when it suffered a burst tyre on landing on runway 21, Port Harcourt International airport.

The aircraft veered off the runway and managed to taxi to the new international terminal.

He, however, said all the occupants disembarked with no injury.

## Obaseki earmarks N6bn for community projects

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

Edo State Governor Godwin Obaseki has earmarked N6 billion for execution of development projects across the 24 constituencies in the state.

Obaseki in a statement, said the projects to be executed in partnership with members of the State House of Assembly, will further bring development closer to the people, thereby improving the living standard of residents.

"As you are aware, our focus and emphasis in the last three years have been to improve your living conditions and make you more productive. We are improving the educational system and emphasising technical education, improving access to quality healthcare, creating opportunities for businesses to thrive, providing more jobs and investing in infrastructure."

the state Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, declared a state of emergency on management and traffic.

"28 of the offenders were arrested for driving against traffic while the rest were arrested for indiscriminate parking at different clubs and businesses in the State. Such indiscriminate parking results in major obstructions on the highways and streets and cause traffic gridlock.

"The vehicles impounded included private cars, commercial vehicles, trucks, billion vans and escort vehicles that drove against traffic. The message is clear; no one is above the law. The police spokesman stated."

# Bakare to Buhari: Determine your successor in 2023

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

**Presiding Pastor of Latter Rain Assembly, Pastor Tunde Bakare, has advised President Muhammadu Buhari to determine who succeeds him.**

Bakare, who Buhari's running mate on the platform of the defunct Congress for Progressive Change

during the 2011 presidential election, yesterday asked Nigerians to seek God's intercession so that the president would not hand over to "thieves and perverts."

In his state of the nation address titled, "Unveiling the True Enemies of Nigeria", Bakare charged Buhari to build a strong legacy facilitated by accurate succession.

According to him, a key responsibility that history bestows on the president is "to institutionalise systems of accurate succession that will build and sustain the Nigeria we desire."

He said: "God is into succession. Anyone in government that does not concern himself about succession is destroying his own legacy because the person coming after you can just mess

up everything.

"Let us ask God for grace of accurate succession; that he (Buhari) will not hand over the baton of government and governance to thieves and perverts, to corrupt and power-drunk individuals, but those who are true patriots, who will serve like our founding fathers served; though not perfect, they did their best."

## No mass recall of ambassadors - Presidency

The Presidency has dismissed reports that there was a mass recall of ambassadors.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, in a statement, said that only 25 career ambassadors, who attained the retirement age or had been in public service for 35 years, were recalled.

"There was nothing like mass recall of ambassadors. What happened lately is that 25 career ambassadors, who attained the retirement age or 35 years of public service

in December 2018, were recalled.

"They were allowed to remain at their duty posts, given an extension, if that is the word, in view of the upcoming elections, which is now behind us.

"No other ambassadors, besides these ones, are recalled.

"The non-career Ambassadors are in place while career Ambassadors with more years of public service remain where they are," the statement made available to newsmen on Sunday in Abuja, said. (NAN)



■ Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe (3rd left), sympathises with the family of the chairman of Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Prof. Simon P. Mallam, who died at the weekend in a fire accident that occurred at Sabon Tasha in the state, during a gas explosion from an illegal gas plant

## CAN kicks against soldiers' withdrawal from volatile areas

By Abbas Jimoh

The president of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Dr Samson Ayokunle, yesterday urged the Federal Government to suspend its planned withdrawal of troops from volatile areas.

Ayokunle, who spoke in Yola, while commissioning the CAN Secretariat in Adamawa State, warned that troops' withdrawal could embarrass the government and lead to

policy somersault.

"The embarrassment these terrorists may cause the government if they go ahead to withdraw troops may be too much. A word is enough for the wise.

"I want to thank the Federal Government for not giving up in taking the battle to the haters of peace who are terrorists causing havoc in this region (northeast), killing innocent people with reckless abandon," he said.

## Buhari mourns victims of Kaduna gas explosion

By Muideen Olaniyi

President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday expressed sadness over the Saturday's gas explosion which killed the chairman of the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Prof. Simon Mallam, his son and three others at Sabon Tasha area of Kaduna.

Buhari, in a statement by one of his spokesmen, Garba Shehu, said: "I am deeply touched by this unfortunate incident that claimed the lives

of Professor Simon Mallam, his son and others.

"The death of the erudite Professor has robbed Nigeria of a great scientist whose services were acutely needed at a time we are increasing emphasis on science and technology for development.

"I extend my heartfelt sympathy to his family and those of other victims of the gas explosion. May God comfort these families and give them the fortitude to bear the loss."

## Visa-on-arrival video fake - NIS CG

### • FG denies issuance of visa-on-arrival

By Joshua Odeyemi

The Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Immigration Service, Muhammad Babandede, yesterday described a video of visa-on-arrival as fake.

In a statement by the NIS spokesman, Sunday James, the service said the video was made

by mischief makers.

"CGI Muhammad Babandede MFR wishes to inform the general public that high level discussion is still on-going between the Honourable Minister of Interior Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola and the Comptroller General in view of the need to give wider publicity to the policy and get the general public

aligned with the good intentions of the Federal government.

"The Nigeria Immigration Service totally dissociates itself as a very respected and responsible professional service from the purported, image damaging video that has the tendency of misinforming the public and cast doubt on the good intentions of the government," the statement read in part.

## PDP urges N/Assembly to halt electricity tariff hike

By Saawua Terzungwe

The Peoples Democratic Party has rejected the new increase in electricity tariff announced by the Federal Government and asked the National Assembly to halt it.

The party alleged that the hike was a draconian, obnoxious and provocative policy which was completely against the interest and wellbeing of Nigerians.

The PDP, in a statement yesterday by its National Publicity Secretary, Kola Ologbondiyan, alleged that the policy was in furtherance of the

fleeing of Nigerians who were "overburdened and groaning under the weight of high costs, economic repression and heavy taxes already foisted on them by the government.

"It is lamentable that Nigerians, who are already suffering the devastating negative impact of the recent increase in the Value Added Tax (VAT) from 5 percent to 7.5 by the APC administration, are now being further suppressed with increased electricity tariff.

"Our party holds that the increase in electricity tariff, under the prevailing harsh economic

conditions, is injurious to the wellbeing of Nigerians as it will further stress the productive sector and lead to an upsurge in the cost of regular and essential goods and services, including food, medicine, housing, education and other critical needs.

"This APC policy, if allowed, will worsen the suffering of Nigerians as it will put more stress on already overburdened families, cripple businesses, result in job losses and exacerbate the prevailing frightening unemployment rate under the Buhari administration.

## Alleged N4m bribe: I don't know Shehu Sani - CJN

By John Chuks Azu

The Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Tanko Muhammad, has denied media reports that Senator Shehu Sani demanded N4 million to settle some judges in a case.

Sani had reportedly demanded the sum from ASD Motor's Alhaji Sani Dauda to pay four judges to terminate a case in court.

But the CJN, according to a yesterday statement by the

Director of Information in the Supreme Court, Festus Akande, described the claim as "a blatant lie and a figment of his imagination."

"Even though the veracity of the true source of the unsubstantiated statement has not yet been ascertained to know if it was really from the former senator, it is, however, imperative to keep the records straight by letting the public know that Justice Tanko

Muhammad has never, in his entire life, seen or had any form of encounter or interactions, either directly or remotely with Shehu Sani, let alone giving him assurances of what is not only unethical but equally despicable and inglorious, to say the least," he said.

The CJN promised to decide on further action to be taken after investigation on what it termed the "flagrant defamation of character."

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Sunday, January 5, 2020

## Zulum's Model

### A Case of Gubernatorial Empathy

**G**IVEN his humble background, Borno State governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, was not born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth. He was neither born great nor was greatness thrust upon him. He achieved greatness (apologies to Shakespeare). His story: "From my humble background, I trekked seven km daily to school in Mafa town of Mafa Local Government Area in Borno State, Nigeria and covered same distance to help my father, a peasant farmer in his farm."

He added: "I paid my secondary education and National Diploma (ND) fees and also sponsored my education (to obtain an undergraduate degree in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Maiduguri; Master's at the University of Ibadan and PhD at UNIMAID, both in Soil and Water Engineering)". In order to make ends meet, he worked variously as a taxi driver for about 16 years before he became a professor in 2016. Things were so rough for him that he could not afford to build his own house even as a professor, and when he was appointed Rector of Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, and later Commissioner for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RRR), one of the ministries created during the second term of Governor Kashim Shettima. Indeed, as Governor Shettima said, one of the reasons he likes Prof. Zulum is that, in spite of being in control of billions as commissioner, he neither bought a house nor a personal car. We can go on and on to speak eloquently about this governor that is doing a lot to rewrite the story of Borno State. Perhaps the best gift the people could give him was his election as governor in March, last year, in recognition of his selfless services to them.

Unless Prof Zulum is eventually swayed by the bad influence that has come to represent the banana peel for many people in power, especially in Nigeria, the sky is the limit for him. His rise to his present position could be described as meteoric, from a humble beginning, to a university don, then commissioner and eventually governor. The interesting thing about him is that he has continued to be guided by this humble past and has not allowed the allures of office to make him forget, as they say, the 'son of whom he is'.

This indeed, would be the reason he is able to bond with the people. He is able to empathise with them because he once passed through what many of them are now passing through. Indeed, he has come to serve the state at the right time, given the state's position as the epicenter of the Boko Haram insurgency.

Zulum's latest exploit was his three-day visit to Gwoza Local Government



Area, a former caliphate of Boko Haram in the southern part of the state, where he commissioned several projects and supervised the distribution of 55,000 bags and cartons of food items to more than 16,000 displaced and vulnerable persons. Gwoza is a place dreaded by many prominent persons because of the activities of Boko Haram in the past. If they must go there, they went there on flying visits! Located between parts of Sambisa Forest and Mandara Mountains, the town fell to Boko Haram in 2014 and was indeed the headquarters of the insurgents before the military retook it. This was the place where Governor Zulum spent three days, from Sunday till Tuesday, last week. The governor also visited Pulka and Ngoshe towns during the period.

He donated food items to the displaced and vulnerable people in the local government area on behalf of the state government.

**"In just seven months, Governor Zulum has positively touched the lives of his people in diverse ways. So far, it appears the governor is passionate about governance. His is a story of gubernatorial empathy. To have gone to celebrate with the people in a delicate region, close to enemy territory, speaks eloquently to his courage and conviction"**

These included 10,000 bags of 25kg rice and 10,000 gallons of vegetable oil. The managing director of the Northeast Development Commission, Mohammed Goni Alkali, who was on the governor's entourage also donated 15,000 bags of processed maize, 15,000 bags of beans, and 5,000 gallons of oil on behalf of the Commission. In addition to food, Governor Zulum gave out 20,000 pieces of wrappers and N20 million to thousands of vulnerable persons as part of humanitarian support for restoration of livelihoods in the town. Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume, as well as the State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Ali Bukar Dalori, amongst many others, were also on the entourage.

In Pulka, the governor commissioned a primary healthcare centre and directed the Borno State Rural Water Supply Agency to drill ten deep aquifer boreholes to address the perennial water problem in the town. His desire to let the displaced persons return to normal life informed his order to the Borno State Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement to rebuild additional 750 homes, in addition to the 250, which he earlier assessed the progress of work on, to be able to accommodate at least 1,000 families at Ngoshe. The governor was also at Government Day Secondary School in Gwoza town, where he directed the Ministry of Education to rehabilitate the school to facilitate the students' return.

It is an understatement to say that last month was a busy one for Governor Zulum. He travelled to Kala-Balge, Bama, Konduga and Askira-Uba local government areas and was in all the councils, to get directly involved in the distribution of food items to more than 30,000 displaced and vulnerable citizens. He had earlier toured Monguno, Damasak, Gajiram, Gubio, Dikwa and Ngala, and other areas in the northern and central parts of the state to supervise food distribution, identify community needs, fast track ongoing projects and issue directives for new ones.

In just seven months, Governor Zulum has positively touched the lives of his people in diverse ways. So far, it appears the governor is passionate about governance. His is a story of gubernatorial empathy. To have gone to celebrate with the people in a delicate region, close to enemy territory, speaks eloquently to his courage and conviction. Indeed, his trip to Gwoza this time was not the first of such. As the Commissioner for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, he went to many places in connection with his assignment without security details.

We commend his uncommon touch to other governors in particular, and public officials in general.

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## 2023: The race is on!

Our friends, Tamuno, Dike and Hadi, look at how current agitations will impact the next round of national elections. As usual, they agree to disagree; not sit on the fence but ventilate their respective perspectives with uncommon vigour.

Tamuno: Happy New Year to you, guys. I hope this will be a better year that will lead us closer to becoming one country where we all stand in true brotherhood.

Dike: It depends on what you mean. Don't you see that we have all been naive thinking that politics is about development? No, as you can see, the politicians started jostling for the 2023 ticket even before Buhari was declared winner of the last presidential election. It's all about power for narrow selfish ends. Not development. So, I don't know where your optimism comes from.

Hadi: The fact that yesterday was rainy and stormy does not mean that there will be no sunshine tomorrow. I think being hopeful is in order, although I'm also worried about how our politicians treat the issue of development with levity.

Dike: Not just development. Equity! If we all don't feel that we are stakeholders in the country, you can't have a country. Alienation and marginalisation are the handmaids of separatist agitation.

Tamuno: But there's a silver lining in the sky. The problem, at times, is that we allow the problems envelope our consciousness to such an extent that we fail to appreciate positive developments. This is not to say that there's no marginalisation. What I'm saying is that there's hope for the future.

Dike: How do you mean?

Tamuno: Have you been following the news lately? A coalition of Northern youth groups recently issued a statement in support of the rotation of the presidency to the South in 2023. That's equity if you ask me.

Hadi: I was going to draw your attention to the fact that in the North, one size does not fit all. There's a lot of independent thinking going on. That is why at times some of us feel that the characterisation of a whole section of the country as narrow-minded is unfair. We all have our narrow-minded cabals and progressive Turks all over Nigeria.

Dike: I agree. But what is the real substance of the declaration?

Tamuno: I'll read the position of the Arewa Consultative Youth Movement to you: "The need for us to be introspective and proactive on issues has now warranted us to state clearly without equivocation that we are calling for a return to the South-South presidency. We have a mission to change the mindset of youths and to reawaken them to the spirit of nationalism and dedication to ways that will bring about peace, progress and development in Nigeria."

Hadi: I read that too. Go on!

Dike: Who is their backer?

Tamuno: Let me continue

reading — "The north has occupied leadership position of the country since independence, more than any other region; it is time for South-South youths to produce the president in 2023... Whosoever wants to emerge must have a global inter-disciplinary perspective, must engage in long term empirical planning, have a strong communication skills, must be able to prioritise social justice and well-being over financial growth... Nigerian is a nation standing half in the light of progress and promise and half in darkness of injustice. We lived in a period of grave uncertainty... As things now stand, we have no idea where the nation would be heading to if the North retains power in 2023."

Dike: Oh, interesting. They said all that?

Tamuno: Yes.

Dike: But why do they want the presidency zoned to the South-south? Why not the Southeast that has never produced a Nigerian executive president?

Hadi: Personally, I would have said let's give the Southeast a chance but I know that many people have reservations about the separatist tendencies of that part of the country and would rather have someone from the Southwest or South-south.

Dike: That's the more reason you should bring the Southeast closer, not alienate them.

Hadi: I understand your sentiments but I'm only being candid with you.

Tamuno: The Southeast should support the South-south because the last time President Jonathan was there, the Southeast formed the nucleus of the government.

Dike: When the Southeast produces the president, the South-south will also be taken care of.

Hadi: The way you're both excluding the Southwest gives me a déjà vu feeling. Have you considered the possibility that your failure to agree among yourselves could actually throw the presidency into the laps of the North again?

Tamuno: How?

Hadi: Let me tell you a story. There was a coveted ripe mango on a tree. One Southerner climbed swiftly; another threw a rope and dragged himself towards the mango while yet another brought a ladder. The Northerner was quietly minding his business, sitting under the tree. All the commotion caused by the southerners dislodged the mango and it fell into the laps of the northerner. You get the point?

Dike: I get your point. But the story hasn't ended. The southerners came down and cut down the damned mango tree!

Tamuno: I like that conclusion. I think I'll drink to that.

Hadi: You guys like bending stories, don't you? (laughs)

Dike: Yes, just as much as you like telling incomplete stories (laughs)

Tamuno: Happy New Year!

## TETFund: Not business as usual

By Solomon Olawepo

Why are we like this in this country? Why do we like to do things blindly, not minding the consequence of some of our actions? Why do we not know how to celebrate those who have indeed distinguished themselves in service to our fatherland?

The above questions came to my mind when I stumbled on a call for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) to investigate Professor Suleiman Bogoro, the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). I was somewhat confused as to whom they were referring to.

The same Professor Suleiman Bogoro that has transformed the operations of TETFund or another? I asked myself. I considered such calls a disservice to a man that has indeed shown like a bright light in administering the affairs of TETFUND to the admiration of all and sundry in the tertiary education sector.

I am particularly conversant with the transformation at TETFund since 2019 when Professor Suleiman Bogoro was reinstated as executive secretary. I am aware of the jubilation that greeted his appointment. Accolades were not in short supply as they continued to pour unabated for a man who for the two years he held a stint as Executive Secretary brought numerous reforms in the operations of TETFund, as well as the entrenchment of transparency and accountability.

As a testament to this, only recently, the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) awarded the TETFund under the watch of Professor Suleiman Bogoro, the Best Project in Education Award for "its commitment to integrating ICT into the processes of its Beneficiary Institutions across the country to enhance the skills of academic and non-teaching staff."

It is also on record that Professor Suleiman Bogoro was recognized as the Public Service Person of the Year 2019 at the Leadership Newspapers Awards, in recognition of his efforts at "promoting transparency and accountability in the conduct of public affairs in Nigeria."

You would agree with me that this can't be the same Professor Suleiman Bogoro that they intend to drag his name in the mud before the public as corrupt and one lacking in transparency and accountability in the conduct of the affairs of TETFund.

I must admit that I am still in shock with the accusation of Professor Suleiman Bogoro. However, I am consoled that those behind this campaign of slander and defamation of character are indeed disgruntled and likely amongst those whose sources of income have been stopped with the reforms introduced in the operations of TETFund.

While it is understandable that we are in a clime where one reputation is quickly rubbished when you stand on the side of truth, it is also despicable how some individuals and organizations would condescend

so low to the extent of peddling outright falsehood on individuals in return for a plate of porridge. The way and manner these mischievous individuals have dragged the name of Professor Suleiman Bogoro in the mud is most despicable.

This largely explains why some intellectuals and technocrats would always hesitate before taking up a public service appointment at the end of the day, because some disgruntled people within the system in active connivance with contractors would do all possible to undermine those who have so decided to be excellent in their service.

The case of Professor Suleiman Bogoro is that of a silent achiever and one who has matched words with actions since he resumed the leadership of TETFund. It is on record that since assumption of office, there has been a turnaround in the fortunes and operations of TETFund in the sense that transparency and accountability are the watchwords. For some of us conversant with the happenings in TETFund, we dare say the agency has never witnessed this level of administrative competence that has given rise to institutional reforms that have placed TETFund on a high and enviable pedestal.

I am tempted to think that one of the sins of Professor Suleiman Bogoro is the bold step taken by TETFund to retrieve over N10 billion from non-performing institutions in recent times. According to him, the monies were meant for projects awarded, but not executed by beneficiary institutions. What does this tell you? Doesn't it speak the volume of a man of integrity and impeccable character?

It is, therefore, my considered opinion that no amount of blackmail can deter Professor Suleiman Bogoro from implementing institutional reforms in the operations of TETFund. This is on the heels of the fact that only recently, Professor Suleiman Bogoro threatened to sanction and blacklist any contractor who fails to execute any of the TETFund's contracts awarded to them according to specifications.

It is thus naturally expected that once you fight the monster called corruption, it also fights back. And this is the case of TETFund and nothing more. I think well-meaning Nigerians should do well to state in unequivocal terms that Nigeria belongs to all, and those sacrificing should not be vilified for merely refusing to bow to the enemies of our country.

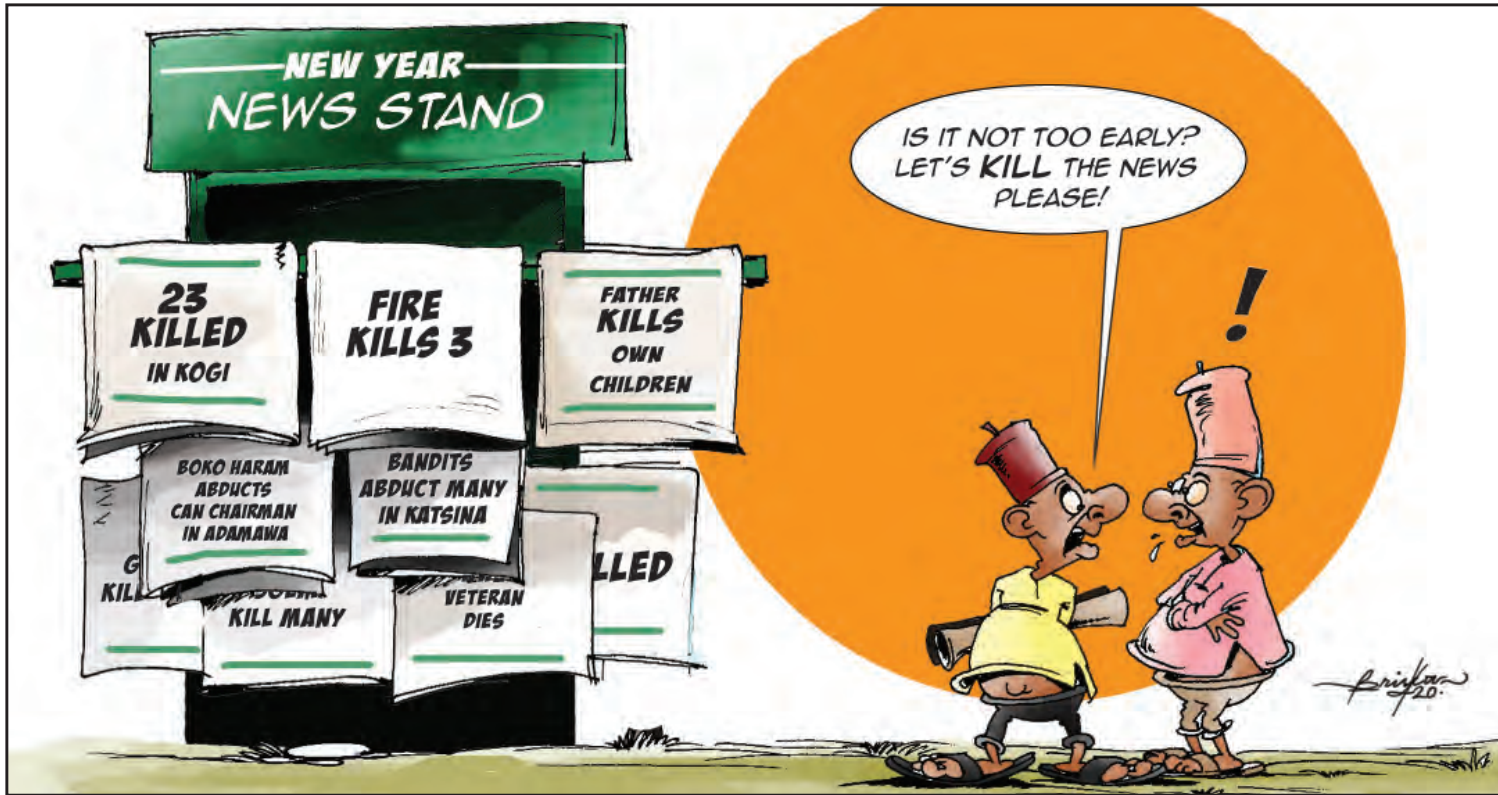
And those behind this ill-fated campaign of calumny should do well to desist from such as TETFund under the leadership of Professor Suleiman Bogoro is indeed on the right track and should not be distracted. It is not business as usual, and so shall it remain. Its either they want to join hands with him in service to Nigeria or leave him alone. This is not the time to pull him down. Rather, a time to lift him in appreciation for his excellent contribution to the development of tertiary education in Nigeria.

*Olawepo, a public affairs commentator, wrote this article from Abuja.*

## Letter to the Editor

e-mail letters@dailytrust.com text 08131800030

CARTOON by AKILA JIBRIN



## Federal College of Education in Osun State

I wish to commend and congratulate the Federal Government of Nigeria for its recent decision to establish six Federal Colleges of Education in six states including Osun. This congratulatory message is based on two grounds. First, any public or private expenditure on education is money well spent. Its trigger effects on other critical sectors of development can be monumental. Secondly, in the document which conveyed the establishment of these colleges, the Federal Government of Nigeria under President Muhammadu Buhari was emphatic in admitting that its choice of those six states of Bauchi, Benue, Ebonyi, Osun, Sokoto and Edo was driven by the fact that those states had no Federal College of Education.

The PRO of the National Commission for Colleges of Education, Mr. Amen Isaac, made it known that the decision to situate those six colleges in the six states was to right the injustice of the past. This is reassuring for Nigerians who feel that government at the Federal level is not unresponsive to Nigeria's diversity.

Some facts on previous locations of federal and state institutions in Osun State will be of help. Permit me to give a few examples.

Osun State as it is the case with most states in Nigeria has three senatorial districts. It has nine federal constituencies. The three senatorial districts are Osun West, Osun East and Osun Central. Of the nine Federal Constituencies in Osun State, Ayedire, Iwo and Ola-Oluwa Federal Constituency is one with its headquarters in Iwo.

Of the nine federal constituencies, this federal constituency is the only one without either a federal or state institution. Osogbo has several tertiary institutions. Ilesa and Ile-Ife have the highest concentration of state and Federal institutions. The same goes for Ila Orangun with the Federal Police College and Osun State College of Education. Yet, Iwo local government has the highest population in Osun State.

If respect for Constitutional provisions on Federal character, logic, social justice, social inclusion and the desire for peaceful co-existence are the sole criteria for deciding locations of institutions, no Federal Constituency headquarters has a superior argument or moral justification than Iwo. I have no doubt that Governor Gboyega Oyetola of Osun State is God-fearing, cool and calm and will be persuaded more by logic in using his discretion on where in

Osun this Federal College will be sited. No doubt, he will come under severe pressure and intense lobbying to defer to emotions and political pressure. Fortunately for us in Osun State, we have leaders who share the broad mind set of Chief Obafemi Awolowo during the golden years of his administration of Western Region. Ikenne was the least on his mind. Chief Bisi Akande remains a phenomenon - cosmopolitan, politically savvy, prudent, live and let live, shun greed and one whose philosophy of life is to live things better than he met them.

Other political leaders should act in concert and be persuaded by rationality in conceding this Federal College of Education to Iwo. The Federal Government has shown that this is the way of civility that is deserving of emulation. This will go a long way to assuage frayed political nerves in Osun State and particularly in Iwo. May the Almighty strengthen and guide Governor Oyetola as his government takes an appropriate decision on the location of this college. May he be able to place objective reality and logic above parochial consideration.

Lai Olurode, Department of Sociology, University of Lagos.

## Importance of smoke detector

Smoke detector is a piece of electrical equipment which alerts occupants of a building through unusual sound whenever smoke is detected within the device's vicinity. It is a life saving device which warns inhabitants about the occurrence of combustion that is capable of posing serious threat to people and property.

The device, which is usually hung on the ceiling, may sense and detect smoke by sounding alarm in a place where it is installed. Smoke detector used to be powered by either electricity or batteries. To ensure effective functionality, this device should be regularly cleaning and batteries replaced at regular intervals.

It is on record that smoke mostly kills victims of infernos before the fire consumes them. However, having a functional smoke detecting system is capable of reducing the number of casualty during fire disaster.

The National Fire Safety Code, 2013, which prescribes minimum safety standards for prevention and control of fire disaster, provides that property developers as well as users of buildings should install smoke detectors in appropriate locations in buildings.

For safety of lives, fire service authorities at both federal and state levels should enforce smoke detector regulation in order to minimize the menace of uncontrolled fire in Nigeria.

Aminu Isiaka H.,  
Nasarawa State Fire Service,  
Lafia aminuisiaka5@gmail.com

Text us on 08131800030 &amp; 08112661608



## Impact of old boys associations

Indeed it is gratifying to note that old boys associations are beginning to have impact on various schools and colleges across the northern states. A good example is Birnin Kudu Old Boys Association that provided drinking water, desks, beds, dining tables, uniforms, footballs, tennis balls and five toilets. These are in addition to other facilities provided by some class chapters. Two years ago, Alh. Aliko Dangote, Dr. Umar Abdullahi Ganduje, Dr. Sule Lamido spent millions of naira on the college. But where are our senators, ex-governors who benefited from the college's education but kept quiet? It's time to assist as government cannot provide everything.

Sule Musa Dutse 08060743251.

## State workers' induced 'salivation'

It is really a pity to see state workers watch their counterparts in FG establishments receiving full minimum wage arrears, together with new wage being implemented. They are left in despair salivating for same. They envy FG workers often entitled to payment of promotion, salary arrears, 28-days benefits and others which many of them cannot dream of in spite earning less. It is not like they are less qualified but just a matter of been unlucky in a system that grace count than merit. No wonder, the search for grace or luck has not helped to prevent pressure and overwhelming challenges. Why can't there be desperation when security men, drivers in some FG offices are paid more than M.Sc holders

in states, enjoying respect in the public. Many of them can't hide their frustration.  
Mohammed Bagudu, Minna 08104843725.

## Re: 3,479 petitions filed

Apart from the reasons you stated, political office seekers resort to petitions due to lack of fairness in the party primaries and the high remuneration attached to the offices being contested for.

Ahmed Mai Goloma, Bauchi, 08038047997.

## NiMet 2019 prediction:

Although prediction may not be 100% perfect, it's expected to be close to the target. The 2019 rain fall prediction of Nigeria Metrological Agency is very far away from reality. The agency predicted early (September) cessation of rainfall last year. In response many farmers planted their crops, especially maize, millet guinea corn and rice very early in the season. However as God may have it, the rain lasted up to 30th October 2019, in my area, Zaria and many states in the North. The result is that our harvested maize started to germinate because of the extended rain, especially farmers with large farms. It has affected both the quality and quantity of maize being sold in the market. I want to advice the agency therefore to ensure they give out a more reliable prediction in this year's farming season and subsequent years.

Shaaibu Ibrahim Yakasai 08051523663.

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

## Do not let the Mambilla dream die

— Continued from page 1

on electricity supply nationwide, productivity, employment, tourism, technology transfer, rural development, irrigation, agriculture and food production in the area and beyond.”

To get the project on track, contract was signed on behalf of the FG by Fashola and the three Chinese companies on 10th November 2017. At the event the minister said, “The project is a new dawn for Nigeria’s power diversity and energy mix. The project will give us the opportunity of energy security; it will give the opportunity to comply with the Paris Climate Change Agreement because it will be delivering renewable energy.”

Indeed the project is the first of its kind in Nigeria. The scope of the contract includes four large dams and two underground power houses of 12 units of 250MW each. It also includes 330 KV of 700km power lines to Makurdi and Jalingo, 120km of access roads connecting the project site and the nearby communities and the resettlement of an estimated 100,000 people.

The total project cost is nearly 6 billion US dollars or precisely \$5,792,497,062,00.

Construction is to take 72 months or six years and will be handled by a consortium of three Chinese companies - China Gezhouba Corporation (CGCC), Sino Hydro Corporation Limited and CGOCC. The Chinese Export-Import Bank is to provide 85% of the cost while Nigeria will pay 15%. When completed, Mambilla’s power generation of 3050MW will be greater than the combined capacities of Kainji, Jebba, Shiroro, Zungeru Gurara, Kashimbilla and Dadin-Kowa projects.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the Mambilla Hydro-Electric project is a strategic one that could help the country to secure part of its energy needs. It is also a clear national security imperative to diversify power sources especially after the experience of the country with the gas fired ones that are easily sabotaged by cutting gas supply and the perennial inability to agree on competitive gas pricing between NNPC and the power generating companies.

The National Security Strategy that President Buhari launched a few weeks ago captures this well where it states that “Energy security is critical to economic growth and prosperity of Nigeria. The nation is endowed with large oil, gas, hydro, wind and solar energy resources but does not generate, transmit and distribute enough electricity to sustain rapid development.”

Certainly no progress, industrial or otherwise is possible without a realisable power infrastructure as neither small nor medium enterprises - big industries like vehicle assembly plants, etc - can function optimally without cheaper reliable power. Clearly Nigeria cannot industrialise via generators.

We call on the Buhari administration to match its words with action on this all important project so as not to join the previous governments that came, saw and left without breaking the power jinx.

Daily Trust is happy to note that the Mambilla project is one of those the Buhari government is focused on this year. In his open letter to Nigerians, published in several newspapers on 1st January 2020, the president listed the commencement of the construction of the Mambilla Power Project by the first half of this year. While we are encouraged by this, we call on him to go further and set up a task force with time lines to address the challenges hindering the project and get it off the ground with the president being briefed on a weekly basis.

He could make the vice president to be in charge of the task force with minister of power, Taraba governor and a few other key officials as members to ensure that all the outstanding issues like the seeming cold feet of the Chinese over the project are dealt with expeditiously. There is clearly the need to reassure the Chinese on all their pain points like repayment plans and sustainability of the project. If need be an escrow account to warehouse Nigeria’s 15% cost of the project be made to reassure that Nigeria is committed to its take off.

There should also be a closure on the legal challenge mounted by Sunrise Power and Transmission Limited, the Nigerian concern that is claiming to have a BOT agreement with previous administration. Compensating the communities where the project is sited is also a touchy area that needs to be handled with care to create the atmosphere that will allow the project to proceed without hitches.

Wherever necessary, a bipartisan approach should be evolved to enable the federal, state and local authorities to keep their eyes on the bigger picture of a project that will generate more power for the country. Where necessary both the executive and legislature and other players need to come together to underline their commitment to this project that could generate more of the much needed electric power that the country so sorely needs.

“Gain time, gain life” goes the received wisdom. It is significant that President Muhammadu Buhari mentioned “time” three times in his 2000+ word counts letter to Nigerians on the 1st of January 2020. Time and timeliness are critical success factors in human development. The two major religions of Islam and Christianity stressed the importance of time for humanity.

There are a number of verses in the holy books which described the creation of the earth in record six days taking place in six days are: - “Your Guardian-Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and is firmly established on the throne (of authority) (7:54). Even the Darwin’s theory of evolution talks of billions of years in earth formation. Time nonetheless! I share the optimism of the President that the new decade brings new time, hope and “fresh possibilities”.

Nigeria would be 60 years as an independent Republic this year. Yours sincerely is surprised that the President’s first letter to compatriots says nothing about Nigeria at independence at 60! It was good that Nigerians in his letter are reminded that in recent times, *(we are trying to consume what we produce for the first time in a generation our food plates have not all been filled with imports of products we know can easily be produced here at home)*.

It was also remarkable that the current investment in reinventing the railways, roads, industry and agriculture ought to have been done “a long time ago”. But the best assessment framework for a nation is timeline of nation hood and independence. President Muhammadu Buhari has in recent time raised the noise level of Independence celebrations wrongly stepped down by previous administration as “low key” event. At 60 Nigeria must raise the banner of development, democracy freedom, independence with high GDP growth rate, poverty eradication, equity and justice.

For almost a century Nigeria and Nigerians suffocated under the heels of British imperial rule characterized by domination, brutal oppression, Lugardian military occupations and wholesale exploitation. Long period of military rule also underdeveloped Nigeria.

I was privileged to be witness to history: China at 70 in Abuja last year. I agreed with Ambassador Zhou Pingjian that the “joy” of both Nigeria and China “is shared and happiness doubled on the occasion of October 1st celebration every year.” Nigeria must learn and copy China, which at 70, (just a decade older) as a liberated

**Issa Aremu, mni**  
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## Nigeria: Lost Decades, New Decade

country has almost banished illiteracy, gone to space, lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty, parades “over the past 70 years, GDP averaged an annual growth rate of about 4.4% for the first three decades and 9.5% for the last four decades. By 2020, China announces that “all people living below the current poverty line will be taken out of poverty”. At 60 this year Nigeria should be up-beat to say like China: independence has “brought enormous changes to the country, creating an unprecedented miracle of development in the world history”.

The Chinese Ambassador aptly puts it better the “path you take determines your future”. In China was the “Sick Man of East Asia”, with life expectancy at the beginning of the new republic at 35 years. It rose to 77 years in 2018. The illiteracy rate in China stood at 80% in 1949, today the newly-added labour force has received over 13.3 years of education on average. The average years of schooling for the Chinese rose to 10.6 years in 2018 from 1.6 years in 1949. In 2019, the gross enrollment ratio in higher education rose to 48.1% from 0.26% in 1949”. At 60 Nigeria and Nigerians should stop agonizing but organize like China at 70. I agree with President Buhari that “Elections are the cornerstone of our democracy”.

With as many as 86 million registered voters, I maintain that Nigeria remains a democracy destination in Africa. We must make 2020s a decade of democratic consolidation. Beyond elections, Nigeria must reaffirm commitment to democracy as the only route (not just fashionable route!) to development. Contrary to the cynicism of some partisans, I hail President Buhari for repeating the obvious that: he “will be standing down in 2023 and will not be available in any future elections.” Nigeria lost three decades to Military dictatorships (1966- 1979) and (1983-1998).

No democracy could have imposed the notorious IMF inspired Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) of the 80s which undermine investment in power, roads, railways as we were told that government had no business in business. Never again should anybody have access to political power without having our mandates through votes and

vote counting. No short cut to political power again. No instant “revolution now”! People should lead through their votes not red herrings of sponsored minions. Elected leaders must also abide by the term limit which is what the President rightly reaffirms.

Nigeria needs politicians by the rules, not militicians as we almost witnessed between 1999 and 2003! But for the 1966 military Coup (“revolution then!) which ended for the first time the democratic civilian rule should this year be marking uninterrupted 60 years of democracy and independence.

Nigerian independence in 1960 was fought for and won by clear headed civilian democrats not military adventurers who later years ruined the nation through coups, counter coups with an avoidable civil war. The democratic founding fathers and mothers deployed democratic methods; peaceful pressures, strikes, protests, persuasion, negotiations, referendums and elections.

All Nigerian founding fathers and mothers were civilian democrats not military men. They include Herbert Macaulay (1864–1946), Professor Eyo Ita (1904–1980s), Alvan Ikoku (1900–1971), Michael Imoudu (1900–2005), Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe (1904–1996), Chief Obafemi Awolowo (1909–1987), Sir Ahmadu Bello (1910–1966), Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (1912–1966), Sir Egbert Udo Udoma (1917–1998), Mallam Aminu Kano (1920–1983), Joseph Tarka (1932–1980) and Dennis Osadebay (1911–1994) among others. The troika of Obafemi Awolowo, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Ahmadu Bello remained the true faces of Nigerian democracy.

It is refreshing and reassuring that President Buhari *understands “very well the frustrations our system has in the past triggered” and that he is “determined to help strengthen the electoral process both in Nigeria and across the region, where several ECOWAS members go to the polls this year”*. Let’s have a healthy debate about fixing electricity, reviving the railways and repositioning our foreign polices instead of throwing missiles at each other. We need healthy contest of ideas not conquest of territories, with minimum level of discipline among the participants to respect the rules of the game and to implement them fairly.



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**GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR:** Deputy General Manager (IT)

# MONDAY BUSINESS

**CBN EXCHANGE RATES**

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

December 27, 2019

COMMODITIES PRICE	
CRUDE OIL BRENT	\$64.54/b
GOLD	\$1,485
GAS	\$2.296

**BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES**

BUYING		
Dollar	Euro	Pound S.
N357	N400	N470.11
SELLING		
Dollar	Euro	Pound S.
N360	N404	N473.11

**Government must enforce compulsory insurance policy – NCRIB President**

→ P 14

## Flight disruptions continue as harmattan bites harder

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

**M**assive flight disruptions continue yesterday following the nationwide harmattan haze which has reduced visibility and hampered aircraft movement, Daily Trust reports.

Since the commencement of the harmattan season which is expected to last till around March-April, many flights have been either cancelled or delayed.

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) had in September last year urged pilots to exercise maximum restraint during harmattan season.

General Manager, Public Relations of NCAA Spokesman, Sam Adurogboye said the season which has since commenced and would last till March 2020 as predicted by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMET) is hazardous to safe flight operations.

He said, "As issued by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency in its Seasonal Rainfall Prediction Bulletin-2019, the cessation of the rainy season is predicted from mid-October (in the Northern part) to early December, 2019 (in the Southern part)."

Pilots, Operators have been directed to note that during the period Air-to-ground visibility may be reduced considerably due to dust haze while airport visibility may fall below the prescribed operating minima and in severe conditions, dust haze can blot out runways, markers and airfield lightings over wide areas making visual navigation extremely difficult or impossible.

It got worse last week as temperature reached an all-time lowest degree in some parts of the country. It was 6.7 degree Celcius in Jos, Plateau last week, as extreme cold hit the state.

The weather in Kano was not



■ Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika

different as the state was said to be colder than London, the United Kingdom.

With the climatic condition, flight operations have suffered massive disruption following low visibility and haze occasioned by the harmattan.

Flights to Kano, Jos, and parts of the South-East and South-South were disrupted over the weekend.

It was learnt yesterday also that South-South and South-East are no go areas as the first flight to Port Harcourt International Airport landed around 3:30 p.m. Benin and Asaba were no-go areas.

"Coupled with the bush fire in Port Harcourt on Saturday and the Sunday morning disruptions, the first flight in the area has just landed," a source said.

But the weather conditions improved yesterday. However, flight operations to Kano were restricted to night.

Spokesperson of Dana Air, Mr. Kingsley Ezenwa said the weather situation has caused massive delays.

## 'FG saved N700bn through finance reforms'

By Chris Agabi

Various reforms anchored by the Ministry Finance, Budget and National Planning has saved the federal government in excess N700bn.

The immediate past Permanent Secretary, Special Duties, Ministry of Budget and National Planning Dr. Mohammed Dikwa disclosed this at the weekend during a send forth dinner in his honour by the ministry as he retires from civil service.

Dr. Dikwa retired last Friday having reached the mandatory retirement age of 60.

"Reform initiatives have saved the country over N700billion from being

wasted and also recovered over N300billion through respective Security Agencies working in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning," he said.

He listed some of the reforms to include: the introduction Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS), Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIIS), International public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Treasury Single Account (TSA), Presidential Initiative on Continuous Audit (PICA), Efficiency Unit, Whistle-blowing Policy, Asset Tracing Project and the Strategic Revenue Growth

Initiative (SRGI).

Dr. Dikwa said he played a huge role to make some of the above initiatives a success even as he said he served for 35 years without blemish.

"Despite holding sensitive positions both at the State and Federal levels with series of temptations from various individuals, groups and societies both within and outside the public service, today I can proudly say that there was no single query issued to me either as a result of misconduct, gross misconduct or inefficiency observed in the course of discharging my statutory responsibilities to my dear nation as a civil servant," he said.

He also said he made modest contributions to the nation building, especially in areas of instilling transparency, accountability and prudent management of scarce resources.

Dr. Dikwa also said he was instrumental to the successful verification and payment of pensioners of the defund Nigeria Airways; having been given the assignment by the minister of finance, budgeted national planning.

According to him, he was also a part of the conceptualization and launching of the strategic Revenue Growth Initiative (SRGI).

He added: "Today, we are sure of steadily growing the

national revenue as a result of the SRGI implementation."

Speaking during the send forth, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning Mrs. Zainab Ahmed said Dr. Dikwa was indeed efficient civil servant whose services would be missed.

"Your service to the nation has been substantial and we will not forget anytime soon," she said.

"Working with you has been an immense pleasure. Today is not marking an exit by celebration of a new beginning. I'm confident that you will find the same success in retirement and in the new task that is ahead of you. I urge you to take the deserved rest because we will soon call you," she said.

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

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

CEO INTERVIEW

# Government must enforce compulsory insurance policy – NCRIB president

Dr Bola Onigbogi, is the President, Nigerian Council for Registered Insurance Brokers (NCRIB), the second female president in 57 years. She's president to over 500 registered members. She spoke to our correspondent on why you should buy an insurance policy through brokers, the poor penetration of insurance in Nigeria and what can be done to deepen insurance penetration, among other industry issues. Excerpts:

By Chris Agabi

**W**hat are you doing to ensure that more Nigerians embrace insurance so that it can contribute more to GDP?

Image building is one of my major projects. I want Nigerians to embrace insurance. Insurance is the only business that exists for other businesses to thrive. So we are taking it to that state where Nigerians will appreciate the value of insurance. We are trying as much as possible to educate the public about the benefits of insurance. Insurance is last on the priority list of Nigerians because they believe insurance doesn't perform. But I want to assure Nigerians that that was before, it doesn't happen now. That was basically due to the failure of operators then to settle claims as at when due. But currently we have the whistle blowing policy. There is no more default in the insurance industry because information is available to the insuring public and they know what to do in the case of failure of any insurance company to pay claims.

**Beyond low awareness, what other reasons do you think make Nigerians unwilling to insure?**

One is ignorance. Nigerians are not aware that insurance is important to the survival of their businesses. If I may say this, do you know that the third-party motor insurance has benefits? But a lot of Nigerians don't know. They just believe that they are taking the third-party insurance in case police ask them. We call it third party insurance because it protects damage to the third-party vehicle and not the insured vehicle. I still see people exchanging blows on the street even when both vehicles involved in the accident possess third party insurance. But the only thing they need to do is call the insurance company in an accident situation. The insurance company will pay. Sometimes I do stop to educate motorists when I see them fighting because of an accident. Most times they are not aware they can make claims. Religious belief is another reason why some Nigerians don't take insurance. You will hear "it's not my portion." So whose portion is it? Accidents can happen anytime. No one



■ Dr Bola Onigbogi

prays for it. But insurance should be the shoulder you rest on when it happens. So you have a peace of mind. For example, look at our markets all over Nigeria. In the last one week, I have heard about not less than three serious infernos in our markets. Ask them if they have insurance. The answer is no. Now they will be shouting to states and federal governments to help them. Whereas if they have insurance the insurance companies will step in and perform. What we in the insurance broking sector is emphasising now is that if you want to take an insurance contact a registered insurance broker. So that when there is any problem, you just call your broker and your broker will take it up from there and get your claims. My client

had called me from Kano on a weekend when his truck had an accident but I took action immediately. That is insurance. So we need to change the wrong perception.

**How did the VIO become vendors of third-party motor insurance and how can we stop him from selling insurance policy?**

We are working on that. It's not the business of VIO to sell insurance policy. Why they are doing that I probably think is that they wanted to help the motorist to have at least third-party motor insurance. But in an ideal situation, it should be left to the insurance industry.

**There are allegations that there are still fake insurance companies out there, is that true?**

I don't believe that exists again. Probably that was in the

past. Right now, we have the Nigerian Insurers Association (NIA), they have their website and the individual insurance companies have their website. With technology it's easier to detect. Before you patronize any insurance company, just Google it and check if it's registered. You can also check the NAICOM website too. So if you decide to patronize non existing insurance company, then you are on your own. But I can assure Nigerians that there are no fraudulent insurance companies in Nigeria again because the industry is well regulated by NAICOM. There is no hidden place for non registered insurance company to operate in Nigeria. Moreso, what we are emphasising now is that if you want to take up insurance, call a broker. Your broker won't take you to a fake insurer.

**Could you explain who is an insurance broker and the value he adds to insurance value chain?**

An insurance broker is that intermediary between the insured and the insurance company. The services of a broker are at no extra cost to the insured. The insurance companies pay us commission on the businesses we give them. So for the client it's a win-win situation. Your broker will select the best service and policy suitable for your business. Your broker will still shop around for the insurance company that specializes in your own type of risks. And again, based on your advice, after assessing your risks, your broker will advise you properly on what you need to do to reduce your premium. For instance, if you take a fire policy and special risks, may be for a building, your broker will advise you that fire extinguisher must be installed in strategic areas within the building. Do you know that there is a fire extinguisher discount if you install the fire extinguisher? That will reduce your premium. Also when claims arise, the insured has no stress at all. Just call your broker. Your broker will worry about the claims while you go about your business. Your broker must get your genuine claims settled. You cannot imagine an enlightened person putting a brand-new expensive car on the road with this VIO insurance. It is senseless. When they have an

accident, they will spend their money to repair it. But with comprehensive insurance they will get their vehicles fixed. All they would need do is call their broker and the broker will follow through.

**There are compulsory insurance policies beyond the third party that are not being enforced. What would you do in this regard?**

During my tenure, I will be working on this to make sure compulsory insurances are compulsory in Nigeria. I will work hand in hand with the National Assembly. The law is already there but we are talking of implementation and enforcement. Strict sanctions must apply. Without sanction it won't work. When you look at insurance in Nigeria and insurance in other climes, the gap is so wide. In other climes insurance companies own banks but here insurance penetration in Nigeria is 0.3 percent. This is very ridiculous. We must make a change from that position. We can only do that by awareness, which is what I want to concentrate on. We must let the public know the benefits of insurance and how they can leverage on insurance to improve their lives. However, government must lead the way by making sure all its properties are insured. Government should also ensure the compulsory insurance policies are enforced.

**There are still complaints of rate cutting and other malfeasance in the insurance industry, how can this be tackled?**

This is still happening because insurance is sold in Nigeria not bought. In other climes insurance is bought. People look out for insurance companies to buy insurance. If we achieve that all the malfeasance will end.

**What is the capacity of local insurance companies in underwriting aviation, oil and gas risks?**

If not for the local content policy of government, we would have lost out on all these but with the local content law, Nigerian companies must have a share. This is helping our industry to grow. The Dana Air crash, for instance, local insurance companies paid their own share of the claims. So local insurance companies are doing well in aviation, oil and gas sectors. But there is always room for improvement.

**I can assure Nigerians that there are no fraudulent insurance companies in Nigeria again because the industry is well regulated by NAICOM. There is no hidden place for non registered insurance company to operate in Nigeria.**

## NLNG Train 7 Final Investment Decision (FID)

On Friday, 27th December 2019, Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG) took the **Final Investment Decision (FID)** for its Train 7 Project at its Abuja office. The project is expected to increase NLNG's production by 35%, boost its competitiveness in the global LNG market, further diversify the Federal Government's revenue portfolio, as well as help reduce gas flaring in Nigeria. Here are some images from the historic event.



**(L-R 1st Row):** NLNG Directors - Henry Bristol, Mike Sangster; Chairman, NLNG BoD, Chief (Dr.) Osobonye LongJohn; GMD NNPC, Mele Kyari; NLNG Director, Oghenegwueke Ajaifia; Alessandro Tiani, as well as NLNG MD, Tony Attah (5th from Right, 2nd Row); NLNG Deputy MD, Sadeeq Mai-Bornu (7th from Right, 2nd Row), NLNG Directors, NLNG Management staff, and NNPC management staff during the press briefing to announce FID for Train 7.



Tony Attah fielding questions from journalists flanked by Chief LongJohn (L) and Sadeeq Mai-Bornu. With them on the 2nd row are Manager, Corporate Communications (NLNG), Sophia Horsfall, Sele Inegbedion (NLNG); General Counsel and Company Secretary (NLNG), Aka Nwokedi, Expansion Coordinator (NLNG), Suleiman Umaru; Project Director, Train 7, Ali Uwais; GM External Relations (NLNG), Eyono Fatayi-Williams



GMD NNPC, Mele Kyari and NLNG MD, Tony Attah in joyous mood after shareholders took FID. With them are (L-R) Chairman, NLNG BoD, Chief (Dr.) Osobonye LongJohn (sitting), NNPC COO, Gas and Power, Engr. Yusuf Usman; NLNG Deputy MD, Sadeeq Mai-Bornu; NLNG Director, Oghenegwueke Ajaifia; General Counsel and Company Secretary (NLNG), Aka Nwokedi



**(L-R):** Engr. Kamoru Busari, Peter Costello, Oghenegwueke Ajaifia, Mike Sangster, Tony Attah, Sadeeq Mai-Bornu, Henry Bristol and NLNG GM, Commercial, Godwill Dike celebrating FID



Chief LongJohn celebrating FID



**(R-L)** Sadeeq Mai-Bornu and Tony Attah congratulate each other. With them are NLNG Director, Oghenegwueke Ajaifia and Alessandro Tiani



NLNG Director, Chief (Mrs.) Cordelia Agboti gives Chief (Dr.) Osobonye LongJohn a congratulatory handshake as (L-R) Ahmed Shehu; Mike Sangster; Peter Costello; Engr Kamoru Busari; Engr. YusufUsman; Mele Kyari; and Alessandro Tiani look on.



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Suleiman Umaru; Sadeeq Mai-Bornu, Godwill Dike; Ali Uwais, Chief (Dr.) LongJohn, Tony Attah; Oluwbenga Oluwaniyi; Eyono Fatayi-Williams and Sophia Horsfall.

ECONOMIC INSIGHT

'Coherent regulatory framework panacea for SMEs group'

From Sunday Michael Ogwu, Lagos

**C**oherent regulatory framework has the potential to create enabling business environment in which Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) will flourish, Professor of Economics, Akpan Ekpo, has said.

Ekpo made the argument in a paper titled small and medium scale enterprises and Nigeria's road to prosperity.

He identified the adoption of favourable taxation system, reduction in transaction costs, transparency in

execution of business policies, removal of bureaucracies in business policy implementation as the immediate areas that requires government interventions.

Prof. Ekpo said: "These are largely lacking in the Nigerian business environment, thus suffocating the operations and potentials of SMEs in the country, as well as their contribution to economic growth and development."

He further noted that with the absence of basic infrastructural facilities such as stable power (electricity), good roads, functional seaports, ICT connectivity, and others, the private sector in which

SMEs operate is faced with high costs of business operation.

"In Nigeria, SMEs has to grapple with the challenge of power in their operations, owing to the fact that Nigeria is generally a generator-driven economy. A lot of SMEs have been liquidated due to lack of basic infrastructure," he added.

The professor also pointed out that most SMEs face the challenge of qualified manpower and capacity.

"With lack of research and development (R&D) and professional business as well as management

proWess, most SMEs are left to learning-by-error method of operation. This has resulted to collapse in some business units," he argued.

He said: "in the Nigerian business space, there is a huge gap in information linking SMEs and the market environment. This asymmetric information disproportion has stunted the potential of business expansion, since the SMEs are generally not in touch with market realities. In other words, there is huge communication gap between SMEs and the market in which they operate."

Diaspora Trust Fund underway – Dabiri-Erewa

By Muideen Olaniji

Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Diaspora Commission, says the commission is putting a team in place to work out modalities for the establishment of Diaspora Trust Fund.

Dabiri-Erewa, who fielded questions from State House Correspondents after a meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari, said the commission was in the process of planning and engaging Nigerians in the Diaspora as to how it can be done.

"We are planning the Nigerian Diaspora Trust Fund because Nigerians in the Diaspora want to invest in their country and they want to contribute. So, the Diaspora Trust Fund will be coming up in this year and a lot of other engagements and activities.

"A few countries, like Ethiopia, have a Diaspora Investment Fund. Nigeria should not be an exception. We are working at it.

We are hoping we can get

everything set in the first quarter of this year," she added.

On the remittances from Nigerians in Diaspora, she said, "For 2019, we are dealing with about \$25 billion as remittances from Nigerians in the Diaspora. We hoping it could get better. There are even areas that are not even captured. The foremost remittances are not even captured; the \$500 to your brothers, to your sisters.

"Beyond remittances, there are a lot more that Nigerians in the Diaspora will do for their country. We hope it gets better, we hope that Nigerians in the Diaspora continue to help in resuscitating the Nigerian economy."

Dabiri-Erewa, who said the Nigerians in Diaspora Investment Summit was very successful, added that the commission would not abandon the returnees from South Africa.

"As for the returnees from South Africa, like we said earlier, we have not abandoned them



Abike Dabiri-Erewa

and we'll not abandon them. In January this year, we'll be meeting with them again and we are working with SMEDAN and other agencies to see what more can be done for those returnees.

"And we are appealing to states. I think about three states that have not reached out to returnees to please do so. They are not many and I don't think it's a difficult thing to do," she added.

She said the commission had started the process of having a Diaspora database to know exactly the number of Nigerians in Diaspora.

Simba inaugurates TVS showroom in Kano

The Simba Group, distributors of TVS motorcycles and tricycles in Nigeria, has inaugurated a brand-new showroom and service centre in Kano.

The company said in a statement that the Simba TVS Centre, which opened recently at Murtala Mohammad Way, Kano is designed to the highest international standards, and offers customers a one-stop-shop solution for motorcycles / tricycles, accessories, spare parts and service.

The Simba TVS centre was officially inaugurated by the Commissioner of Transport, Kano State, Barr. M.A Lawal.

Speaking at the event, Mr Rana of Simba Group said, "All automotive customers need the highest standards of buying experience which many passenger cars companies have achieved in Nigeria already. But there

has been absence of these experience centers in the Keke and Okada universe, and our chain of showrooms strive to close the gap."

Rana added, "Simba has always been committed to social and economic development, and our motorcycles and tricycles strike at the heart of this philosophy - driving millions of Nigerians to work, to school, to pray and to get on with their daily lives; and in turn, driving the economy. Besides all those employed by us directly, our products generate employment for millions of people in the country - right from the drivers of our motorcycles and tricycles, to the dealers, microfinance partners and fleet owners that make them available, and finally to the tens of thousands of mechanics who provide after-sales-service for them."

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NEWS

# Economic growth: Experts task governments on infrastructure

Economic experts have underscored the need for the three tiers of government to improve on infrastructure and job creation to enhance the country's economic growth and development.

A Director at the Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Ibadan, Prof. Olanrewaju Olaniyan, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja that empowering youths and women would go a long way to fast-track economic growth in Nigeria.

"Traditionally, if we want to improve economic growth, the most productive sector of the economy must work.

"Except people work, the country cannot grow. The level of unemployment is

really having negative impact on the country's economy.

"So, if we want to grow economically, then we must ensure every productive person is employed, and if you add the unemployment rate in the country it comes above 40 per cent.

"This means that four out of 10 are not working, especially those within the working age, and this is a big minus.

"If we want to grow, we must make sure that everybody that has the capacity to work is able to get opportunity to work," Olaniyan said.

He said that for the productive sector to work, the business environment must be good and the infrastructure had to improve substantially.

"People still have problems

with transportation; they still have problems with a whole lot of other infrastructure, especially power, which is the most important input for manufacturing, even for the small-scale businesses.

"So, if we want to improve on economic growth, we must improve on infrastructure in the country. It is the availability of infrastructure that reduces the cost of production," the economist said.

He explained that the cost of funds to an average producer in the country was very expensive, adding that accessing bank loans always attracted high interest rate.

"Although the Bank of Industry and the Bank of Agriculture are providing job

opportunities, they cannot do much considering the level in which the country is now.

"So, when you look at this, it constrains productive activities in the country," he said.

Olaniyan said that due to the high cost of production, goods that were produced in the country were expensive, and that was why other goods that came from outside the country looked as if they were better.

"If we are able to improve on the infrastructure, definitely the prices of the locally produced goods will become lower and it will become more competitive, and then economically we will improve," he said.

Similarly, Dr Tony

Aziegbemi, another economist, said that for effective economic growth in the country, governments at all levels should focus more on youth and women empowerment.

Aziegbemi, a former House of Representatives member, Esan Federal Constituency, Edo State, said that the three tiers of government should be more concerned on how to get people back to work.

According to him, people need to be given jobs so as to contribute their quota for national development.

"We need to believe in Nigerians, every inch of this land is supposed to be a productive centre," he said. (NAN)

## Nigeria saves \$500m from ban on barley malt - Minister

By Zakariyya Adaramola

Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu has said the Federal Institute of Industrial Research Oshodi (FIRRO), Oshodi, along with other institutes, have developed over 250 technologies towards supporting the agro allied sub-sector of the economy.

He said this while delivering a lecture titled 'Economic Diversification and National Development in Nigeria: The Role of Science and Technology', to participants of Course 28 at the National Defence College (NDC) in Abuja, recently.

The minister said in the 1980's Nigeria spent more than \$500m importing barley malt for breweries.

He further stated that research findings by FIRRO indicated that sorghum was a better substitute to the imported barley malt for brewing, and added that banning of imported barley malt by government had saved the country huge foreign exchange (forex).

Dr. Onu further disclosed that there were many textile industries in Nigeria years back, but that they collapsed due to inability of farmers to supply them with sufficient cotton.

## Keystone partners Medplus to promote healthy living among women

In furtherance of its commitment to empower, enhance and promote healthy living amongst Nigerian women, Keystone Bank Limited has announced its partnership with Medplus Pharmacy, Nigeria's leading health and beauty retailer to offer its PINK Network card holders who purchase health and beauty products from the pharmacy, a discount ranging from 5 to 10 percent.

In a statement by the lender, the bank said it's partnering with the health and beauty company to proffer solutions to the challenge posed in accessing quality, genuine healthcare and beauty products in Nigeria.

The bank further explained that the partnership would see its female customers with a Keystone Bank PINK debit card get 10% discount off all drug purchases and 5% discount off non-drug purchases in any Medplus Pharmacy nationwide.

Commenting on the partnership, Keystone Bank executive director, Adeyemi Odusanya stressed: "Women's health needs differ at every life stage, from puberty to pregnancy, menopause and overall wellbeing. Women are also very conscious of their beauty and self-care, hence the growth of the beauty industry.

## How to promote sustainable development through SMEs Expert

A financial expert, Dr Samuel Nzekwe, on Tuesday called on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to provide more loans to the nation's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the new year in order to promote sustainable development. Nzekwe, a former President of Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ota that such loans would drive sustainable development in the country.

According to him, no nation can achieve meaningful and sustainable development without creating an enabling environment

for SMEs to thrive as catalysts of economic growth. "The cost of borrowing for SMEs and others in the productive sector has been very high as banks do not have sufficient funds to give to investors. "The CBN needs to create more attractive loans for SMEs and the productive sector to contribute immensely to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)," he said. The financial expert said that it had been difficult for Nigeria's SMEs to access loanable funds from the CBN, adding that in spite of the apex bank's intervention, SMEs were still finding it difficult to access loans.



### ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (ARCON)

#### CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON) was established by The Architects (Registration, Etc.) Act, Chapter A19 The Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, (formerly known as Decree No 10 of 1969 as amended). The Council is directly responsible for the regulation of the training of Architects and the practice of Architecture in all ramifications in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In consonance with Paragraph 2 (1) (a) of the Act which states that the Council is to:

**"determine what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the architectural profession (in this Act referred to as "the Profession") and raising those standards from time to time as circumstances may permit;**

the Council is in the process of re-engineering the profession through the training and re-training of registered architects by the continuous professional development beginning in 2020.

This is therefore to inform all registered architects that the Council would be seriously pursuing the issue of continuous professional development, beginning in 2020, by organising regular workshops, seminars and conferences for registered architects. Only architects who attend these organised workshops on annual basis would have their licences renewed.

Registered architects are to take the mandatory two continuous professional development out of the four on annual basis towards retaining their names in the Register of Architects. Of course, one of such mandatory professional development is the annual Architects Colloquium.

Architects are therefore advised to be on the look out for the various programmes they can key into for the year 2020.

**Arc. Umar Murnai, fnia, ARCON  
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MONEY MARKET

# UBA recruits 4000 staff, increases salaries up to 170%

Over 5,000 staff of the United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc, started the new year with a lot of cheer as the bank yesterday announced its promotion to new grades as well as salary upgrades with immediate effect this January.

Those who are beneficiaries of this exercise will receive up to 170% increase in their salaries and benefits, whilst a good number have been moved to higher grade levels.

In a carefully planned restructuring embarked upon by the bank in the last quarter of 2019, UBA has transformed its grading system and processes to become one of the most competitive within the industry. The bank crashed its grade levels to 12 levels from entry level to the top of the pyramid where previously it had been 16 levels. This means that staff will now find it much easier to attain top leadership management positions at UBA as their careers progress much

faster. In a massive recruitment drive, over 4000 new staff members resumed in the last week of December 2019 in Nigeria alone at the bank. UBA currently stands as the highest employer of labour amongst Nigerian banks with a staff strength of close to 20,000.

UBA's Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Kennedy Uzoka, who announced the bank's new staff improvement initiatives to the excited employees, noted that UBA is continually seeking new ways to improve the fortunes of its staff as they are the backbone of the organisation.

Uzoka who spoke to the staff in a bank-wide live broadcast said, "As a leading financial institution, we do not take issues relating to our staff lightly. We take great pride in being a listening bank that has the ears of our employees as they turn the wheels which make the organisation successful

for our customers and shareholders. UBA recruits highly talented staff who perform at the best standards and deserve to be remunerated accordingly'.

Continuing, Uzoka said 'we have also taken steps to ensure that our bank remains at the top tier as it relates to talent pool. We want to train the best and we have crashed the grade structure to make it easier and faster for our employees to progress along their careers. With this new grade structure, it will be possible for a new graduate employed at UBA to rapidly chart their own careers and become GMD by the age of 36.'

UBA is one of Africa's leading banks with operations in 20 African countries. The bank also has presence in the global financial centres of London, New York and Paris. UBA provides banking services to more than 17 million customers globally, through diverse channels.

## ABCON backs CBN's forex allocation policy, faults N305/\$ to BDCs

The Association of Bureau De Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON) has defended Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) policy on foreign exchange allocation to Bureau de Change (BDCs), which it believes has stabilised the naira against the dollar.

In a statement, ABCON President, Alhaji (Dr) Aminu Gwadabe, faulted ongoing petition against the CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele and its management team over the deployment of dual exchange rate regime in forex allocation.

He faulted the N305/\$ rate to BDC as proposed by the petitioner saying it is not transactional rate but used for settling government obligations.

Senate Committee on Finance had invited CBN Governor Emefiele to appear before it on February 7, 2020 following a petition by Human Rights Lawyer, Bar. J.U Ayogu, accusing the CBN Governor and its Management Team of compromise in the allocation of foreign exchange.

But ABCON said the CBN forex policy has brought stability to the BDC industry and helped operators to embrace

automation which is the standard best practice globally.

"This is hand work of unknown faces not ABCON. It is confrontational and lack credible evidence. The N305/\$ is not a transactional rate but for settling government obligations. ABCON submission to the National Assembly is on Value Added Tax (VAT) exemption and review of licence fee renewal downward submitted to the CBN. The petitioner was never at any time appointed to speak on behalf of BDCs," Gwadabe said. He disclosed that no BDC or service provider gets forex at N305 to dollar and that the petitioner's claim is completely false.

Gwadabe said ABCON has appointed Mike Akinfolarin & Associates as ABCON Consultant/Tax Attorneys on VAT, which is a bigger problem confronting operators as a large part of their income go into paying taxes adding that in other economies, foreign exchange rate control by government is VAT exempt. "That the law firm Of Mike Akinfolarin & Associates (Tax Attorneys) made a representation on

behalf of ABCON before the National Assembly public hearing, House Committee on Finance Bill on November 25, 2019 in Abuja. And that remains the position of ABCON," he said.

Gwadabe explained that beyond the rates differentials, Nigeria needs multiple streams of forex earnings and the enlisting of more channels to attract Diaspora remittances and other foreign capital that will not only deepen the market, keep the naira stable and boost operations of BDCs.

For instance, Diaspora remittances to Nigeria, which stood at \$25 billion annually in 2018, remain a reliable source of forex to the domestic economy and should form part of the revenue stream for over 4,500 CBN -Licenced BDCs.

ABCON boss believes there is need to make BDCs one of the channels for receiving Diaspora remittances into the economy to create more income for operators adding that BDCs remain at the centre of economic development and have the capacity to attract needed capital for the development of the Nigerian economy.

CORPORATE IMAGES



From left: Kano State chairman, Amalgamated Commercial Motorcycle Owners and Riders Association of Nigeria (ACOMORAN), Alhaji Manur Tanimu; state chairman, ACOMORAN, Katsina, Alhaji Ibrahim Dikko; special guest, Commissioner of Transport, Kano state, Barrister M.A Lawal; Service Manager, North, Simba Group, Naved Hassan; Deputy Managing Director, Kano State Road Traffic Authority, KAROTA, Ibrahim Bala at the inauguration of Simba Group TVS showroom and service centre in Kano, recently.



From left: AG/Bajaj Regional Service Manager, Srinivas Rao; Bajaj International Service Manager, P.V Ramana; DAG/Bajaj Service Lead-2 wheeler, Sanjeeva H.Sreepadachar; CEO ZQ, Eunice Braimah and DAG/Bajaj Service Lead-3 Wheeler, Sandip D.Parasnis at the on-going Free Periodic Check Camps in Nyanya, Abuja, recently.



Management staff of Crown Flour Mill Limited (Olam Grains) with some distributors during the recent launch in Abuja of a new pasta

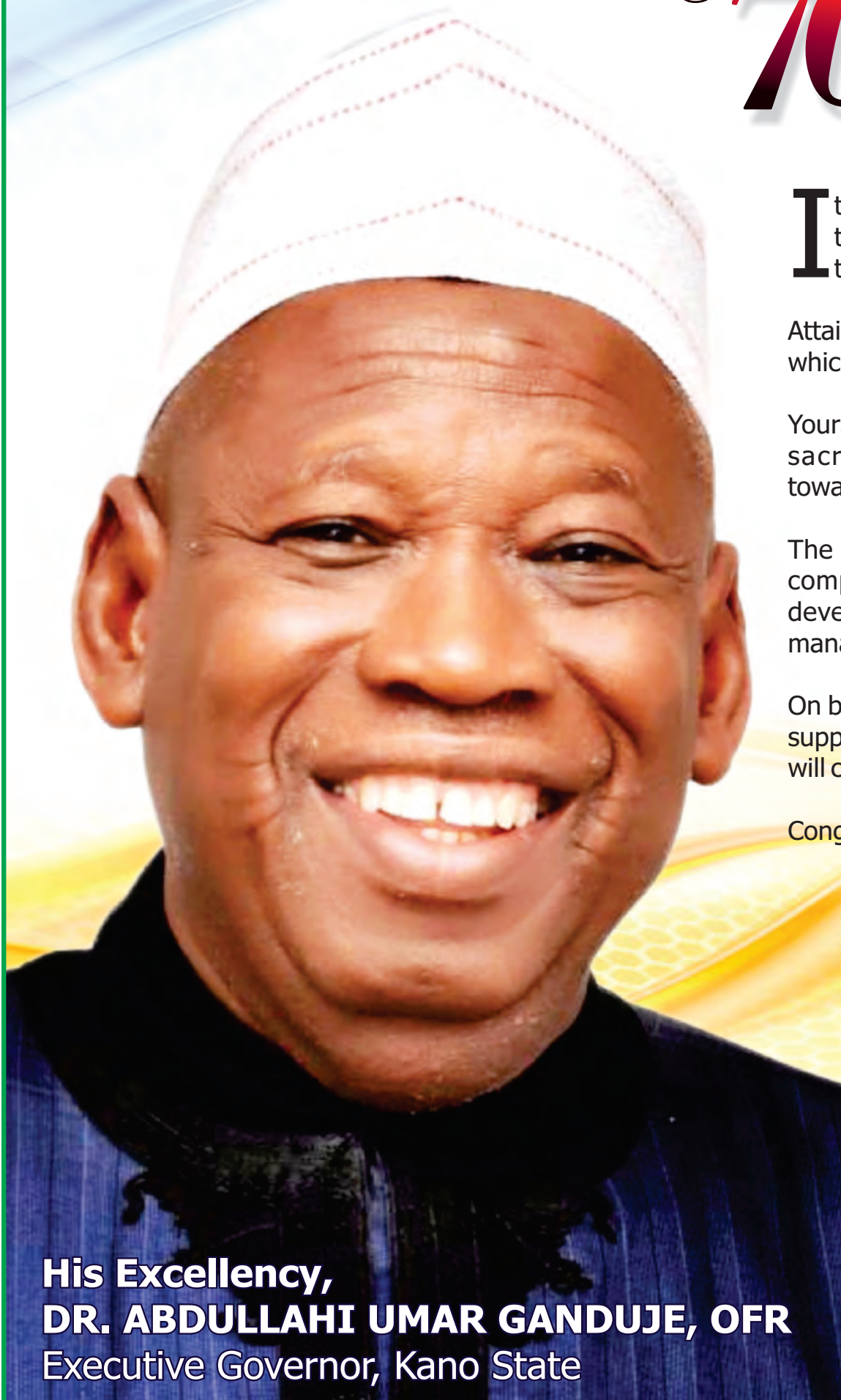


Group Head, Business Development Division, Bank of Industry Mrs Betsy Obaseki (middle); Former Executive Director, Bank of Industry, Mr. Ubadigbo Okonkwo, (2nd left); Managing Partner, B. Adedipe Associates Limited, Dr. Biodun Adedipe (2nd right) with the Best Performing Business Development Service Providers (BDSP), during the 2019 BOI-BDSP interactive session in Abuja recently

# Sardaunan Kano

*salutes* **H.E. GOV. GANDUJE**

@ **70**



**His Excellency,  
DR. ABDULLAHI UMAR GANDUJE, OFR**  
Executive Governor, Kano State

**I**t is with total submission to blessing of the Almighty for allowing us to witness this historic day of your **70th Birthday**.

Attaining this age is a favor from Almighty which He bestows on those He wishes.

Yours, your Excellency, is a witness to your sacrifice, devotion and commitment towards the upliftment of humanity.

The history of Kano State will not be complete without a reference to your developmental strides and your astute management of our commonwealth.

On behalf of myself, family and our teeming supporters, I pray that the Almighty Allah will continue to keep you in good health.

Congratulations.

**Signed**

**Sen. Ibrahim Shekarau, CON**  
( Senator Kano Central)  
Sardaunan Kano.





# CITY NEWS

## Bwari chairman's aide, nephew regain freedom from kidnappers

By Adam Umar

**A** political aide to the Chairman of Bwari Area Council, Dr John Gabaya and his niece were on Saturday released by kidnapers who abducted them on New Year's Day.

The two victims both

females, were admitted at the Bwari General Hospital after they were released due to the beating that one of them had went through in the hands of their abductors, while the other one was said to be suffering from trauma.

City News learnt that the two women were coming

back from the chairman's home town, a village in the outskirts of Bwari town, where they went to pay him homage on New Year's day, when they were ambushed by the kidnapers.

Our reporter also learnt that the chairman's brother, Ibro Shakogaza, who was

with the victims on the fateful day was the main target of the kidnapers but when he came across them, he fled and jumped into a nearby river.

Our reporter who visited the Bwari General Hospital yesterday saw many sympathisers thronging the

facility, even as no one was allowed to get to see the victims.

When contacted, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Bwari, CSP Biodun Makanjuola, confirmed the incident, adding that the police have started investigation into the matter.

## Fathers urged to relate more with sons

By Rasheedah Musa

Fathers have been urged to spend more time with their sons to ensure that they grow up to become responsible leaders.

The advice was given by Ebuka Obika Ede, a facilitator at the Transformational Parenteen Academy's leadership camp for boys in Abuja, at the weekend.

He said feedbacks he got from some participants between the ages of 10 and 16 years showed that they detested their fathers and were not happy that whenever their fathers were at home, they locked themselves inside their bedrooms and hardly related with them.

The organiser of the

camp and a public speaker, Mute Olori, lamented that a decade was spent empowering only girls while the boys were forgotten, adding that such action has led to social vices among boys while girls are the ones becoming bread winners at homes when they grow into women.

She said the camp was meant to raise boys who would be change agents among their peers and problem solvers.

The organiser said parents were made to interact with facilitators at the camp who advised them to be better role models for their children and to allow them explore their chosen talents as well as careers to be successful persons.



Participants during a Transformational Parenteen Academy's leadership camp for boys, organized by Mute Olori at Abuja Capital International College in Abuja on Saturday

Photo: Abubakar Yakubu

## Inculcate Qur'anic knowledge in children, Abuja lawmaker tells parents

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A House of Representatives member for Abuja South Federal Constituency, Alhaji Hassan Usman Sokodabo, has called on parents to devote their time to inculcate Qur'anic knowledge in their children.

Sokodabo made the call when he graced the Qur'anic graduation ceremony of Madarasatul Hisburahim Islamiyya where 35 students graduated on Saturday, at Kpache community in Abaji Area Council.

He noted that encouraging children to acquire Islamic knowledge will have great impact on life of both the adult and child, saying such children's mind will always stay away from thinking or engaging in acts that are

repugnant to the ideals of society.

He said he was full of joy to be among those that witnessed the great achievement recorded in graduating the students that successfully recited some verses of the holy Qur'an.

He felicitated with the graduands, saying the high number clearly showed that parents have not rested on their oars in ensuring that their children acquire Islamic education.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Islamic teachers and the village head of the community for their commitment towards the success of the graduands.

The event witnessed the presentation of cash prizes, copies of the Qur'an and certificates to the graduands.

## FCT natives under represented, says Prof Zamani

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The director, Institute of Governors and Development Studies of Nasarawa State University Lafia, Prof Andrew Zamani, has said the FCT natives are under represented at the centre in terms of appointments.

Prof Zamani, a native of the FCT, stated this in his welcome address at the 5th annual cultural festival organized by Karu chiefdom Development Association held in Karu, Abuja at the weekend.

He said despite the rich political capital that the federal government continues to harness from the territory, it has neglected the natives.

"It is in the interest of the nation to promote equity for the natives and equity for

all citizens in the context of its social contract with the people," he said.

"It is obvious that this phenomenon has caused insecurity in many parts of the country and largely the uneven development in many states," he added.

He said residents of the FCT should not bear the brunt of such situation, but be spared through deliberate policy of population management, rural development, urban and regional planning.

Also speaking, a former FCT coordinator of the Satellite Towns Development Agency, Alhaji Isyaku Tanko Yamawo, who was the chairman of the occasion, appreciated the efforts of the organisers of the cultural festival in Karu chiefdom.

He described Gbagyi people as very accommodating,

assuring that other tribes who thronged the event to watch the Gbagyi cultural festival will no doubt learn a lot, especially about how culture and tradition are being preserved.

On his part, the Sarakuyi of Karu, Dr. Emmanuel Yepwi, noted that the cultural festival was aimed at fostering peace and unity among the Gbagyi and other ethnic groups in his chieftdom, and called on the youth to ensure they sustained the Gbagyi culture and tradition.

He also called on the youth to ensure they acquire education, saying education is the bedrock of society's development, hence, it behoves on them to acquire knowledge so that they will contribute to the development of the society in future.



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## FILING OF ANNUAL TAX RETURNS BY INDIVIDUALS

In line with Section 41 of the Personal Income Tax Act (PITA) 2011 (as amended ) FCT Internal Revenue Service (FCT-IRS) directs all Taxable Persons, resident in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to file annual returns of all income and allowances from **ALL** sources earned and unearned for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 within 90 days of the new year (i.e. latest by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020), using the prescribed Form A.

It is the duty of every Taxable Person, whether employed or self-employed, to complete and sign the Form A as a declaration and return same to the FCT-IRS through any of the 10 FCT-IRS Tax Offices in the FCT.

FC-IRS shall enforce **penalties and interest** for incorrect, false declaration and late submission.

A copy of Form A can be obtained from any of the FCT-IRS Tax Offices (listed below) or downloaded from the website [www.fctirs.gov.ng](http://www.fctirs.gov.ng).

For further enquiries, contact any of the following FCT-IRS Tax Offices:

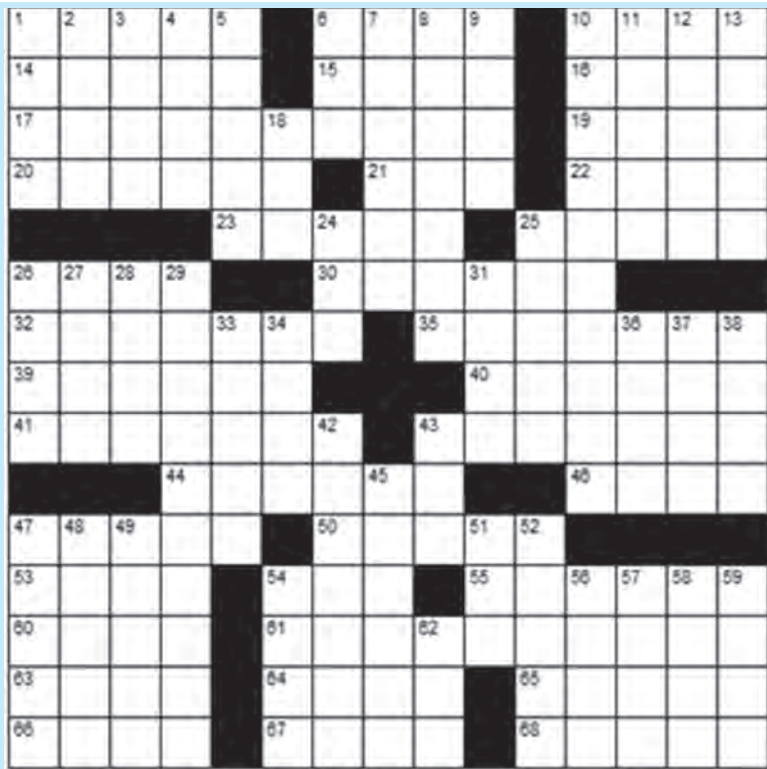
LOCATION	ADDRESS
<b>GARKI (HEADQUARTERS)</b>	No. 3, Abriba Close, Off Yola Street, Garki, Abuja.
<b>ASOKORO</b>	No. 70, Yakubu Gowon Crescent (AYA) Asokoro District, Abuja.
<b>CENTRAL AREA</b>	Yobe Investment House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ralph Shondeinde Street, Central Area, Abuja.
<b>GARKI AREA 11</b>	No. 12 Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.
<b>GWAGWALADA</b>	Plot 613, Paiko Road after University of Abuja, Gwagwalada Abuja.
<b>KAURA</b>	No. 8, FCT-IRS Drive, Off Oladipo Diya way, Behind NNPC Filling Station, Kaura District, Abuja.
<b>MAITAMA</b>	No. 61B, Usuma Street, off Gana Street, Maitama Abuja.
<b>MDAS</b>	No. 1, Dambatta Close, Off Yola Street, Garki, Abuja.
<b>UTAKO</b>	No. 35, A.E Ekukinam Street, Opp. ABC Transport, Utako, Abuja.
<b>WUSE</b>	No. 26 Sudan Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

SIGNED

**Abdullahi O. Attah**  
Executive Chairman.

(16)

EASY CROSSWORD >>



ACROSS

- 1. Depart
- 6. Visage
- 10. Actors in a show
- 14. Zeal
- 15. Dwarf buffalo
- 16. Pot
- 17. Autochthonic
- 19. Misled
- 20. Dictator
- 21. Fury
- 22. Unit of cut wood
- 23. Corrupt
- 25. Cute little rabbit
- 26. Wings
- 30. Unsaturated alcohol
- 32. Repossess
- 35. Long-lasting
- 39. Gentle stroke
- 40. Commit treachery
- 41. Dapple
- 43. Female protagonist
- 44. Grow teeth
- 46. Marsh plant
- 47. Ancient Hebrew vestment
- 50. Pointed a weapon
- 53. Rude person
- 54. Senesce
- 55. Safe
- 60. Gumbo
- 61. Unilateral paralysis
- 63. Gave temporarily

DOWN

- 1. Placed
- 2. Sea eagle
- 3. Contributes
- 4. Voice Over Internet Protocol
- 5. Grain disease
- 6. Air movement device
- 7. Bless
- 8. Wooded
- 9. Convenience
- 10. Adding machine
- 11. Negatively charged particle
- 12. Strict
- 13. Woman's undergarment
- 18. Estimated time of arrival
- 24. Belief
- 25. Driller
- 26. Circle fragments
- 27. Jump
- 28. Unit of land
- 29. Voters
- 31. Country bumpkin
- 33. Requested
- 34. Small island
- 36. French cheese
- 37. Alley
- 38. Gave the once-over
- 42. Knickknack holder
- 43. Skirt's edge
- 45. Characteristic of winter
- 47. African virus
- 48. Texas hold-em
- 49. Brass musical instruments
- 51. Clairvoyant's gift
- 52. Greek letter
- 54. Greeting at sea
- 56. C C C C
- 57. Not pretty
- 58. Anger
- 59. Where the sun rises
- 62. Sick

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD (15)



SUDOKU >>

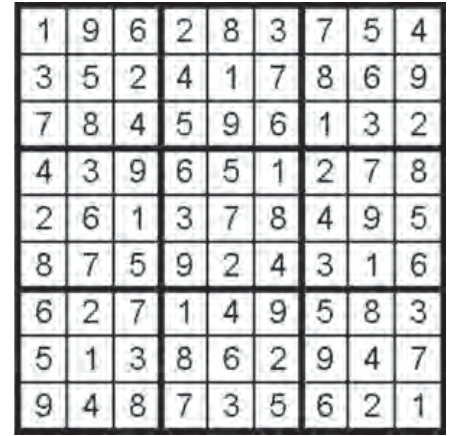
How to play: The number 1 through 9 will appear once only in each row, column, and 3 x 3 zone. There are 9 such zones in each sudoku grid. There is only one correct Solution to each sudoku.

Good luck!

16



Solution to Sudoku 15



SNAPSHOT >>

DOVE FAIL: Bride and groom's romantic dove release goes horribly wrong



This is the moment a bride and groom's romantic dove release went horribly wrong as a "dead" bird plummeted to the floor outside the church weekend, in the UK. The unknown newly wedded couple chose to gently toss two white doves into the air to mark the special day, but only one took off. The clip of the unexpected moment went viral after it was posted on Twitter by Laurie Jane. She wrote: "Wait for the magic moment." The bride and groom are filmed standing outside the church after getting married. They are holding a white bird each and both carefully throw their hands up, releasing the doves. The groom's bird flaps off towards the sky (pic left), but the bride's dove falls heavily to the ground (pic right) - as she and the guests look on in horror. After the video was watched more than 22,000 times, people commented on it wondering what happened to the bird. One person said "the poor birdie, it must've died in her hands" and another added "good omen".

Photos: Thesun.co.uk

SIGN LANGUAGE >>



■ Watch out Ghanaians. Highly Inflammable Water in year 2020? Photo location: Ghana. Spotted by: Peace Ezebuio

— Source: Buzzghana.co

## EVERYDAY TECHNOLOGY

With Prof. Foluso Ladeinde

State University of New York, Stony Brook, USA

foluso.ladeinde@gmail.com



## New hypersonic aerospace technology propels global arms race

It's nothing short of amazing the way human beings are, in terms of our inability to make peace with one another. Shamefully, there are regions of the world that have been in perpetual conflict since the beginning of time. We had Germany against the Allied Forces in a World War.

There is North Korea and South Korea, the only two countries that speak Korean, in conflict and apparently unable to make peace with each other. There was the conflict between Northern and Southern Sudan, and who would forget the Arms Race between the West and Russia? Just a few days ago, the second most important person in Iran was killed at the Bagdad airport in Iraq with a drone strike from an enemy country. A consequence of these pervasive global unrests is the need for each country to acquire the necessary wherewithal (ammunitions, intelligence, cyber-capabilities, and so on) to protect itself and be able to inflict pain on other countries, when it thinks it should. Sad, but this is the reality of the world in which we live.

As per the power of intentions, the capabilities for fighting wars tend to scale, perhaps nonlinearly (i.e., dramatically), with any little improvements in human knowhow. That is, every new technology seems to bring with it new ways of fighting wars. Even the Internet is now a potent war-fighting weapon. Moreover, the desire to win wars also forms motivation for numerous novel technological innovations. The development of the nuclear technology brought with it highly potent arsenals for killing people. We have all read about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan by the allied forces in 1945 that led to the death of over 130,000 Japanese.

Aerospace technologies are at the heart of the global warfare. Although ground troop capabilities are needed to win certain wars, airpower superiority is almost a given. The New York Times (NYT) of 27 December 2019 (Julian Barnes and David Sanger) reported that "the Russian military had deployed a hypersonic weapon that flies at superfast speeds and can easily evade American missile defense systems, potentially setting off a new chapter in the long arms race between the world's pre-eminent nuclear powers." According to Steven Simon in another NYT article on 2 January 2020, "Hypersonic weapons, at long last, appear poised to fulfill the promise of air power. In an era when the use of ground troops has proved costly, unpopular and generally ineffective, and where threats might be real but not necessarily "strategic," they are a godsend: missiles whose accuracy minimizes the risk of collateral damage, that pose no risk to aircrews, are unstoppable and phenomenally accurate, can yield an impact equal to five to ten tons of high explosive with no warhead at all yet be capable of delivering a nuclear bomb, and can reach nearly every coordinate on the surface of the earth within 30 minutes."

The Russian hypersonic missile system, which is referred to as "Avangard," has many interesting features: It flies at superfast (hypersonic) speeds, with the capability to reach any point on earth within an hour or less. The missile can easily evade any defense systems, with the capability of maneuvering along unpredictable trajectories, making them very difficult to track by current systems. Furthermore, they can fly lower in the atmosphere and avoid ballistic missiles and defense radars. ("Ballistic" relates to projectiles - such as rockets and bullets.) Note that the newly unveiled Russian weapon, which is also known as a hypersonic glide vehicle, is mounted on an ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile). (An ICBM is a guided (ballistic) missile that is capable of hitting a target that is located up to 5,500 kilometers away.)

According to Barnes and Sanger, "Moscow has been working on the technology for years and has invested heavily in it, determined to reverse the pattern in the Cold War, when it was often struggling to catch up with American nuclear weapons systems. If Avangard works as President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia boasted when he described the weapon a year ago, it would significantly enhance Moscow's already powerful nuclear forces, American officials said." "Senior American military officials said the United States plans to deploy its own hypersonic weapons by 2022."

There is the opinion that the "the Russian announcement may be as much about spurring a new round of diplomatic talks as it is about reviving an arms race." "Moscow is anxious for President Trump to renew the last remaining arms control treaty between the United States and Russia, called New START, which limits strategic nuclear missile launchers and deployed warheads for both nations. The treaty expires soon after the next (US) presidential inauguration in 2021." The Trump administration in the US has been wary about extending New START, asking that China and other nuclear powers be included before any renewal could take place. Meanwhile, China has reportedly expressed a lack of interest in any numerical limits on its arsenal, whose size is reportedly one-fifth of America's. Besides China, Russia, and the US, countries such as India, France and others are all developing hypersonic weapons similar to Russia's Avangard. May God Save Us!

## Samsung unveils budget versions of Galaxy S10, Note 10

Samsung will try to court customers on a lower budget with two new budget versions of its flagship phones.

On Friday, Samsung officially announced the Galaxy S10 Lite and the Note 10 Lite, which promise to be more affordable versions of their namesakes with similarly high-end features.

Samsung has yet to give a formal price on the new devices, though it did state that they will be sold at an 'accessible price point.

The current version of the S10 sells for \$899 while the Note 10 retails at \$949.

According to the Korean tech giant, both the budget devices come with a 6.7-inch AMOLED screen and centered hole-punch selfie cameras.

The biggest difference between the two devices comes in their triple-camera arrays.

While the S10 Lite will come with an Macro lens, ultra-wide, and 48-megapixel wide-angle, the Note 10 Lite will come with a telephoto, wide-angle, and ultra-wide.

All three of the Note 10 Lite's lenses will be 12 megapixels.

The Note 10 Lite will even retain the premium version's S Pen, a kind of smart stylus that lets users write in their device and control different aspects of their phone remotely - this includes taking pictures, videos, and more.

The S Pen also adds more capabilities to the package, allowing for some gesture control thanks to its six-axis motion sensor that includes

an accelerometer and gyro sensor.

This means users can control certain functions by waving the pen in the air, including zooming in and out to take pictures and controlling the volume of YouTube videos without having to touch the screen.

S Pen will last hours on a single charge, the firm says, and recharges by sliding back into the phone.

Samsung hasn't slated a specific date for when the Lite devices will be released but they may come head-to-head with an upcoming crop of budget-centric Apple phones.

The iPhone SE 2 is expected to be released this year at a starting price of \$399, making it several hundred dollars cheaper than the newest iPhone 11 models.

## It is unfair to deny NIPOST stamp duty collection - Pantami



■ Dr Isa Ibrahim Pantami

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, has said it is unfair to deny Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) the right to collect stamp duty.

Dr Pantami has therefore petitioned President Muhammadu Buhari over plans to cede collection of stamp duty to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

Dr Pantami said on Friday in Abuja that he has also written to the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, opposing the plan to remove the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) from the collection of stamp duty.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in 2016 had asked Money Deposit Banks through a circular to deduct N50 stamp duty on every electronic transfer with a value of N1, 000 and above.

Since, then the FIRS had been contending that it had the responsibility to collect all duties and finally got the House of Representatives to insert this responsibility in a proposed amendment to the Stamp Duty Act.

But according to Dr Pantami, it will be unjust to transfer stamp duty collection from NIPOST to FIRS.

He said: "To me, stamp duty should be collected by NIPOST, the same way the Nigerian Customs Service

collect customs duties. The FIRS has been working on being the agency that collects stamp duty. It started before my appointment and I only got to know when the situation had deteriorated. I intervened by informing Mr President that NIPOST should be the one to collect stamp duty."

He said FIRS had summoned a meeting of some stakeholders, without involving the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy and NIPOST, to deliberate on which agency should collect the revenue.

He said the stakeholders were working for FIRS's interests only and that the NIPOST should be the organisation that collects stamp duty.

He added: "As far as I am concerned, this is one of the injustices that should be challenged and I will continue to challenge it."

He however dismissed reports that the Federal Government had concluded that FIRS should henceforth collect stamp duty.

He said, "It is not true that the Federal Government has decided that the FIRS should collect stamp duty. I have been at the Federal Executive Council and I know that it has not been agreed that FIRS should collect stamp duty. The government will decide but we can advise."

## 'Nigeria's quality of telecom service still one of the best globally'

By Zakariyya Adaramola

Nigeria's quality of telecom service is one of the best in the world, the Association of Licensed Telecommunications Operators of Nigeria (ALTON) has said.

The ALTON chairman Engr Gbenga Adebayo who said this also said despite the extremely high operating cost of providing services in Nigeria, the telecoms industry

is the only sector charges have been stable.

"In the first place, we make bold to state that the quality of telecoms services in Nigeria is amongst the best in comparable jurisdictions, despite the challenges our members face in their day-to-day operations. Secondly, it is remarkable that despite the extremely high cost of providing services in Nigeria, the telecoms industry is the

only sector where charges have been stable (even falling)", Adebayo said in the statement.

He said their members still battle the State, Local Government agencies who aggressively harass them to pay both legitimate and illegitimate taxes and levies which run to several million Naira in some cases, adding that despite this they still provide quality services to consumers.



**NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI**  
(Office of the Registrar)

**INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT**

**Vacancy Announcement for the Post of Director of Medical Health Services Department**

The Governing Council of Nasarawa State University, Keffi hereby announces that the position of Director of Medical Health Services Department of the University is vacant and so invites interested and qualified candidates to submit application as below:

**Summary of Position**

The Director, Health Services Department will provide leadership, vision, direction and general operation of the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Medical Health Services Department; under the direct supervision of the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration of the Medical Centre.

The Director, is the Administrative Head of the University Medical Health Services and shall assume full responsibility for effective organization, administration and general policy of the University Medical Centre.

**The Person**

Candidate for the post shall be visionary and have the ability to provide good leadership, possess personal integrity and demonstrate transparency in private and public life; must be able to command respect and loyalty of the staff of the University.

**Requirements**

Candidates for this post shall:

- i. Possess good honours degree in medicine from a recognized institution.
- ii. Must be a Consultant in relevant field of Medicine.
- iii. Acceptable evidence of full registration with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria.
- iv. Must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience.
- v. The applicant must have spent at least five (5) years as Deputy Director in a tertiary institution or other similar organization.
- vi. Be computer literate and proficient in relevant computer applications.

**Salary**

The salary attached to this position is CONTISS 15. Other benefits to the holder of the office are as stipulated in the University's Conditions of Service.

**Condition of Service**

The appointment shall be for a single term of five years. Fringe benefits are as applicable to similar positions in Nasarawa State University, Keffi, and as may be determined by the Governing Council from time to time.

**Method of Application**

Candidates are required to submit fifteen (15) copies of their applications and Curriculum Vitae and photocopies of their credentials. The Curriculum Vitae should highlight the following:

- 1. Full name (Surname first in capital letters)
- 2. Place and Date of Birth
- 3. Marital Status
- 4. Number and ages of children
- 5. E-mail and telephone numbers
- 6. Postal address
- 7. Permanent Home address
- 8. Nationality
- 9. State of Origin and LGA
- 10. Schools attended and qualifications obtained with dates
- 11. Positions held with dates
- 12. Membership of professional bodies
- 13. Names and address of three (3) referees

Applications should be submitted under confidential cover in sealed envelope marked "Director of Medical Health Service" to:

**The Registrar,  
Nasarawa State University, Keffi,  
P.M.B. 1022, Keffi,  
Nasarawa State,  
Nigeria.**

Applicants are expected to request their Referees to forward their reports under confidential cover directly to the Registrar.

**Closing Date**

Applications should reach the office of the Registrar, not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

**Signed  
Bala I. Ahmed II, mnim, fcai, fcim  
Registrar**



**NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI**  
(Office of the Registrar)

**INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT**

**Vacancy Announcement for the Post of Director of Physical Planning**

The Governing Council of Nasarawa State University, Keffi hereby announces that the position of Director of Physical Planning of the University is vacant and so invites interested and qualified candidates to submit application as below:

**The Position**

The Director, Physical Planning is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the physical development of the University, is responsible for the coordination and supervision of physical development projects; ensures quality and standard of structures in the University through proper advice and liaison with relevant bodies involved in the construction of all structures of the University and ensures proper preparations of tender documents for the University.

**The Person**

The Director must be a person of high integrity and demonstrate transparency in public and private life as well as command the respect and loyalty of the staff of the University; must also be receptive to new ideas and willing to translate them into new projects in line with the physical development plans of the University.

**Requirements**

Candidates for this post shall:

- i. Possess good honours degree or equivalent from a recognized University/Tertiary Institution in Building Engineering, Estate Management, Quantity Surveying, Town Planning or Architecture.
- ii. Possession of a post graduate qualification is an added advantage.
- iii. Must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience in a University or comparable Institution.
- iv. The applicant must have spent at least five (5) years as Deputy Director in a tertiary institution or other similar organization.
- v. Candidate must be registered member of relevant professional and regulatory bodies.
- vi. Candidate must also be computer literate and proficient in relevant computer applications.

**Salary**

The salary attached to this position is CONUASS 15. Other benefits to the holder of the office are as stipulated in the University's Conditions of Service.

**Condition of Service**

The appointment shall be for a single term of five years. Fringe benefits are as applicable to similar positions in Nasarawa State University, Keffi, and as may be determined by the Governing Council from time to time.

**Method of Application**

Candidates are required to submit fifteen (15) copies of their applications and Curriculum Vitae and photocopies of their credentials. The Curriculum Vitae should highlight the following:

- 1. Full name (Surname first in capital letters)
- 2. Place and Date of Birth
- 3. Marital Status
- 4. Number and ages of children
- 5. E-mail and telephone numbers
- 6. Postal address
- 7. Permanent Home address
- 8. Nationality
- 9. State of Origin and LGA
- 10. Schools attended and qualifications obtained with dates
- 11. Positions held with dates
- 12. Membership of professional bodies
- 13. Names and address of three (3) referees

Applications should be submitted under confidential cover in sealed envelope marked "Director of Physical Planning" to:

**The Registrar,  
Nasarawa State University, Keffi,  
P.M.B. 1022, Keffi,  
Nasarawa State,  
Nigeria.**

Applications are expected to request their referees to forward their reports under confidential cover directly to the Registrar.

**Closing Date**

Applications and Referees Report should reach the office of the Registrar, not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

**Signed  
Bala I. Ahmed II, mnim, fcai, fcim  
Registrar**



## NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI

(Office of the Registrar)

### INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

#### Vacancy Announcement for the Post of Director of Works and Maintenance

The Governing Council of Nasarawa State University, Keffi hereby announces that the position of Director of Works and Maintenance of the University is vacant and so invites interested and qualified candidates to submit application as below:

##### Summary of Position

The Director, Works and Maintenance is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the construction and supervision of projects on Campus, general maintenance of buildings, provision of water and electricity for the University.

##### The Person

The Director must be a person of high integrity and demonstrate transparency in public and private life as well as command the respect and loyalty of the staff of the University.

##### Requirements

Candidates for this post shall:

- Possess good honours degree or equivalent from a recognized University/Tertiary Institution in Building Engineering, Public Works, Estate Management, Quantity Surveying, Town Planning or Architecture.
- Possession of a post graduate qualification is an added advantage.
- Must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience in a University or other similar organization.
- Candidate must be registered member of relevant professional and regulatory bodies.
- The Candidate must have spent at least five (5) years as Deputy Director in a tertiary institution or other similar organization.
- Candidate must also be computer literate and proficient in relevant computer applications.

##### Salary

The salary attached to this position is CONTISS 15. Other benefits to the holder of the office are as stipulated in the University's Conditions of Service.

##### Condition of Service

The appointment shall be for a single term of five years. Fringe benefits are as applicable to similar positions in Nasarawa State University, Keffi, and as may be determined by the Governing Council from time to time.

##### Method of Application

Candidates are required to submit fifteen (15) copies of their applications and Curriculum Vitae and photocopies of their credentials. The Curriculum Vitae should highlight the following:

- Full name (Surname first in capital letters)
- Place and Date of Birth
- Marital Status
- Number and ages of children
- E-mail and telephone numbers
- Postal address
- Permanent Home address
- Nationality
- State of Origin and LGA
- Schools attended and qualifications obtained with dates
- Positions held with dates
- Membership of professional bodies
- Names and address of three (3) referees

Applications should be submitted under confidential cover in sealed envelope marked "Director of Works and Maintenance" to:

**The Registrar,  
Nasarawa State University, Keffi,  
P.M.B. 1022, Keffi,  
Nasarawa State,  
Nigeria.**

Applicants are expected to request their Referees to forward their reports under confidential cover directly to the Registrar.

##### Closing Date

Applications and Referees Reports should reach the office of the Registrar, not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

**Signed  
Bala I. Ahmed II, mnim, fcai, fcim  
Registrar**



## NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI

(Office of the Registrar)

### INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

#### Vacancy Announcement for the Post of Director of Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

The Governing Council of Nasarawa State University, Keffi hereby announces that the position of Director of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) of the University is vacant and so invites interested and qualified candidates to submit application as below:

##### Summary of Position

The Director, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the development and implementation of the University's diverse information technology initiatives.

The Director will develop and implement Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policies, lead the (ICT) planning process under the overall strategic direction for technology services.

##### The Person

The Director should be visionary and have the ability to provide good leadership and possess personal integrity and demonstrate transparency in private and public life; must be able to command respect and loyalty of the staff of the University. Candidate should also have a thorough understanding of the challenges and significance of ICT implementation for Universities in developing countries.

##### Requirements

Candidates for this post shall:

- Possess good honours degree in Computer Science or related discipline from a recognized University/Tertiary institution. Possession of Post Graduate qualification is an added advantage.
- Must be registered member of relevant professional and regulatory bodies.
- Must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience in a University or comparable institution.
- The applicant must have spent at least five (5) years as Deputy Director in a tertiary institution or similar organization.

##### Salary

The salary attached to this position is CONTISS 15. Other benefits to the holder of the office are as stipulated in the University's Conditions of Service.

##### Condition of Service

The appointment shall be for a single term of five years. Fringe benefits are as applicable to similar positions in Nasarawa State University, Keffi, and as may be determined by the Governing Council from time to time.

##### Method of Application

Candidates are required to submit fifteen (15) copies of their applications and Curriculum Vitae and photocopies of their credentials. The Curriculum Vitae should highlight the following:

- Full name (Surname first in capital letters)
- Place and Date of Birth
- Marital Status
- Number and ages of children
- E-mail and telephone numbers
- Postal address
- Permanent Home address
- Nationality
- State of Origin and LGA
- Schools attended and qualifications obtained with dates
- Positions held with dates
- Membership of professional bodies
- Names and address of three (3) referees

Applications should be submitted under confidential cover in sealed envelope marked "Director of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)" to:

**The Registrar,  
Nasarawa State University, Keffi,  
P.M.B. 1022, Keffi,  
Nasarawa State,  
Nigeria.**

Applicants are expected to request their Referees to forward their reports under confidential cover directly to the Registrar.

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**Signed  
Bala I. Ahmed II, mnim, fcai, fcim  
Registrar**



# PROPERTY



■ An aerial view of Amadi Rimi Orthopedic Hospital, Katsina

Photo: twitter user fatima x

## 'FCT needs Wider Area Planning and Devt Commission'

Adamu Kasimu is a former Chairman, Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV) FCT Chapter. In this interview he explains some of the problems of Abuja city, the way out and other sundry matters. Excerpts:

By Malikatu Umar Shuaibu

**I**t's like there's a lull in the property market in the FCT, how true is this?

The property market is like any other market that responds to factors of demand and supply and if the demand side is weak naturally it will affect the supply and hence price.

Now the demand for houses in Abuja has dropped drastically and it may not be unconnected with the spendable income that is available to potential house buyers. But looking at the property market in general, it is not a lull per se but a sectoral lull, and more affected is the residential rather than commercial properties that are affected.

**Why do people prefer to buy land and develop themselves rather than buy finished products?**

This is a social or cultural issue. When you look at the definition of housing, it involves a product and a process. It is not only a house, it also means the process of getting that house. So your needs differ with mine, one, it could be problem of access to land, if you give service land to some people that may be the solution.

Number two, it could be capital, mortgages could solve their problem. So



■ Adamu Kasimu

it's not just about owner-occupation, that is the mistake government is doing, they want everyone to own a house, no, that is not the solution. The issue is that everyone should have access to house.

**How?**

If you have access to N10 million, you may not be able to buy the desired house you need, but that N10 million may afford you a decent accommodation as a tenant paying maybe N500,000 per annum, so for the next 20 years you are OK, that is

the opportunity cost. So it is not just about ownership but access to housing and this where government should focus, make housing accessible to citizens, not that houses should be built for citizens.

**Why do people still patronize local village heads who sell them fake land?**

In every society there are laws. If you want to buy land there are rules to follow. In FCT the President is the trustee for all lands in the territory because Abuja is a federal land. People go to buy

from the villagers believing that nothing will happen yet something will happen, so there is a problem there.

**Abuja is growing fast and seems to be overwhelming the authorities, what is the way out?**

Remember Abuja was conceived as a planned city and the planners of the FCT did not just plan for the development and growth of the federal capital city but also for the federal capital territory. And again they planned for areas that are contiguous to the territory.

The regional plan of FCT that was prepared by a consultant Doxiadis in the 70s provided that the federal government should consider the establishment of an FCT Wider Area Planning and Development Commission. This was the focus by the planners then, that the impact of the FCT to the east would be felt up to Akwanga in the present Nasarawa state, in the West it might get to Bida, to the North the impact is up to Kaduna, and to the South you have Lokoja.

So in that document that I mentioned these areas are graphically displayed...they conceived that the city will grow and become a liability to the surrounding states.

Up till now we are yet to have that commission established but then if you

look at Mararaba, if the entire federal monthly allocation of Nasarawa state is being spent on Mararaba alone it will not solve their problem, there is no infrastructure like hospitals, schools, water etc., yet the place is growing by the day.

**No government has made any effort in establishing this commission?**

What we have been hearing is that the Governors of these contiguous states stars approach the minister regularly requesting for the establishment of this commission' planning committee but that is not sufficient. The Nasarawa State Governor recently met with the FCT Minister requesting for a joint planning committee, but all other states should also key in through their Houses of Assembly, they should pass a resolution requesting the federal government to, as a matter of urgency, establish the FCT Wider Area Planning and Development Commission.

This commission will be funded just like the NDDC is being funded. The states should present a common front, it could be through their National Assembly representatives, to address the problem I think the federal government will listen and we will get there.

EYE ON  
ABUJATpl. Umar Shuaibu  
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com

## Commitment to protecting human rights of all citizens

In our civilised society of today, everybody has the right to be listened to. All individuals should also have the obligation to respect the rights of others. The promulgation of laws governing our society took cognizance of both our social and moral norms. As described; social norms are what people in a given society are expected to do, not only because such behaviour is usual, but also because it is deemed good.

While moral norms are norms we have to follow according to the doctrines of our religion or conscience, the fusion of these norms gave birth to legal norm, which violation is punishable. In other words laws are made to respect general interest, or for enforcement of overriding public interest.

In developing a plan for the new capital city which is for all the people, the varied ways in which Nigerian cities evolved and related was not ignored. The African neighbourliness, brotherhood and family ties which made us identify our close and distant relations as ours, is unique, best and incomparable to any foreign culture. While preparing the master plan it has been identified that major shortcomings in the past planning for Nigerian cities has been the failure to recognise and accommodate the indigenous patterns of urban organisation and adaptation already present in the country.

Nigeria has an important urban tradition. The tradition includes how people lived both in cities with ancient roots dating back centuries, and in new towns created during the colonial periods. The new capital city of Nigeria must preserve and build on that which is unique and valuable in Nigerian's urban tradition.

The cultural pluralism of Nigeria suggests that the city plan must simultaneously permit the different segments of the Nigerian population to maintain an important degree of continuity with their social and cultural traditions while encouraging, where appropriate, amalgamation of the various streams of urban tradition and lifestyle into a new and common modern Nigerian urban context.

An important ingredient in the development of the master plan, therefore, has been a review of the relationships that have developed between social and physical aspects in existing Nigerian cities. Three key urban planning and design issues were considered. These are overall urban form, role of central public spaces and organisation of residential areas.

Abiding by the principle of respecting our various traditional and cultural settings, the result of the foregoing analysis led to the adoption of the neighbourhood concept for the planning of Abuja City. This translates to our collective and overriding public interest. In

addition land uses are zoned to ensure compatibility. It is expected that a property owner respects the feelings, and not to engage in activities that shall be inimical to the wellbeing of his neighbour.

Included in the plan is the provision of all necessary infrastructure and facilities to provide the basic needs of all neighbourhood residents, without traversing major arterial roads. These include facilities like corner shops, clinics, primary schools etc. Areas earmarked for city greening are administered by the Park and Recreations Department, to further ensure livability with the provision of relaxation points within the neighbourhood.

The city government is also committed to the protection of the rights of all the city residents, because laws for ensuring peaceful and harmonious coexistence are for the protection of individuals. If residents' rights are violated by the activities of neighbours, avenue for complaints are provided through the relevant FCTA agencies. Unfortunately, all complaints of violation of rights from adjoining property users are due to violations of land uses.

The challenges being encountered in city management are from two conflicting interests. On one side are the distressed neighbours, who are victims of violations and who seek for righting the wrong so that they could be relieved of nuisances upsetting serenities in their homes. While on the other hand there are the aggressors who are the violators of rules and regulations guiding park regulations, or changing land uses, and who will go to all lengths to ensure the continuation of their illegalities, for the benefit of fun seekers, irrespective of the discomfort other adjoining users are subjected.

The aggressors view all enforcement notices by the city management agencies as violation of their fundamental human rights, thereby subjecting the agencies to litigations and petitions, some at the National Human Rights Commission. We are left to ponder on, whose fundamental human rights are actually being violated, between those aggrieved and the aggressors.

Hinged on the legal provision of overriding public interest, adequate provisions and instruments of operation are provided for the defense of the relevant agencies for enforcement. They include Urban and Regional Planning Law 1992, AEPB Act No. 10 of 1997, Abuja Park Regulations 2005 and the most recently gazette 2019 FCT Park policy.

The earlier we realise that respect must be accorded to the feelings and interests of our fellow citizens and the greater majority, the better for our communities. The relevant agencies must never relent on ensuring that the rights of all citizens are never violated.

## FCTA set to reclaim, repair parks, recreational centres

By Malikatu Umar Shuaibu

About 33 percent of land on the Abuja master plan is earmarked for green areas which includes parks and recreational centres in the city. That allocation also explains why almost all districts in the Federal Capital Territory have parks for the relaxation of residents and visitors alike.

But over time, illegal activities have taken over many parks in the heart of the federal capital city. They have been converted to among others, mechanical workshop, beer parlours as well as shanties where people reside due to lack of accommodation or high rent.

It is consequent upon this misapplication that the FCT Administration, under the Department of Parks and Recreation, has embarked on a rehabilitation of parks in Abuja and sensitization to evacuate all illegal activities going on in the parks.

The Parks and Recreation Department holds the mandate to ensure and enhance development, management and operation of parks and green areas, open spaces and other recreational sites in the FCT. These also include wildlife reservations and other environmentally historic scenic sites.

In an interview, the director FCT Parks and Recreation Department, Mr. Ali Ukele, told *Daily Trust* that the FCT Administration has embarked on a sensitization on parks in Abuja to recover all designated green areas, parks and other recreational centres which land uses had been changed to be reverted to the initial purpose.

He explained that one of the missions of the park policies is to create a humane environment in a green garden city setting which will sustainably promote and provide adequate parks, green and open space resources and recreational sites for the present and future FCT residents,



■ FCT Minister Muhammad Musa Bello

visitors and tourists alike.

It is also aimed at promoting effective planning, greening, landscaping, beautification, administration and management of the parks, green areas of the FCT in line with the Abuja master plan.

"We don't encourage parks being converted to beer parlours and pepper soup joints and that is where you will also find most illegal activities going on, when a park is not properly maintained by the manager. It is on this note that Parks and Recreation Department seals and revokes the licence of parks management involved in unauthorised activities.

"So only activities within the green belt would be focused on for the purpose of protecting the city from environmental problems and for recreational purpose," he said.

One of the major functions of the department is to liaise with other departments for the identification, planning, classification and documentation for the development and management of parks, green areas, open spaces and other recreational sites for the well-being, biodiversity and ecotourism purpose in the federal capital city, he said.

## Estate firm secures N6bn materials for housing projects

By Daniel Adugbo

Wisdom Kwati City has secured materials worth N6 billion for the construction of its pilot projects in Abuja and Adamawa State, its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Wisdom Kwati, has said.

In a statement he issued in Abuja, Kwati revealed that the firm will commence the construction in September this year.

"We are taking off with Adamawa and Abuja simultaneously. We have secured materials worth N4 billion for about 100 units of mixed apartments in Abuja. We have also secured about N2 billion materials for bungalows in Adamawa State," he said.

He disclosed that the company has global partnerships with five firms and has already secured full corporate offers for the projects.

According to him, the company already has \$500 million available for disbursement for commencement of work in the sites.

The CEO also stated that the company has accessed other corporate entities locally that have invested about N2 billion in the projects.

According to him, Wisdom Kwati

City has secured lands valued over N10 billion in Lagos, Abuja, Adamawa, Akwa-Ibom and Kaduna.

In his highlights of the smart city estates, he said Abuja estate is about 15,000 housing units on about 105 hectares in Lugbe 1 Extension, just beside River Park and behind Dunamis church.

He explained that the Adamawa State project is located on a 15 hectares land at Namtari, Numan road, just after Welcome to Yola signage.

He also noted that owing to the firm's determination to address the nation's housing challenges in a holistic manner, it has decided to build the estates in the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Kwati said the company is granting the public its housing scheme with a soft mortgage plan.

According to him, while other firms allowed a payment period of three years, Wisdom Kwati City provides a 15-year payment model, which is also interest free to its subscribers.

This, he said, is because his company gets its interest rate from its investment platform and not from off-takers.

# STRANGE STORIES

## Head injury leaves man, 34, looking like a child

'I am still like a child, therefore I cannot have a child...'



■ Zhu Shengkai (pictured) said his body stopped growing after he was hit by a rock during a game when he was six years old. He spoke to Chinese media about his experience this week



■ ...runs a hair salon in the village to help bring in more cash for his farming family

**A 34-year-old man in China has been trapped in a child's body due to brain injuries he had when he was six.**

Farmer Zhu Shengkai from the province of Hubei claimed his body stopped growing after he was hit in the head by

a stone in his childhood.

The man, who also works as a hairdresser, said: 'I am still like a child, therefore I cannot have a wife or child.'

He then joked: 'I cannot grow old.'

Speaking to Chinese media from his home in a village

near the city of Wuhan, he added: 'Although I am 34 years old, my body functions are still immature like those of a child.'

He said he was often mistaken for a boy by the others due to his child-like voice and looks. Mr Zhu said

he was struck by the rock while playing a game.

He said he was told by doctors that he sustained injuries in the pituitary gland - part of the brain which releases hormones that control growth in the body.

However due to the lack of

healthcare services in the 1980s in rural China, his condition never got treated properly.

According to the man, his head was not bleeding after he was hit, so he did not think much of it.

However, on the same night, he started to have high fever and his condition failed to improve after three days.

His parents took him to a local clinic and he was found to have a blood clot in his brain. Surgeons removed the lump and Mr Zhu's parents thought he had been cured.

Mr Zhu lived the next three years in a carefree way like other children.

But when he was nine years old, he discovered that he had not grown taller. In addition, his body had remained the same as that of his six-year-old self.

After visiting bigger hospitals, he was informed that his pituitary gland had been damaged.

He followed doctor's orders and took medicine for five years, but no changes were observed.

He never went through puberty.

Mr Zhu now makes a living by planting crops. He has also opened a hair salon to cut hair for his neighbours.

The man is frustrated by the fact that his body still functions like that of a six-year-old, which makes it impossible for him to have his own family.

But at the same time, he is keeping a glass-half-full attitude.

He said: 'I see the others [of my age] all have wrinkles on their faces, but my face is still tender and wrinkle-free. It will be also good if I can look like this when I am old.'

— Culled from dailymail.com

## Lottery player's mistake turns her into a N30.6m winner

A Virginia woman who won a \$100,000 (about N30.6 million) jackpot from a lottery drawing said she owes her good luck to a mistake she made when filling out her play slip.

Dorothy Woods of Goldvein told Virginia Lottery officials she bought her Cash 5 ticket from the Morrisville Mini Mart in Bealeton and had intended to play her usual numbers, 4-9-14-17-24.

Woods checked the

results of the Christmas Eve drawing and thought she had matched four of the five numbers drawn: 4-9-14-17-28.

The player said it came as a shock when she realized she had made a mistake when filling out her play slip and her ticket bore a 28 instead of a 24, earning her the \$100,000 top prize.

"My kids were more excited than anything," Woods said.

— Culled from upi.com



■ Virginia woman said she scored \$100,000 from the state lottery's Cash 5 game thanks to accidentally picking a number different from her usual digits.

# 20 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA:



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Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration



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# LABOUR

## 2020: NDE targets grassroots empowerment - DG

By Umar Shehu Usman

**W**hat are your plans for 2020?

When I came to NDE in 2017, we targeted the federal government, in 2018 we targeted states, in 2019 we targeted local governments, in 2020 we are targeting wards, because we think unemployment and poverty, if we can curb them at the rural areas, then it would be easier to mitigate them in the urban areas.

People from the rural areas troop to the urban areas in search for jobs and greener pasture, but when they have what to do, they prefer to remain in their communities, that was why we first targeted federal level, states, local governments; and now is time for the ward level.

At the LGA stage, we picked 50 people from each local government. For example, we picked 10 carpenters, 10 plumbers, 10 phone experts, 10 electricians, and a host of others, and they are engaged.

Now at the ward level, we are targeting 10 persons from each ward across the country. It is something achievable; we can do it. We have the support of the government.

In 2020, as I have always said, white-collar jobs are not there and you cannot depend on your parents because for you to receive today, tomorrow, it only comes from God, one day they will get tired of you. Let them keep their pride aside, degree or no degree; use your brain, your hands, and skills so that you can have something doing. I am advising them to go forward, we can train them on the trade they want to be trained on, so that they can

DG of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Dr. Nasir Mohammed Ladan, said one of the directorate's goals in 2020 towards creating employment and mitigating poverty is empowerment of Nigerians at the grassroots, thereby discouraging the mass migration to urban areas.



■ Dr. Nasir Mohammed Ladan

have their own income and be independent.

**How are you working with the International Labour Organisation to integrate the returning migrants?**

We have been attending a lot of meetings in Geneva as far as ILO is concerned and we had a lot of deliberations. We are even pushing that ILO should recognize certificates from NDE. That aside, for the returnees from South Africa and from Italy, the last time we were in Edo State we went to their shelter with Governor Godwin Obaseki. We met the

young women there and we had several meetings with them. We are in collaboration with NEMA to bring them back home, put them in a shelter and then they come to us for training based on what they want to be trained on. We train them and settle them so that they can be on their own.

**One other issue disturbing stakeholders is that of IDPs. We have them in the North East, even the North Central, is your intervention reaching them?**

In 2018 we had 76,000 people across the country; 2000

within the states. For states like Katsina, Kano, Lagos and Rivers we gave 4000 raining slots each. There was a special training we gave the IDPs. We took about 11,300 of them, we trained them on various things that we placed priority on. We have already sent all that were registered to the various states in terms of logistics.

**How are you collaborating with the NYSC, and do you think young graduates looking for white-collar jobs will be willing to key into your initiative and become self-reliant?**

Government policies sometimes are very difficult to change, but left for me some of the state of the art equipment I saw in most science universities and polytechnics I think government should not just award degrees only based on character and learning, there should be a situation where at least you train in one trade before you graduate so that when you come out of the university, and white collar job isn't there, you will have something to fall back on.

So, in this regard, there is a programme in the NDE called GAP (Graduate Attachment Programme) for those of them that feel that they can learn from artisans or craftsmen. We look for bigger companies and attach them so they can learn something.

Even those that studied law but are sitting at home doing nothing, we look for credible law firms within their locality

and attach them, and pay them N15,000 monthly.

There is also an initiative called Graduate Teaching Scheme where we employ graduates to teach people who are not graduates and we pay them N10,000 monthly so we are virtually everywhere. The aim is to ensure no one is idle because we believe crimes like kidnapping, insurgency etc are part of idleness.

**NDE has been in a rented apartment for 32 years, under your stewardship it now has its own permanent office, how did you achieve that?**

It is all about the issue of interest. I believe there is no difference between me and the past directors general. Almost all of them are older than me, but the issue is commitment and interest. The fact is that of commitment. As I said earlier, wherever we need to talk, wherever we need to collaborate we try and do that and, this is part of it, our efforts have paid off.

We have been engaging with EFCC, there was a time the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, paid a courtesy visit and I told him the reason I invited him, was to see where we were staying. We have been there for the past 32 years in a rented apartment. He assured us and continuously we engaged him and as God will have it we now have our own building and it is a final forfeiture, it is like we have taken over. What is left now is for us to put it in shape.

## Workplace injury: NSITF spent N825m to rehabilitate injured workers in 2019

By Umar Shehu Usman

In 2019, the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) spent about N825 million to rehabilitate injured workers.

Managing director and chief executive of the fund Adebayo Somefun disclosed this in Abuja in a New Year message to the staff, in which he explained that the fund spent more on claims and compensation on injured workers last year than in

previous years.

He explained that high contribution collection enabled the fund to deploy considerable sums in investment in accordance with the Employees' Compensation Act (ECA) 2010.

While highlighting the achievements of the fund in 2019, the NSITF boss stated that the fund was able to combine efforts and resources of relevant

stakeholders for the prevention of workplace accidents, efforts which included the enforcement of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) standards.

Somefun emphasised that the fund, in its bid to enhance productivity and improve the ease of registration by employers, put in place innovations that would aid in achieving the purpose.

The innovation, he said, included the successful

launch of NSITF's e-portals for client's registration and payments, adding, "we are currently working on the e-portal for issuance of NSITF compliance certificates to further revolutionise the fund's processes."

While expressing his delight over making processes open and keeping information about the fund in the public domain, the managing director disclosed that the NSITF's place on

the 2019 National Freedom of Information Compliance ranking greatly improved. The fund is placed 26th out of 191 public institutions which featured in the rankings.

Speaking further, he said the fund will carry the gains of the ECA to local government authorities, state government and parastatals of the federal government, while continuing to enforce compliance in the private and informal sectors.



## PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND (PTDF)

PTDF House, Plot 1058 Memorial Drive, Central Area, Cadastral Zone A00, Abuja

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# 2020/2021 OVERSEAS POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME UNDER PTDF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN UK

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), the Federal Government agency with the mandate of developing indigenous human capacity and petroleum technology to meet the needs of the oil and gas industry, invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for Overseas MSc and PhD Scholarships to institutions under its UK strategic partnership initiative. Successful candidates will be awarded scholarships to study in UK commencing in the 2020/2021 academic session.

### The Scheme

Under this scheme, candidates are invited to apply through PTDF to specific programmes at the partner institutions in the United Kingdom (**full list of sponsored courses is available on our website [www.ptdf.gov.ng](http://www.ptdf.gov.ng) and [scholarship.ptdf.gov.ng](http://scholarship.ptdf.gov.ng)**). The award includes the provision of flight tickets, payment of health insurance, payment of tuition and bench fees (where applicable) as well as the provision of allowances to meet the costs of accommodation and living expenses.

### Application Process

Applications are done online on our Scholarship Management Portal (**[scholarship.ptdf.gov.ng](http://scholarship.ptdf.gov.ng)**).

### Selection Process, Criteria & Requirements

PTDF scholarships are highly competitive and only candidates who are outstanding across board are selected. A selection committee will be constituted to assess applications using the following criteria;

- Academic merit as evidenced by quality of degrees, full academic transcripts, other professional qualifications acquired, and relevant publications to be referenced by applicants
- Membership of professional bodies
- The viability of the study/research plan.
- Applicants are required to make a case for their scholarship by submitting a statement of purpose (maximum 500 words) stating the reason(s) they want to undertake the study, the relevance of the proposed study to the oil & gas industry and its expected impact on national development.

### Requirements

- A. Msc
1. A minimum of Second Class Upper (2.1) qualification in their first degree or a Second Class Lower (2.2) with relevant industry experience
  2. Must have completed the mandatory National Youth Service (NYSC)
  3. Must be computer literate
  4. Possession of 5 O/level credits including English Language.

### B. PhD

1. Must have completed the mandatory National Youth Service (NYSC)
2. Must be computer literate
3. A minimum of Second Class Lower (2.2) in their first degree and a good second-degree certificate;
4. Must submit a research proposal relevant to the oil and gas industry (of not more than 5 pages) to include: Topic, introduction, objective, methodology and mode of data collection (sample template of the proposal is available on our Scholarship Management Portal [scholarship.ptdf.gov.ng](http://scholarship.ptdf.gov.ng));
5. Applicants must also include their master's degree project

### Required Documents

Applicants are advised to scan copies of the following documents and upload to their online application:

1. First Degree Certificate or Statement of Result
2. NYSC discharge certificate
3. WAEC/GCE/SSCE/NECO results
4. Local Government Identification Letter
5. Master's Degree Certificate (PhD Applicants only)
6. Evidence of membership of professional associations

### NOTE:

- i. Applicants must have a National Identity Number (NIN) before applying for the scholarship. Applicants are also expected to verify their NIN before completing the application. (charges may apply).
- ii. Ongoing PhD Candidates could only apply provided their Universities are among the PTDF Partnership Universities as listed above;
- iii. Candidates who have benefitted from any of the PTDF scholarships in the past cannot apply for the same type of programme, except a higher programme;
- iv. Candidates who are in possession of a higher degree cannot apply for the same type of programme;
- v. Candidates who are beneficiaries of any other scholarship need not apply;
- vi. Candidates who successfully scale through the first round of screening will be requested to submit their transcripts; all applicants are therefore advised to prepare their transcripts for submission in anticipation of such a request.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

Signed

**Management**



## AROUND THE WORLD

### KENYA

#### Al-Shabab militants attack Kenya and US military base

The Islamist militant group al-Shabab has attacked a military base used by Kenyan and US forces in the popular Kenyan coastal region of Lamu.

Witnesses reported hearing gunfire and seeing plumes of black smoke emerge from Camp Simba on Manda Island.

Kenya's military said the insurgents had been driven out of the base, but the US Africa Command said the security situation remained "fluid".

Al-Shabab is linked to al-Qaeda and is headquartered in

neighbouring Somalia.

The group has carried out a spate of attacks in the region since it was formed more than a decade ago. On 28 December, about 80 people were killed in a bombing in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. The Kenyan Defence Forces (KDF) said "an attempt was made to breach security at Manda Air Strip" but the attack was repulsed. Four militants were killed, it added. A fire caused by the attack had been extinguished and the airstrip was now safe, a KDF spokesman said.

### CAMBODIA

#### Building collapse kills 36 people

At least 36 people were killed and 23 injured after a guesthouse under construction in Cambodia collapsed, trapping workers and their families beneath the rubble, officials said on Sunday.

The seven-storey concrete building collapsed on Friday in the coastal town of Kep, about 160 kilometres (100 miles) southwest of the capital Phnom Penh, the latest collapse to hit the country's booming construction industry.

Sou Chhlonh, vice president of Building and Wood Workers Trade Union Federation of

Cambodia (BWTUC), who is in Kep, told Al Jazeera that a combination of lax enforcement of the law, corruption, and workers living on site instead of in separate accommodation contributed to the high number of deaths.

According to the BTWUC's survey of the site, 59 people were living there including children.

"Six to seven children who stayed in the building died," Chhlonh said. "A pregnant woman died, and a baby of maybe between three and seven months died with the mother."

### JAPAN

#### Govt condemns 'unjustifiable' escape of Carlos Ghosn

Japan's justice minister has criticised former car tycoon Carlos Ghosn for fleeing the country, using what she said were illegal methods, as he awaited trial on multiple counts of financial misconduct, in the first official comments on the case.

Masako Mori said on Sunday there were no public records of the 65-year-old former Nissan boss - who chaired the alliance between Nissan, French carmaker Renault, and Mitsubishi - leaving Japan.

"Our country's criminal

justice system sets out appropriate procedures to clarify the truth of cases and is administered appropriately while guaranteeing basic individual human rights," Mori said. "The flight by a defendant on bail is unjustifiable."

"It is clear that we do not have records of the defendant Ghosn departing Japan. It is believed that he used some wrongful methods to illegally leave the country. It is extremely regrettable that we have come to this situation," she added.

### UGANDA

#### President Museveni on six-day march through jungle

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni is on a six-day march through the jungle, walking 195 km (121 miles).

He is retracing his forces' 1986 route when they seized power after the fall of Idi Amin and Milton Obote.

Critics have dismissed the march as a stunt ahead of Uganda's elections next year when Mr Museveni is expected to seek a sixth term in office.

Mr Museveni will end his march in the western town of Birembo, the site of one of the

fiercest battles between Mr Museveni's rebels and then-President Obote's troops, on 10 January.

The president's senior press secretary, Don Wanyama, told AFP news agency: "This is a journey that the president is leading, a journey through the past to appreciate the present."

"The journey will take a week through the jungle, a route the liberators led by Museveni took to liberate the country."

Mr Museveni began his march on Saturday.

### IRAQ

## MPs back call to expel US troops

Iraqi MPs have passed a resolution calling for foreign troops to leave the country after the US killed top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in a drone strike at Baghdad airport last week. Parliament also called for a formal complaint to be made at the UN about US "violations" of Iraqi sovereignty. Some 5,000 US soldiers are in

Iraq as part of the international coalition against the Islamic State (IS) group.

The coalition paused operations against IS in Iraq just before Sunday's vote.

It said it was doing so to enable its forces to concentrate on protecting the US, UK and other troops at bases in Iraq. Soleimani's killing marks

a significant escalation in tensions between Washington and Tehran. Under his leadership, Iran had bolstered Hezbollah in Lebanon and other pro-Iranian militant groups expanded its military presence in Iraq and Syria and orchestrated Syria's offensive against rebel groups in the country's long civil war.



■ The coffins of Iran's top general Qasem Suleimani and the Iraqi paramilitary chief Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis arrive at Ahvaz international airport in south-western Iran

Photo: **Fatemeh Rahimavian/**AFP via Getty

### IRAN

#### Soleimani: Mourners flood the streets as body returns to Iran

Hundreds of thousands of mourners have turned out in Iran to receive home the remains of Qasem Soleimani, the general killed by a US drone strike in Iraq.

In Ahvaz, where Soleimani served during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88), mourners chanted: "Death to America."

Soleimani was the architect of Iran's sphere of influence across the Middle East and was considered to be the country's second most powerful man.

Thousands of black-clad mourners gathered early on Sunday morning in the streets in Ahvaz in the south-west of Iran, where Soleimani's body

had arrived before dawn.

The channel showed crowds gathered in the city's Mollavi Square, waving flags and holding aloft portraits of Soleimani, who is seen by many in Iran as a hero because of his role in the Iran-Iraq war and his closeness to the supreme leader.

### LIBYA

#### Tripoli military school suffers deadly airstrike

At least 30 people have been killed and 33 others wounded in an airstrike at a military school in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, officials have said.

The UN-backed government blamed rebel forces loyal to Gen Khalifa Haftar for the attack. The rebels denied involvement.

Footage from the scene

showed bodies scattered across the ground.

Gen Haftar's troops launched an offensive in April to try and take control of Tripoli.

The foreign ministry called for an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss the airstrike and said Gen Haftar should be investigated by the

International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes.

Libya has been torn by violence since long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011 by Nato-backed forces.

It has two rival administrations, based in Tripoli and the eastern city of Tobruk.

### B/FASO

#### Fourteen killed in bomb attack on bus convoy

At least 14 people, including seven children, have been killed when a bus carrying students ran over an improvised explosive device in northern Burkina Faso, according to the government.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for Saturday's blast, which hit one bus in a convoy of three that was carrying 160 passengers in all, the government said in a statement on Sunday.

"The provisional toll is 14 dead," the statement said, adding that 19 more people were hurt, three of them seriously. Seven children and four women were among the dead, the statement said.

### AUSTRALIA

#### Bushfires might burn for months, PM warns

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has warned that the devastating bushfires raging in the country might go on for months.

At least 24 people have died since the fires began in September. Air quality in the capital Canberra was this weekend rated the worst in the world. Mr Morrison announced the creation of a recovery agency to help those who have lost homes and businesses in the fires.

He has faced fierce criticism over the speed of his response to the crisis. The weekend saw some of the worst days of the crisis so far, with hundreds more properties destroyed.

### ITALY

#### Six German tourists killed by 'drunk driver'

Six German tourists were killed and 11 injured in the Italian Alps when a car crashed into them, police say.

A suspected drunk driver collided with a group of people in the town of Luttag, also known as Lutago, in South Tyrol - a popular skiing destination.

Reports suggest the group had left a nightclub and were waiting to get on a bus when the car hit them.

The driver of the car - a man in his late 20s - was arrested and is currently in hospital.

Some people were propelled dozens of metres by the impact of the car, AFP reports.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

**BASHAR:** I formerly known and addressed as **BASHAR LABARAN** with date of birth 01/01/1997 now wishes to be known and addressed as **BASHAR LABARAN BALA** with date of birth 02/01/1999 all former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

**SHAFIU:** I, formerly known and addressed as **SHAFIU BALA DAURA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SHAFIU BALA**. All documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public should please take note.

**I, FORMALLY KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS HASSAN ABUBAKAR BARRISTER BUT NOW WISH TO BE CALL AND ADDRESS HASSAN ABUBAKAR ALL FORMER DOCUMENT SHOULD REMAIN VALID AUTHORITY AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.**

**FALMATA:** I formerly known as **FALMATA KUNDIRI** now wish to be known as **FALMATA BUKAR**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**AMINU,** I formerly known as **AMINU SHAIJU** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINU SHUAIBU**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

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

**CORRECTION OF NAME:** I formerly known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD BILAL** with now wishes to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD BILAL BESSE** all former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

**IBRAHIM:** I am formally known and address as **ASHARU IDRIS** and now wish to be call and address as **IBRAHIM MUSA** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

**I FORMERLY KNOWN AS LAILA IDRIS NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS LAILA UMAR.ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE**

**ABBA:** I formerly known as **ABBA A. MOHAMMED** now wish to be known as **ABBA ALI MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**UMAR,** I formerly known as **BAFFA MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH** 2-2-1996 now wish to be known and addressed as **UMAR MUHAMMAD DANMUSA** 4-4-2001. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

**MUHAMMED:** I formerly known as **MUHAMMED SANI ABUBAKAR** now wish to be called as **MUHAMMED SANI** all former document remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

**CORRECTION OF NAME:** I formerly known and addressed as **ILYASU MOHAMMED MUSTAPHA** with now wishes to be known and addressed as **ELIAS MOHAMMED MUSTAPHA** all former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

**BASSEY:** I, formerly known as **COMFORT B NGWA, COMFORT BASSEY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BASSEY COMFORT NGWA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**I** formerly known as **TEKO BENEDICTA SINMISOLA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ODUNTAN BENEDICTA SINMISOLA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

**JEMIMAH:** I formerly known as **JEMIMAH KAKA** now wish to be known as **JEMIMAH NANPON DOGONYARO**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**NURA** I formerly as **NURA SHEHU** now wish to be known And addressed as **BALA SHEHU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

**SALAHUDEEN:** I formerly known as **DAUDA ABDULHAMID** now wish to be called as **SALAHUDEEN YAHAYA** all former document remain valid general public all authority concern should please take note.

**SIDIKAT:** I, formerly known as **ANERU MERCY SIDIKAT** now wish to be known and addressed as **AGGREH MERCY SIDIKAT**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

**MUHAMMAD:** I, formerly known as **MUHAMMAD JIBRIN SALISU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD SHAMSUDEEN SALISU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**I** Formerly known as **AISHA BASHAR GALADIMA** now wish to be known And address as **AISHA WAMBAI BASHAR GALADIMA** all Former documents remain valid general public should take note

**VICTORIA:** I formerly known as **VICTORIA MAFALA MANDONG** now wish to be known as **VICTORIA NUHU IBRAHIM ZOAKA**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**MUSA** I formerly as **DEBORAH MUSA YERIMA** now wish to be known and addressed as **DEBORAH MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

**LAWAL:** I formerly known as **ABOLARIN HABEEB AYINDE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **LAWAL HABEEB ABOLARIN**. All former document remain valid General public should please take note.

**DANJUMA** I, Formerly known as **DANJUMA JIBRIN** now wish to be known and addressed as **DANJUMA JIBREEL ARIKYA**. Date of Birth: 31st March, 1990. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

**WALE:** I, formerly known as **OLAWALE MICHAEL ABIMBOLA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **WALE AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**I** Formerly known as **HADIZA BADAMASI RINI** now Wish to be known And address as **HADIZA YAHAYA** all former documents remain valid general public should take note

**JONATHAN:** I formerly known as **PWAJOK JONATHAN** now wish to be known as **PWAJOK JONATHAN DAVOU**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**GARBA** I formerly as **JAELO SOLOMON** now wish to be known and addressed as **JAELO EMMANUEL GARBA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

**OBIAKOR:** I formerly known as **OKAFOR OGOCHUKWU LUCY**. That henceforth I wish to be known, called and addressed as **OBIAKOR OGOCHUKWU LUCY**. All former document remain valid General public should please take note.

**HAMISA:** I am formally known and address as **SALISU HAMISA** and now wish to be call and address as **MAL SALISU HAMISA** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

**JOSEPHINE:** I, formerly known as **ALONGE ADEBAYO JOSEPHINE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JOSEPHINE LARE SHAIJU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**I** Formerly known as **MUHAMMAD HALIDU BAKO** now wish to be known And address as **MUHAMMAD HALIDU** all former documents remain valid date of birth 12/10/1998 And general public should take note

**AZUKA:** I formerly known as **OMOSOR AZUKA** now wish to be known as **OMOSOR AZUKA NATHANIEL**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**AUWALU** , I formerly as **AUWALU BABANDI** now wish to be known and addressed as **AUWALU YA.U** All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

**CHRISTOPHER:** I, formerly known and addressed as **CHRISTOPHER SANDRA .O**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **CHRISTOPHER SANDRAMARY ONWUSHIE**. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MARYANN AMARACHI UMEH NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MARYANN AMARACHI OKEKE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE NOTE.**

**MUJTABA:** I am formally known and address as **MUSTAFA SANI** and now wish to be call and address as **MUJTABA SANI** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

**EL-ISHAQ:** I Formerly known and address as **ABUBAKAR ELEVINLA ISIAKA**. Now Wish to be known and address as **ABUBAKAR EL-ISHAQ**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

**MUBARAK:** I formerly known as **MUBARAK HAMISU** now wish to be called **MUBARAK HAMISU LIMAN**. All former document remain valid. Zenith Bank and general public to please take note.

**ADAMU,** I formerly as **BINTA UBA ADAMU** now wish to be known and addressed as **BINTA UBA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the general public should please take Note.

**RUFUS:** I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss FOLORUNSHO BOSE MARY**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs RUFUS BOSE MARY**. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS CHUKWUDI ANI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS CHUKWUDI JAMES ANI WITH DATE OF BIRTH 6-4-1996. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE NOTE.**

**YAKUBU:** I formerly known and addressed as **JAMES SARATU**, now wish I be known and addressed as **YAKUBU SARATU**. All former documents remain valid any authority concerned and general public take note.

**HAUWU:** I Formerly known and address as **KULU SAIDU**. Now Wish to be known and address **HAUWU SAIDU**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

**IBRAHIM:** I formerly known as **IBRAHIM HAMISU** now wish to be called **IBRAHIM HAMISU LIMAN**. All former document remain valid. Zenith Bank and general public to please take note.

**I** was formerly known as **ADAMU MUHAMMAD DARMANAWA** now wish to be known and address as **ADAM MUHAMMAD KIRFI**. All my former documents remain valid and general public should please take note

**OMOTOSHO :** I formerly known and addressed as **ARIYO TAWAKALITU OMOTAYO** Now wish to be known and addressed as **OMOTOSHO TAWAKALITU OMOTAYO**. All former documents remain valid, General public kindly take note.

**IBRAHIM :** I, formerly known as **H IBRAHIM MOHAMMED WUYA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM A.YANDA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**JABIR :** I, formerly known as **JABIR A UMAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JABIR UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**MARYJANE:** I Formerly known and address as **RABI ABUBAKAR**. Now Wish to be known and address as **MARYJANE RABI ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

**SHAMSIDEEN,** I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD SAMSIDEEN RABILU** now wish to be known and addressed as **SHAMSIDEEN MUHAMMAD SANI**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

**I** was formerly known as **Balarabe Umar Musa** now wish to be known and address as **Musa Bala**. All my former documents remain valid and general public should please take note

**I,** formerly known and addressed as **OLALEKAN OMOWUNMI MODUPE,**? now wish to be known and addressed as **AYOOLA OMOWUNMI MODUPE**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public should please take note.

**ADAMU:** I, formerly known as **MOHAMMED ADAMU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULHAMID ADAMU**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**AUWALU:** I, formerly known as **AUWALU GAJERE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AUWALU ILIYA ALHAI**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**I** formerly known as **JIBRIN GARBA** now wish to be known and addressed as **JIBRIN YUSUF**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

**HADIZA,** I formerly known as **HADIZA UMAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **HADIZA AHMED**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

**SMART:** I, formerly known as **HASSAN ROSELINE OJOCHIDE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SMART ROSE OJOCHIDE**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

**UKAGBA:** I, formerly known and addressed as **MIRRIAN NWAKEGO UKAGBA** and **MIRRIAN NWAKEGO ILUBA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **UKAGBA TONIA NWAKEGO**. All former documents remain valid, General public please take note.

**LADAN:** I am formally known and address as **MURTALA LADAN** and now wish to be call and address as **MAL LADAN** all former documents remain valid authorities concern and general public should take note

**HAUWA:** I, formerly known as **HAUWA ISA ABDULLAHI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HAUWA ISA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and the General public should please take note.

**AMINU:** I formerly known as **AMINU SHEHU HASHIMI** now wish to be known as **AMINU HASHIMI**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**SADIQ,** I formerly known as **SADIQ MUHAMMAD DOB 19/05/1979** now wish to be known and addressed as **SADIQ MUHAMMAD HASSAN DOB 01/09/1991**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

**CHRISTIANA:** I, formerly known as **CHRISTIANA OZIOMA UWAKWE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **CHRISTIANA OZIOMA ANDO**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

Formerly known as **MUHAMMED HARUNA** now wish to be known and addressed as **SHARUBUTU HARUNA ALLON KARFE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note

**AMADE:** I, formerly known and addressed as **AMODE ABDULWASIU OLA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMADE ABDULWASIU OLA**. All documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public to take note.

**I** formerly known as **AYUBA ANDREW** now wish to be known and addressed as **AYUBA ANDREW BARCHI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

**AMMAR:** I formerly known as **AMMAR MUHAMMAD BALA** now wish to be known as **AMMAR AHMAD MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**AISHAH,** I formerly known as **MISS AISHAH OPEYEMI ANIMASHAUN** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS AISHAH ANIMASHAUN LAWAL**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

Confirmation of name: I **OCHIEJE CHARLES GAMBO** wish to confirm that the name **OCHIEJE OJONEMILE CHARLES** belongs to one and the same person **OCHIEJE OJONEMILE CHARLES**. All the documents bearing the above names remain valid. **WAEC, UNN** Nsukka and the general public should please take note.

**OLOWU:** I, formerly known and addressed as **OYEKAN TEMITOPE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **OLOWU TEMITOPE FOLASADE**. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**IBRAHIM:** I, formerly known and addressed as **MAGAJI IBRAHIM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM MUSTAPHA**. All documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public to take note.

**I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS JULIET NNEOMA OKORO NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED JULIET CHIDOZIE AGU. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE NOTE.**

**ABDULLAHI:** I formerly known as **ABDULLAHI MOHAMMED** now wish to be known as **ABDULLAHI MOHAMMED ZARA**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

**ABDULLAH,** I formerly known as **NAYYAR ADAM** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULLAH NAYYAR ADAM**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

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

**JIMOH:** I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss MUFUTAU NAFISAT SOLADOYIN**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs JIMOH NAFISAT SOLADOYIN**. All former documents remain valid. Bank, Authority Concerned and general public please take note.

**SHAMSUDEEN:** I, formerly called **SHAMSU AMINU**, now wish to be called **SHAMSUDEEN AMINU ABDULLAHI**. All documents remained valid. General public to take note please.

**I FORMERLY KNOWN AS IDRIS SALEH .WRONG DOB .15 OCT 1990 NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS IDRIS SALEH UMAR. CORRECT DOB 15 OCT 1996. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID.GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE**

**MARYAM:** I formerly known as **MARYAM HAMISU** now wish to be called **MARYAM HAMISU LIMAN**. All former document remain valid. Zenith Bank and general public to please take note.

**SAIFULLAHI,** I formerly known as **SAIFULLAHI USMAN 01-02-1989** now wish to be known and addressed as **SAIFULLAHI IBRAHIM USMAN 01-02-1993**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

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

**LAWAL :** I formerly known and addressed as **SHAGUNMO AYO LAWAL** Now wish to be known and addressed as **AKINSOLA ABIODUN LAWAL**. All former documents remain valid, General public kindly take note.

**AISHATU:** I, formerly called **AISHA MOHAMMED**, now wish to be called **AISHATU MOHAMMED M.K**. All documents remained valid. General public to take note please.

**I SADIQ IYA DIGIL THAT MY DATE OF BIRTH WAS WRONGLY CAPTURED AS 29TH JULY1986, 25 DEC 1986 AND 27 DEC 1986 ON MY DOCUMENT.MY REAL AND CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 24TH DEC 1986. ALL MY DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE**

**AMADU:** I formerly known as **AMADU HAMISU** now wish to be called **AMADU HAMISU LIMAN**. All former document remain valid. Zenith Bank and general public to please take note.

**JAMILU,** I formerly known as **JAMILU ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **JAMILU YAHAYA**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

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

**BADMUS :** I, formerly known and addressed as **AREWA MUINAT ADEDOYIN**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **BADMUS - AREWA MUINAT ADEDOYIN**. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**Bank Details**

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

**Bank:** Stanbic IBTC Plc  
**Account No:** 0000913253  
**Sort Code:** 221081552

**Bank:** First Bank Plc  
**Account No:** 2002911690  
**Sort Code:** 011084060

**Bank:** UBA Plc  
**Account No:** 1007117397  
**Sort Code:** 033080013

**Bank:** GTBank Plc  
**Account No:** 0024570856  
**Sort Code:** 058083231

**Requirement for Change of Name**

**Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit**

**CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH.** This is to inform the general public that on my BVN documentation, my name was wrongly written as MR. ANDREW INUWA RICHARD instead of MR. VICTOR OGWUCHE OCHE. Also on my BVN documentation, my date of birth was erroneously written as 26th day of August 2001 instead of 2nd day of May 2001. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

**SALAKO: I,** formerly known and addressed as Miss AKINPELU OLUSEYI RACHAEL. Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs SALAKO OLUSEYI RACHAEL. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**BALE: I** Formerly known as MOHAMMED DUWA BALE, now wish to be known and addressed as I MOHAMMED DUNA BALE. All former documents remain valid. With DOB 1/1/1984, general public should please take note

**IDRISS: I** formerly known as AUWAL IDRIS now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD AUWAL IDRIS All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**BAWANDO: I** formerly known as MALLAM ALHAJI BAWANDO now wish to be known and addressed as ALHAJI BAWANDO All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**MRS. ONYEOMA-MICHAEL - I,** formerly known as MISS. OGBONNA-SAMUEL OLUCHI. Now wish to be known as MRS. ONYEOMA-MICHAEL OLUCHI PRESTIGE. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

**ZAKARIYAU: I,** formerly known and addressed as SAKA AZEEZ OLALEKAN. Now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKARIYAU ABDULAZEEZ OLALEKAN. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**ABANA: I** Formerly known as KABU MOHAMMED ABANA, now wish to be known and addressed as KABU ABANA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**DAGUM: I** Formerly known as ABDULMALIK MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULMALIK MUSA DAGUM. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

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

**SHEHU: I,** formerly known as MUHAMMAD SHEHU. Now wish to be called and addressed as MUHAMMAD SHEHU ZURU. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public to take note.

**MRS. KELECHI: I,** formerly known as MISS. KELECHI VALENTINA OBI. Now wish to be known as MRS. KELECHI VALENTINA AGINA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

**ILE: I,** formerly known and addressed as JOSEPH SAMUEL ONAJAH. Now wish to be known and addressed as ILE SAMUEL ONAJAH. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**AKILU: I** formally known as AKILU YAHAYA now wish to be known and addressed as AKILU YAHAYA MALAM All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

**FALMATA: I** Formerly known as AMINA MODU, now wish to be known and addressed as FALMATA ADAMU. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**MOHAMMED: I** formerly known as MOHAMMED MUSTAPHA now wish to be known as MOHAMMED BULAMA MUSTAPHA. All former documents remain valid. general public should take note.

**MAINA: I** Formerly known as MAINA IBRAHIM Now wish to be known and addressed as MAINA LAWAN IBRAHIM All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**MRS. HAPPINESS: I,** formerly known as HAPPINESS BARINE NDEUE. Now wish to be known as MRS. HAPPINESS BARINE MEE-EBARI. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

**AKIBOH: I,** formerly known and addressed as OYEGUNLE OLAYINKA OLUWAFUNMILAYO. Now wish to be known and addressed as AKIBOH OLAYINKA OLUWAFUNMILAYO. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**GARBA: I** Formerly known as GARBA BABA AYUBA, now wish to be known and addressed as GARBA BABA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**DANIEL: I** Formerly known as DANIEL AZAKKA INDAWA, now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL INDAWA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**HAJJA: I** formerly known as KAKA GREMA, now wish to be known and addressed as KAKA HAJJA ALHAJI GREMA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

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

**BLESSING - I,** formerly called, known and addressed as USEN OKON AKPAN, now wish to be known, called and addressed as BLESSING ANIEKAN KOKOETE. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

**FATUNMBI: I,** formerly known and addressed as Miss DIYAOLU ABIMBOLA FUNMILAYO. Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs FATUNMBI ABIMBOLA FUNMILAYO. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**DOGO: I** formerly known as KOBRE DOGO WALGA now wish to be known as DOGO KOBRE. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

**YAGANA: I** Formerly known as FATIMA ALHAJI GANA, now wish to be known and addressed as YAGANA ALHAJI GANA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**AHMED: I** formerly known as AHMED M NDIRMBULA, now wish to be known and addressed as AHMED MITRA NDIRMBULA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**ABBAS:** That my correct names are ABBAS YAKUBU ABDULLAHI not ABBAS YAKUBU. As wrongly captured on my NECO result. General public should take note.

**AKAGBUE: I, AKAGBUE, TINA CHIOMA** wish to state that in my BVN DETAILS my name was wrongly captured as AKAGBUE, CHIOMA TINA instead of AKAGBUE, TINA CHIOMA. That the correct arrangement of my name is AKAGBUE, TINA CHIOMA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

**OLAYANU: I,** formerly known and addressed as OPARINDE BUSOLA TOYIN AJONI. Now wish to be known and addressed as OLAYANU BUSOLA TOYIN. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

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

**NASIRU: I** Formerly known as NASURU AMADU, now wish to be known and addressed as NASIRU IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**USMAN: I** Formerly known as HAUWAI ABDULLAHI ADAMU now wish to be known and addressed as HAWAL USMAN DOB 1-1-1989 NOT 11-5-1986 All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**SALEH: I** formerly known as HARUNA ADAMU SALEH now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU SALEH All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**BENEDICT:** That I was formerly known called and addressed as NWAEBE PRINCE. Now wish to be known called and addressed as NWAEBE PRINCE BENEDICT. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

**KASALI: I,** formerly known and addressed as Mrs ADISA BILIKISU ARIKE. Now wish to be known and addressed as KASALI BILIKISU ARIKE. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

**MAKINTA: I** Formerly known as MAKINTA MASTAFA, now wish to be known and addressed as MAKINTA MUSTAPHA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**HAJJA: That I** am formally known and called as HAJJA BINTU BULAMA and HAJJA BINTU BULAMA KOLOMI, now wish to be called and address as HAJJA BINTU KOLOMI, general public to take note

**HALIMA: I** formerly known as HALIMA HAMISU MAHADI, now wish to be known and addressed as HALIMA SANI BALA. All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

**ISA: I** formerly known as ABUBAKAR ISA 1/3/1993 now wish to be known and addressed as JIBRIN ISA 1/9/1991 All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**LEWU: I** Formerly known, called and addressed as : AFOLABI GODWIN ORJI. I wish to be known, called and addressed as : LEWU GODWIN ORJI. That all documents bearing my former names remains valid, financial institutions and general public should please take note.

**FAYOMI: I,** formerly known and addressed as FAYOMI HELEN TOYIN. Now wish to be known and addressed as FAYOMI TOYIN MODUPE. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

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

**GAMBO: I** formerly known as ABBATI MOHAMMED now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULKAREEM GAMBO 22/6/1998 All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

**MAGAJI: I** Formerly known as MAGAJI LAMIDO, now wish to be known and addressed as MAGAJI ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concern and General public should take note.

**BUWAI: I** formally known as ABUBAKAR BUWAI HAMIDU now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR BUWAI All former documents remain valid general public should please STERING BANK take note.

**AROR:** That I was formerly known called and addressed as MISS. OMIGIE ODION VANESSA. Now wish to be known called and addressed as MRS. AROR ODION VANESSA. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

**JEGEDE: I,** formerly known and addressed as GAMBO JONATHAN. Now wish to be known and addressed as JEGEDE JONATHAN ORYOMI. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

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

**MARYAM: I** formerly known as MARYAM MOHAMMED ADAM now wish to be known and addressed as MARYAM MOHAMMED All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**BAZAMBADE: I** formerly known as MOHAMMED IBRAHIM ABDULLAHI now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMED IBRAHIM BAZAMBADE All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

**HADIZA: I** formerly known as HAJJA HADIZA MAISANDA LAWAN now wish to be known and addressed as HADIZA USMAN BAFETO. All former documents remains valid. Authorities concerned and general public to take note.

**I, MEAOL BARI DUANEN KINGSLEY,** That on my (JSSC) my name is MEAOL WISDOM, on my (SSCE) certificate I answer MEAOL BARI DUANEN KINGSLEY. That MEAOL WISDOM and MEAOL BARI DUANEN KINGSLEY is one and same person. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

**LOSS OF DOCUMENT**  
This is to inform the General Public That The Original Allocation Document In Respect Of A Piece Of Land Containing A Dwelling House Situate At NO. 87, 3rd Street, Federal Housing Estate Shagari Quarters Kano Carrying The Name Of Alh Lawan Dutse Got Missen. All Effort To Trace The Said Document Proved Abortive Authorities Concern And The General Public Should Take Note.

**LOSS OF LETTER OF GRANT**  
This is to inform the general public of the Loss of this original Letter of Grant of Plot No 72 file no.TP/ UDB/166 dated 18/ 11/2002 laying and situated at Rijiyar Zaki Quarters of Ungogo Local Government Area of Kano State belonging to NAZIRU ABDULHADI NUHU of Ayagi quarters issued by Ungogo Local Government bearing the name of Nura Isyaku Bachirawa original allottee is declared missing. All effort to trace the said documents proved abortive. Authorities concerned and Ungogo Local Government should please take note.

**MARYAM: I** formerly known as FATIMA MUSTAPHA BUKAR now wish to be known as MARYAM SHERIFF. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.

**ORDU:** That I was formerly known called and addressed as EPOH AGBOMMA JULIET. Now wish to be known called and addressed as ORDU AGBOMMA JULIET. All former documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.

**AMINA: I** formerly known as AMINA ABATCHA UMARU now wish to be known as AMINA ABATCHA. All former document remain valid. general public should take note.



**JINKAI CHARITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**  
This is to inform the General Public that the above named Foundation has applied for the registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Acts of 1990.  
THE TRUSTEES ARE:-  
1. USMAN MOHAMMAD BUGAJE ---- CHAIRMAN  
2. YAHAYA NUHU ---- MEMBER  
3. MUHAMMED SALISU WADA ---- MEMBER  
4. ABDULHAMID UMAR MAIRUWA ---- MEMBER  
5. HAMISU GAMBO DAN LAWAL K. ---- MEMBER  
6. BRIG. GEN. JUNAIDU S. BINDAWA ---- MEMBER  
7. SANI DABOH ---- MEMBER  
8. MUSTAPHA MUSA --- MEMBER  
9. GIDE YARO SABUWAR KASA - SECRETARY  
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES  
To Improve the General welfare of Youths, women and children who are in need of General support in the community.  
Any objective to this registration should be forwarded to the Director General, Corporate Affairs Commissions Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.  
Signed:-  
MAIDANGANA CHAMBER LEGAL PRACTITIONERS G.R.A KATSINA

**NOTIFICATION OF MARRIAGE**  
This is to notify the general public, the marriage between Yusuf Saleh and Saubirin Yusuf Abdulsatar which took place at Area 10 Muslim Community Mosque on 11th May 2018. For official purposes and public notice.



**TREASURE MULTIPURPOSE FAMILIES SUPPORT INITIATIVE**  
This is to inform the General Public that the above named organization has applied for the registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Acts of 1990.  
APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:  
That the Trustees to be appointed shall be:  
1. MRS. NGOZI C. AMAECHI - EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN  
2. MS. AUNTHIOANNETTE STEPHEN - SECRETARY / COO  
3. MS. LINA V. STEPHEN - TREASURER  
4. ANNETTE A. STEPHEN - TRUSTEE  
5. GEORGE A. STEPHEN - TRUSTEE  
6. RAWLLINGS A. STEPHEN - TRUSTEE  
7. EMMANUELA A. STEPHEN - TRUSTEE  
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:  
a. To promote Self-respect, self-reliance and human dignity among families.  
b. To provide rural access to micro-credit and loan facilities for increased participation in economic activities of their communities and nations.  
c. To promote oneness among families in as much as of different ethnic affiliation, culture, place and status.  
d. To encourage self-reliance in areas of Entrepreneurial skills, personnel development, creativity, professionalism, ICT, art and crafts.  
e. To provide sustainable development programs that will enable them meet up with existing trends.  
f. To provide relief support for families facing disaster crises, drought, epidemics, war, communal sanction.  
Any objective to this registration should be forwarded to the Director General, Corporate Affairs Commissions Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.  
Signed  
MS. AUNTHIOANNETTE STEPHEN  
SECRETARY / COO

**Bank Details**

Pay into any of our Accounts:  
Account Name: MEDIA TRUST LTD,  
Send your payment mandate to our email addresses

Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc  
Account No: 0000913253  
Sort Code: 221081552

Bank: First Bank Plc  
Account No: 2002911690  
Sort Code: 011084060

Bank: UBA Plc  
Account No: 1007117397  
Sort Code: 033080013

Bank: GTBank Plc  
Account No: 0024570856  
Sort Code: 058083231

**Requirement for Change of Name**  
Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit



# PHOTO NEWS

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Yakubu Abubakar  
Photo Editor

photonews@dailytrust.com



■ From right: Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and his wife, Hajjia Titi Abubakar at the Nikkai ceremony of daughter of Mr. Akin Kekere-Ekun, Chairman, Board of Trustees of American University of Nigeria (AUN) in Lagos on Saturday



■ From left: Olawale Adediran, President/Chairman of council, Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM); Bunmi Oni, past president; and Olu Onakoya, former Chairman/Managing Director, Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc/special guest of honour, at the CIPM awards night in Lagos recently



■ From left: Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Alhaji Muhammad Sabo Nanono; Permanent Secretary, FMARD, Dr. Abdulkadir Mu'azu; and Attorney- General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN, during the Wedding Fatiha of Abdullahi Sabo Nanono (son of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development) and his bride, Aisha Nasiru Idris, in Kano on Friday



■ Winners of the Toastmaster clubs' public speaking contest, from right, Victor Adeyemo, Alhassan Mohammed, Timothy Ofoegbu and others, display their certificates after the results were announced in Abuja



■ From left: Secretary, Doka Central Mosque on Kano Road, Alhaji Murtala Ango; the Mosque's Ladan, Mallam Ahmed Rufai; Founder of Speak for Life Cancer Prevention Initiative, Mrs. Malexive Abeeikyaa; Founder Leadership and Management Institute, Christopher Enojoh and Director, Centre for Domestic Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, Mr Benard Omah, during their New Year visit to the mosque to preach for peace among communities Kaduna at the weekend



■ Gombe State First Lady, Hajjiya Asma'u Inuwa Yahaya, assisted by the Commissioner of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Na'omi Awak present food items to a needy woman in Gombe, during the flag-off of distribution of food items donated by Nigeria's First Lady, Hajjiya Aisha Buhari to the less privileged in Gombe at the weekend



■ A retiree, Chief Nnaemeka Uzoigwe and his wife celebrate during a birthday thanksgiving service for Mr Uzoigwe at the St. Mary Catholic Church in Karu, Abuja yesterday

**NIGERIA STOCK EXCHANGE** MARKET CAP. ▶ 13.019TR (0.38%) ↑ ALL SHARE INDEX ▶ 26,968.79POINTS (0.38%) ↑ MARKET TURNOVER ▶ 608.8MN SHARES

Friday, January 3, 2020

OIL AND GAS	BANKING	CONSUMER GOODS	INSURANCE	INDUSTRIAL
 <b>246.78 -1.04%</b>	 <b>364.95 2.67%</b>	 <b>586.63 -0.95%</b>	 <b>127.75 0.56%</b>	 <b>1,051.30 0.00%</b>

**NSE GENERAL INDEX**

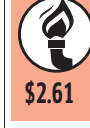
COMPANY NAME	MARKET(NM)	PRICE	CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
<b>BANKING</b>					
ACCESS BANK PLC.	360,784.04	10.15	0.50	241	22,893,396
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	256,495.66	7.50	4.17	348	46,042,130
ZENITH BANK PLC	604,382.51	19.25	2.94	748	63,540,004
FBN HOLDINGS PLC	236,908.93	6.60	1.54	238	28,534,386
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES</b>					
MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	2,218,641.92	109.00	-	163	4,087,579
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>					
DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	2,419,752.05	142.00	-	180	1,530,321
LAFARGE AFRICA PLC.	222,287.58	13.80	-	120	2,475,024
ARBICO PLC.	521.24	3.51	-	0	0
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC.	26,268.00	19.90	-	21	139,890
<b>EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION</b>					
SEPLAT PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	348,418.02	592.10	-	10	17,989
<b>REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS)</b>					
SKYE SHELTER FUND PLC	1,710.00	85.50	-	0	0
UNION HOMES REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT)	10,175.81	40.70	-	1	100
UPDC REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST	11,473.56	4.30	-	2	2,010
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
NIGERIA ENERGY SECTOR FUND	411.91	552.20	-	0	0
VALLIALLIANCE VALUE FUND	3,312.39	103.20	-	0	0
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	440.00	0.20	-	2	450,000
OKOMU OIL PALM PLC.	53,895.92	56.50	1.62	17	480,193
PRESCO PLC	47,500.00	47.50	-	4	3,700
ELLAH LAKES PLC.	8,500.00	4.25	-	0	0
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	1,500.00	0.50	-	4	73,140
A.G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	1,456.01	0.55	-	0	0
JOHN HOLT PLC.	217.92	0.56	-	2	18,358
S C O A NIG. PLC.	1,903.99	2.93	-	0	0
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION OF NIGERIA PLC	43,086.87	1.06	-0.93	93	29,855,710
U A C N PLC.	25,931.67	9.00	1.12	77	2,804,235
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION</b>					
ROADS NIG PLC.	165.00	6.60	-	0	0
<b>REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT</b>					
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC	2,598.40	1.00	-	7	60,862
<b>AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS</b>					
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0	0
<b>BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS</b>					
CHAMPION BREW. PLC.	7,438.02	0.95	-	2	7,280
GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC.	242.22	0.89	-	0	0
GUINNESS NIG PLC	65,821.00	30.05	-	39	50,639
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC.	81,660.69	9.50	-	9	42,340
NIGERIAN BREW. PLC.	448,626.21	56.10	-4.92	62	1,425,744
<b>FOOD PRODUCTS</b>					
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	170,400.00	14.20	1.43	74	1,436,746
FLOUR MILLS NIG. PLC.	80,982.50	19.75	0.25	37	747,660
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	7,930.20	1.00	-	7	100,120
MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	1,340.10	0.36	-	0	0
N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC.	766.26	4.30	-	1	376
NASCION ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC.	34,310.23	12.95	-	19	155,166
<b>FOOD PRODUCTS - DIVERSIFIED</b>					
UNION DICON SALT PLC.	3,321.07	12.15	-	0	0
<b>FOOD PRODUCTS-DIVERSIFIED</b>					
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	19,815.03	10.55	-	11	15,741
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC.	1,165,125.42	1,469.90	-	32	47,487
NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC.	1,680.31	22.10	-	0	0
VITAFAM NIG PLC.	5,878.97	4.70	-	45	595,363
P Z CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC.	22,433.20	5.65	-	35	537,785
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	118,921.61	20.70	-	22	302,125
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	127,529.38	6.95	6.11	73	1,728,215
FIDELITY BANK PLC	60,267.58	2.08	2.97	79	12,791,820
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC.	885,878.49	30.10	3.08	156	17,668,051
JAIZ BANK PLC	19,151.76	0.65	4.84	15	704,655
STERLING BANK PLC.	57,292.93	1.99	4.74	2,047	26,268,058
UNION BANK NIG. PLC.	174,724.52	6.00	-0.83	67	2,513,082
UNITY BANK PLC	7,831.86	0.67	-	6	58,700
WEMA BANK PLC.	26,230.64	0.68	-	22	918,165
<b>INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>					
AFRICA ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	0	0
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	4,989.75	0.72	1.39	13	1,306,886
AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC.	21,000.00	2.00	-1.01	16	2,818,149
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	2,926.80	0.36	-7.69	2	1,020,017
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	22,820.04	2.20	-	0	0
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	7,806.64	0.53	8.16	22	1,835,400
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	909.99	0.20	-	0	0
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	1,228.00	0.20	-	1	691,000
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSURANCE PLC	487.95	0.38	-	0	0
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	1,830.86	0.25	-	6	1,128,500
LAW UNION AND ROCK INS. PLC.	2,148.17	0.50	-	1	4,095
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC.	3,840.00	0.48	-9.43	3	522,500
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC.	2,346.27	0.21	5.00	6	575,950
NEM INSURANCE PLC	12,778.82	2.42	-	8	48,562
NIGER INSURANCE PLC	1,702.69	0.22	10.00	3	127,244,603
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	2,960.40	0.55	-	0	0
REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC.	1,333.75	0.20	-	6	1,508,000
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2,502.25	0.20	-	6	1,241,239
STACO INSURANCE PLC.	4,483.72	0.48	-	0	0
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC.	2,582.21	0.20	-	0	0
SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC.	2,800.00	0.20	-	2	817,000
UNIC DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS PLC.	516.46	0.20	-	0	0
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC	3,200.00	0.20	-	1	2,607,388
VERITAS KAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	2,773.33	0.20	-	4	121,210,874
WAPIC INSURANCE PLC	4,683.96	0.35	-	79	4,845,375
<b>MICRO-FINANCE BANKS</b>					
NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	2,629.63	1.15	-	7	150,390
ABBAY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	4,200.00	1.00	-	0	0
ASO SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	7,370.87	0.50	-	0	0
INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	5,796.93	1.39	-	0	0
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	2,265.95	0.20	-	0	0
UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC.	2,949.22	3.02	-	0	0
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	8,500.00	4.25	6.25	48	1,115,119
CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	35,291.19	6.00	-	10	169,789
DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	540.00	0.36	-10.00	1	200,000
FCMB GROUP PLC.	37,625.15	1.90	4.40	127	17,341,790
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC.	1,697.97	0.33	-	2	20,000
STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	420,198.69	40.00	-	19	39,137
UNITED CAPITAL PLC	14,400.00	2.40	-	36	798,018
<b>HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS</b>					
EKOCORP PLC.	2,119.05	4.25	-	0	0
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERVICES PLC	781.69	0.22	-	2	13,300
<b>MEDICAL SUPPLIES</b>					
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	494.58	0.50	-	0	0
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>					
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	366.17	0.50	-	0	0
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	5,633.17	2.70	-3.57	61	4,211,059
GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC.	6,278.35	5.25	-4.55	70	1,899,075
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	3,450.47	2.00	3.63	3	201,600
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	1,063.53	0.56	-9.68	9	656,400
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	852.48	0.24	-4.00	14	1,338,369
OMATEX VENTURES PLC	1,323.81	0.45	-10.00	7	751,190
<b>COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS</b>					
CWIG PLC	6,413.06	2.54	-	0	0
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	486.00	4.50	-	1	10,000

**COMMODITIES PRICE**

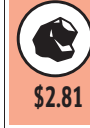
**CRUDE OIL (BRENT)**

 \$71.76

**NATURAL GAS**

 \$2.61

**COPPER**

 \$2.81

**GOLD**

 \$1,284.1

**SILVER**

 \$14.650

**SUGAR**

 \$12.21

**COCOA**

 \$2,314

**LIVE CATTLE**

 \$114,000

**COTTON**

 \$75.46

TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	316.77	0.64	-	0	0
<b>IF SERVICES</b>					
CHAMPS PLC	1,596.66	0.34	-	12	149,625
E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	10,962.00	2.61	-	0	0
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES</b>					
AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	1,123,311.48	298.90	-	1	2
<b>INDUSTRIAL GOODS</b>					
BERGER PAINTS PLC	1,956.31	6.75	-	5	3,575
CAP PLC	16,765.00	23.95	-0.21	69	943,014
CEMENT CO. OF NORTH NIG. PLC	237,897.37	18.10	-	0	0
MEYER PLC.	286.87	0.54	-	0	0
PORTLAND PAINTS & PRODUCTS NIGERIA PLC	1,769.32	2.23	-	0	0
PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1,156.20	9.40	-	0	0
AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,256.91	2.09	-	0	0
CUTIX PLC.	2,342.56	1.33	-	3	11,510
<b>ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS</b>					
BETA GLASS PLC	26,898.49	53.80	-	3	11,020
GREIF NIGERIA PLC	388.02	9.10	-	0	0
<b>AGRO-ALLIED &amp; CHEMICALS</b>					
NOTIURE CHEMICAL IND PLC	100,754.14	62.50	-	0	0
B.O.C. GASES PLC.	2,289.35	5.50	-	1	500
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>					
ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION IND. PLC.	1,781.64	8.10	-	0	0
<b>MINING SERVICES</b>					
MULTIVERSE MINING AND EXPLORATION PLC	852.39	0.20	-	4	425,000
THOMAS WYATT NIG. PLC.	83.60	0.38	-	2	8,645
<b>OIL AND GAS</b>					
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	1,315.17	0.21	5.00	18	30,155,422
OANDO PLC	45,996.23	3.70	-7.27	54	1,442,924
11 PLC	53,332.04	147.90	-	14	18,294
CONOIL PLC	12,907.51	18.60	-	15	75,420
ETERNA PLC.	4,694.92	3.60	-	4	10,205
FORTE OIL PLC.	23,444.66	18.00	-	27	87,913
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC.	4,663.23	15.30	-	7	35
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC.	37,652.97	110.90	-	16	12,373
<b>ADVERTISING</b>					
AFROMEDIA PLC	1,509.28	0.34	-	0	0
<b>AIRLINES</b>					
MEOWIEV AIRLINE PLC	15,796.05	1.62	-	0	0
<b>AUTOMOBILE/AUTO PART RETAILERS</b>					
R T BRISCOE PLC.	235.27	0.20	-4.76	12	1,200,000
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC					



# INSIDE POLITICS

## PoliQuote

"It's a tree that bears fruits that attracts stone. You hardly see people throwing stone at a dry tree, palm tree. But if you see a mango tree, when it is its season, people throw stones at it when passing. I think that is my lot. But my report card is also very clear" - **Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, APC National Chairman**

**Don't speak without clearance,  
Ayade warns commissioners, others**

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## PDP bigwigs in secret battle for 2023 presidential ticket

By Saawua Terzungwe

**S**ome bigwigs in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have commenced underground politicking to prepare grounds in order to contest the party's presidential ticket ahead of the 2023 general elections.

Top sources in the party told our correspondent yesterday in Abuja that the majority of those who contested the ticket prior to the 2019 elections were also warming up to re-contest in spite of the fact that the party was yet to reach any resolution on 2023 zoning formula.

The 2019 contenders who slugged it out at the presidential primary in Port Harcourt were; Atiku Abubakar (North East), 1,532 votes; Governor Aminu Tambuwal (North West), 693 votes; Senator Bukola Saraki (North Central), 317 votes; Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso (North West), 158 votes; former governor of Gombe state, Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo (North East), 111 votes; former governor of Jigawa state, Sule Lamido (North West), 96 votes.

Others were Senator Ahmed Makarfi (North West), 74 votes; former Minister of Special Duties, Tanimu Turaki (North West), 65 votes; former governor of Sokoto state, Attahiru Bafarawa (North West), 48 votes; former Senate President, David Mark (North Central), 35 votes; former governor of Plateau state, Jonah Jang (North Central), 19 votes and Datti Ahmed (North West), 5 votes.

*Daily Trust* reports that already the social media space is awash with posters of a former governor



■ Prince Uche Secondus

of Kano state, Senator Kwankwaso who came fourth in the previous race, indicating he would re-contest the party's apex ticket.

Some of the posters sighted by our reporter on Facebook, yesterday carried the inscriptions such as, 'Our Mission and Vision 2023; Kwankwaso for President, Federal Republic of Nigeria', 'Best Choice 2023; Kwankwaso for President Federal Republic of Nigeria.'

The posters were adorned with the picture of

the former governor, the PDP colours of red, white, green, and its umbrella logo.

Some PDP stalwarts confirmed that some youths were, however, threatening some top leaders of the party to either again zone the party's 2023 apex ticket to the North East or face a massive protest in the event their request was not heeded to.

A member of the National Executive Committee (NEC), which is the second highest decision-making organ of the party, told our correspondent in confidence that the PDP considered the threat a move to cause chaos and disaffection within its rank and file and had written to the Department of State Service (DSS) and the police top echelons to investigate the issue.

"They should not forget the party has a Constitution and guidelines. We have not even discussed zoning. So, why are some people so concerned about the presidential ticket being zoned to a particular region?"

"We have to make a lot of consultations. The National Working Committee (NWC) has to make a lot of consultations. Our governors have to make a lot of consultations. Then, the NEC will take a decision," he said.

However, it was learnt that some PDP stalwarts in the South such as a former Deputy National Chairman (South) and former national chairmanship contender, Chief Bode George, were perfecting plans to officially join the race.

George's political associates confirmed to *Daily Trust* that he was activating his structures in the party to challenge other contenders.

## Rebuilding PDP must begin with refund – APC

By Muideen Olaniyi

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) said yesterday that the return of stolen resources and sincere apologies for the havoc wrecked on the country during the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) 16-year rule should be the preoccupation of leading opposition party.

The APC National Publicity Secretary, Malam Lanre Issa-Onilu, said the ruling party offered the "new year counseling" to Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, following what he called his own tongue-in-cheek advice to his party, the PDP, urging them to concentrate on strengthening and rebuilding the PDP for now, rather than dissipating energy on the 2023 elections.

Issa-Onilu said the former PDP presidential candidate was anything but sincere in his advice.

He, however, said that Atiku and the PDP represented the wasted past which Nigerians had chosen to discard and correct.

"The era when national assets were a bazaar for cronies and friends; an era when funds were approved and released for projects that were never executed; an era of waste and impunity; an era of voodoo economy; an era when corruption was a state policy.

"Nigerians now enjoy a new dispensation which has ensured massive infrastructural development covering the rail, road, agriculture, aviation, ports, education and health sectors. The

resolute and pro-people intervention by the President Muhammadu Buhari government has ensured the plugging of revenue leakages, oil sector reforms, anti-corruption policies, economic diversification, rapid infrastructure development, intensification of fight against violent extremism among others.

"Instead of Atiku focussing on how to corner the 2023 presidential ticket of the PDP or any of the other political parties where he may choose to purchase his ticket, we call on Atiku, along with other PDP leaders to find the courage to return our resources and seek forgiveness from Nigerians," he said in a statement issued yesterday in Abuja.

## Stakeholders sue for peace in Rivers APC

From Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt

Stakeholders and leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) loyal to former Senator Magnus Abe have solicited for peace and unity in Rivers State chapter of the party.

The stakeholders from across the 23 Local Government Areas of the state made the call in a communiqué issued at the end of their yearly meeting held in the various headquarters of the LGAs in the state at the weekend.

The communiqué, which was signed by Sam Atasia Oburu, Media and Publicity of the APC stakeholders in River State, condemned the continuous political feud which had kept the party where it is even after the 2019 general elections with no

APC member holding an elective position in the state.

The stakeholders said the party in the state would have participated in the general elections if the state and national leaders had followed the right steps during the congresses.

While enjoining all stakeholders, leaders and party members "to remain calm, steadfast and loyal to the party in the face of the challenges identified, they urged them to continue the ongoing reformation in the party and the propagation of the principles of internal democracy which, they added, form a critical part of the ideals of the party.

They said the ideals and principles of transparent internal democratic process which were put to test in Bayelsa State where the APC was in opposition produced result.

## Nasarawa APGA chieftain defects to PDP

From Ibraheem Hamza Muhammad, Lafia

A chieftain of the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) in Nasarawa State, Ibrahim Mohammed Hamza, has decamped to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Hamza was once a member of Nasarawa State House of Assembly who represented Lafia Central from 2003 to 2007 on the platform of National Democratic Party (NDP).

While speaking on the reasons why he left APGA for PDP, the former lawmaker said, "I left APGA for PDP because it does not have state spread, which is a defect to any political party. I joined the PDP because of its past record in the state as it has set the foundation for the infrastructural development of the state."

He said that he and about 3,000 of his supporters joined the PDP because the ruling All Progressives Congress lacked development ideals, stating the party has failed to develop the state with the resources at its disposal.

NEWS >>

## Don't speak without clearance, Ayade warns commissioners, others

From Eyo Charles, Calabar

**G**overnor Ben Ayade of Cross River State has cautioned his commissioners and special advisers against making policy statements, especially in the social media.

In a statement sent to all commissioners and advisers by his media adviser, Christian Ita, Ayade also warned the commissioners not to appear in public functions.

The governor, who warned them not to

grant interviews in either radio or TV media outlets, said violators would be sanctioned.

"Appointees of the state government should not grant or make both radio and television interviews/appearances without getting clearance from the governor....

"No commissioner or political appointee is allowed to showcase or make policy pronouncements on social media without seeking clearance from His Excellency. Every commissioner is

from now henceforth expected to prove himself or herself on the field rather than on the social media.

"On the dissemination of government information, I want to make it abundantly clear that there are just two persons designated for the discharge of this function. That is the Commissioner for Information and Orientation as well as the Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr Christian Ita," the statement read.

## Imo re-run: APC members accuse minister of anti-party activities

From Jude Aguguo Owuamanam, Owerri

Ahead of January 25 re-run election for Isiala Mbano/Onuimo/Okigwe federal constituency of Imo state, some chieftains of the All Progressives Congress (APC) have accused the Minister of State for Education, Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba of engaging in anti-party activities.

Nwajiuba, who won the House of Representatives seat in Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo federal constituency on the platform of the Accord Party was sacked by a court after he was inaugurated as a member of the National Assembly and replaced with Chike Okafor of the APC.

He was later appointed a minister by President Muhammadu Buhari.

The APC State Deputy Youth Leader, Hon. Christogonus Chidi

Unezoh, told our correspondent that Nwajiuba was working against the party by supporting the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) because of his closeness to Governor Emeka Ihedioha.

The party chieftain alleged that Nwajiuba was favouring the PDP candidate in the rerun instead of his party's candidate.

Unezoh claimed that the minister was also nursing plans to join the PDP in case the first option failed.

When contacted, the State APC chairman, Dan Nwafor, though said Nwajiuba had been absent from its activities, it was not a sign of anti-party activity.

However, the PDP State Organising Secretary, Mr Damian Opara, said that the party would be happy to welcome Nwajiuba into its fold.

## APC S'East reaffirms Onu as zonal caucus leader

From Tony Adibe, Enugu

The APC in the South East geo-political zone has reaffirmed the endorsement of the Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu, as its caucus leader.

The reaffirmation and endorsement took place at a well-attended zonal stakeholders' meeting at his country home in Uburu, Ebonyi state.

A motion moved by Chief Sam Nkire, a chieftain of the party in Southeast, to that effect was unanimously endorsed by all the stakeholders in

attendance.

The stakeholders who attended the meeting included former governor of Enugu state, Sullivan Chime; Senator Ayogu Eze; Chief George Moghalu; Amb. Fidel Ayogu; Chief Mark Wabara, and Rep. Nkiru Onyeaguocha, among other states' executives.

Although the issue of 2023 presidency was also raised at the meeting, it was unanimously resolved to be deferred to another date.

Onu, while addressing the meeting, advised members to develop the spirit of forgiveness.

The minister, who said

there were no factions in the party again, rued the point that the zone did not produce any governor at the last election.

He said, "We are the only zone without a governor elected on the platform of the APC. Is that right? Is that correct? Is it what we want? So, we want a change. We have our best people representing us and the National Working Committee of our great party will be giving us good leadership. And we believe strongly that by 2023, we should be aiming at a minimum of three governors elected on the platform of the APC in the South East."

## Sokoto rerun: Forum cautions against wrong choice

From Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

The APC Students Forum has cautioned electorates against choosing wrong people in the forthcoming rerun elections in Sokoto State.

A statement signed by the Secretary of the Forum, Muhammad Salisu said the coming election was between the retrogressives and progressives.

The students, who advised voters to vote people who had been tested and found worthy for representation, declared support for the former federal lawmaker, Bala Hassan Abubakar in the Sokoto-South/Sokoto-north federal constituency rerun.

Abubakar was sacked by the Court of Appeal, sitting in Sokoto which directed for a rerun election.



### PLATEAU STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**REHABILITATION/RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MANGU MARKET GULLY INTERVENTION SITE IN MANGU LGA OF PLATEAU STATE.**  
PLSPMU/NCB/CW/18/02  
CREDIT NO: IDA 51050

### REQUEST FOR BIDS SMALL WORKS (ONE-ENVELOPE BIDDING PROCESS)

Country: NIGERIA

Name of Project: NIGERIA EROSION AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
Contract Title: REHABILITATION/RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MANGU MARKET GULLY INTERVENTION SITE IN MANGU LGA OF PLATEAU STATE.

Credit No: IDA 51050

RFB Reference No.: PLSPMU/NCB/CW/18/02

1. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for **Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of the Mangu Market Gully Intervention Site in Mangu LGA of Plateau State.**
2. The State project management Unit (SPMU), Plateau State - Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (PLSNEWMAP) on behalf of Plateau State Government now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for:

Lot No	Site Description	Location/LGA	Bid Security US\$/NGN	Duration
1	REHABILITATION/RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MANGU MARKET GULLY INTERVENTION SITE	Mangu, LGA	NGN 14M	18 Months

Margin of domestic preference does not apply.

3. Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing (IPF) Borrowers: July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the address given below in the document and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0900 to 1700 hours at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Fifty thousand naira (NGN50,000.00)** only. The method of payment will be through Bank draft in favor of **Plateau State Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP)**. The document will be sent by courier on demand.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 12.00 Noon on **Tuesday February 4, 2020**. Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the same address stated below.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security* as stated in the table above.
8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
9. A Pre-bid meeting would be held at the address below on **Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd January, 2020** which is Fourteen days before the tender opening date by 12:00 noon to allow potential bidders seek clarifications on the bidding document.
10. *The address referred to above is:*  
**Project Coordinator**  
**Engr. Levi Dash Gofwen**  
**Plateau State Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP)**  
**Address: No 17, Apollo Crescent,**  
**GRA, Jos,**  
**Plateau State, Nigeria**  
**Telephone: +2348067761908, +2348036154305**  
**Email: newmapplateau@gmail.com**

**Engr. Levi Dash Gofwen**  
State Project Coordinator

## INTERVIEW/NEWS &gt;&gt;

From Ibrahim Musa Giginyu, Kano

## Yobe will overcome insurgency challenges – Alhaji Ibrahim Jirgi

Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed Jirgi, who is a former Special Adviser on Media and Strategy to former governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim, is a respected Yobe state indigene and journalist. In this interview with *Daily Trust*, he speaks on the insurgency in the state known as "The Young Shall Grow" and the ongoing effort to tackle various challenges among other issues.

Yobe state has been besieged by a decade old insurgency which has made development in the state very difficult. Do you have confidence in the state leadership to build on the progress made already?

It will interest you to note that Yobe is a very lucky state. It is true that the state has gone through a decade of insurgency that has set the clock of its progress backward. I also agree that quite a lot needed to be done to extricate the state from the damage done to its psyche, development and security.

I said the state is lucky because the immediate past Governor Ibrahim Gaidam has been very selfless in the choice of a successor. Mai Mala Buni is a modern man with one of the best and the right connections in the right places in the country and beyond. Since he became the National Secretary of the ruling APC, he has proved to be an asset for the party. His performance in office, even as APC state Chairman in Yobe state earlier on, he has earned for himself the respect, trust and confidence of the leaders and people of the state.

In what ways can you say these records of performance will impact in the running of the state?

He has already given the right signals of the type of leader he will be. Yobe has never been as united and as development driven state as it is today. You can see the direction his government is taking, regarding the policies and programs of the government directed at economic transformation, empowerment, infrastructure development, enhancing security and confidence building in the state. There is an apparent effort aimed at building collapsed infrastructures in order to develop capacity for educational, agricultural, economic and political institutions. There is an effective and visionary leadership at work in the state.

You spoke about former governor Gaidam making the right choice of a successor. To what extent has this choice helped the state?

The insurgency that has set the state back has its roots in the corruption of the system beginning from the creation of the state in 1991. This corruption led to serious inequality, injustice and unfair distribution of resources and opportunities. The insurgency, to some extent, exploited these unbalanced narratives, created the monster that was intended to consume all of us and radicalized a burgeoning population of unskilled and uneducated youths. I think the development policies of the Buni administration as it relates to provision

of critical infrastructure, equitable distribution of wealth, human capacity building initiatives and economic empowerment of the populace are what Yobe needed to address the root causes of the problems. Governor Buni has hit the ground running and his engagements, policies and actions so far have all pointed to the very basis of our malaise as a people.

Can you tell us more on these development drives?

There are many of them. The proposed Potiskum Truck Transit Park which was planned to create up to 5000 direct jobs and programmed to add significant value in the growing trucking business of Potiskum is about the best initiative aimed at empowering the same group of vulnerable youths whose comfort and economic wellbeing is critical to the peace of the state. The foundation laying ceremony has already been laid by the Governor and work has started in earnest. It is noteworthy to say that Potiskum, with the highest concentration of trailer trucks in the whole of Northern Nigeria will have its economy and that of the whole state re-jigged and 5000 jobs created, with their spin-offs which will transform wealth creation in the state and improve the economy overall.

Again, within this short period of time, the Governor has also laid the foundation of the construction of 3600 housing units in collaboration with the Family Homes Funds Limited, across Yobe state. The Governor described the event as one of the key development goals of his administration.

What is your assessment on the state's present agricultural revival strategy?

It will interest you to know that the Governor himself is a farmer and is therefore in the know of how important that sector is to the development of the state. Yobe's economy is largely agriculture based and no effort that does not factor this will ever succeed. One of the first engagements of the Governor was the flagging-off of the sale of fertilizers to farmers for the 2019 farming season where he directed that a bag of the NPK variety which used to sell at N10,000 a bag in the open market, be sold at the subsidized rate of N3,000. He also



■ Alhaji Ibrahim Jirgi

unveiled 103 Mercy Fergusson tractors to be used by farmers associations to boost food production and food security.

The Governor disclosed at the flagging off event, that 9000 metric tons of fertilizer, which is equivalent to 180,000 bags were procured at the cost of N1.71 billion. On top of that, the governor had announced the readiness of his government to support and collaborate with the federal government to fully implement the Ruga Settlement program in the state. He told a delegation of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association which paid him a courtesy call in Damaturu that if any state in Nigeria will adopt the Ruga settlement policy, Yobe will be the first. From this insightful understanding of the Ruga policy as a driver to robust agricultural development, you can deduce that Yobe is in the hands of a man with his sight fixed at giving the state the push it needed to boost its economy and empower the people.

The governor has made several pronouncements and has taken many actions that have left us Yobians in no doubt that there is indeed a new dawn in our state. He understood that with more efforts and investment. Agriculture can transform the economy of the state and significantly improve the people's living

conditions. I am confident that with Buni as Governor, Yobe is on the threshold of fighting its way out of the challenges brought about by the insurgency. Don't forget that the first ever agricultural retreat, which held for four days and where experts, farmers, extension and crop specialists and other stakeholders were brought together to chart a more sustainable way of improving agriculture took place in the early weeks of the administration.

Donor agencies and other nongovernmental organizations are also critical in the effort to bring the state back. How will you want to see the relationship with them in the state?

A number of donor agencies, international bodies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have, for many years, been around the state and indeed other flash points of the insurgency. And I must acknowledge the importance of their roles in providing succor to the people and in joining the state government to advance the source of relief to the people. You are aware that the federal government too has initiated many other reliefs, through the establishment of special intervention organs that have also impacted positively in this regard. I understand that Governor Buni has interfaced with many of these organs with a view to maximizing the support these organs provide.

In one of such stakeholder engagements, the Governor had hosted members, Board and Management of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) led by the Chairman, Major General Paul Tarfa (rtd) in Damaturu recently. At the meeting, Governor Buni listed key areas he wanted the NEDC to intervene in. He singled out education, agriculture, healthcare, youth empowerment and road construction as areas where Yobe will appreciate NEDC intervention. Yobe under Governor Buni is not in any doubt about its desires, needs and priority areas. Every single effort is geared towards addressing the huge deficit in all areas of infrastructure needs, economic opportunities and growth in the human capacity areas as well as providing the stimulus for sustainable variables.

## Ibadan chief to N/Assembly: Include traditional institutions in governance

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

The Ajia Balogun of Ibadanland, Chief Adegboyega Adegoke, has called on the federal government and National Assembly to assign constitutional roles for the traditional rulers through constitutional amendment.

Adegoke, who made the call during the weekend at his promotion and installation ceremony as Ajia Balogun of Ibadan land, said there is need for government to involve traditional rulers in

governance because of their closeness to the grassroots and downtrodden.

He said, "Traditional rulers are more closer to the people than local government chairmen. It is very hard to see anyone who will not recognize his monarch. But they may not even know their chairman.

"So, for democracy to thrive, there is need for involvement of traditional rulers in governance. Government should not always wait till when there is a crisis or election period

before running to traditional rulers for their intervention.

"They should be part of government at all the three tiers of government in order for this Democracy to thrive."

Among those elevated were Chief Gboyega Orogunmodi from Bada Balogun to Oota Balogun of Ibadanland and Chief Adetunji Lanahun from Gbonka Olubadan to Aregbe-Omo Olubadan.

Chief Babajide Ayoade from Ajia Balogun to Aregbe-Omo Balogun, Chief Dauda Gbadamosi from

Are Onibon Olubadan to Gbonka Olubadan and Chief Adetokunbo Akintola from Jagun Balogun to Gbonka Balogun Ibadanland.

On the list were Chief Oyeleke Oyekola from Bada Olubadan to Are Onibon Olubadan, Chief Oluyinka Akande from Ajia Olubadan to Bada Olubadan and Chief Olukorede Olubota from Jagun Olubadan to Ajia Olubadan.

Also elevated were Mogaji Nureni Akanbi of Iba Oluyole family to Aare Onibon Balogun Ibadanland and

Mogaji Kayode Kadelu of Kadelu family now Bada Balogun Ibadanland

Others were Mogaji Aderoju Olanunmi of Aladorin family to Jagun Olubadan Ibadanland and Mogaji Olatunji Arulogun of Enimowu Arulogun family now Jagun Balogun Ibadanland.

Oba Adetunji commended the newly elevated chiefs for their contributions to Ibadanland, urging them not to relent in supporting developmental projects in Ibadan.



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# SERAP to Buhari, Osinbajo, govts: 'Publish your assets within 7 days'

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has sent Freedom of Information (FoI) requests to President Muhammadu Buhari, Vice-President Professor Yemi Osinbajo, 36 state governors and their deputies, to provide information on summary of the assets, specifically property and income, contained in

their asset declaration forms submitted to the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) since assumption of office.

SERAP is also asking them to clarify within 7 days of the receipt the FoI letter, if they have had any reason to review and update the asset declarations submitted to the CCB, and to provide the summary of any such review; failing which SERAP will take appropriate legal action to

compel them to comply with the request.

SERAP said: "The summary of assets to be disclosed include, where applicable, the following: savings and other liquid assets, all immovable property and shares and actions in any private and public companies; property purchased by way of tender from any public-law entities and information about businesses owned."

In the FoI requests dated 3 January 2020 and signed by SERAP deputy director Kolawole Oluwadare, the organization said: "The Constitution of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the FoI Act, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which is part of our laws, read together, impose transparency obligations on all public officials to publicly disclose information concerning their

asset declarations submitted to the CCB, and to clarify any updated review of such assets."

SERAP further noted that non-public disclosure by public officials of their summary of assets seriously undermines the effectiveness and integrity of the constitutional and statutory obligations to submit asset declarations, especially given that declarations are designed to curb grand corruption.

## Border closure: Many Nigerians now have jobs - Presidency

By Idowu Isamotu

The Presidency says the closure of land borders in the country has provided jobs for teeming Nigerian youths and improved the country's revenue generation.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Niger-Delta Affairs, Senator Ita Enang Enang, said this in a statement yesterday by his Chief Press Secretary, Edet Ekpenyong Etuk. Enang, according to the statement, said this while fielding questions from journalists after a strategic meeting in his office in Abuja.

"Many people who have been out of jobs are now taking to rice, cassava, millet farming etc. So, the closure has positively increased the revenue generation of the country," Enang said.

He challenged the south-south governors to support the border closure by investing in agriculture. Enang said Buhari should be commended for creating food security and restoring peace, especially in volatile areas.

## TETFund: CSOs dismiss calls for Bogoro's investigation

By Abbas Jimoh

A coalition of civil society organisations has dismissed calls for the investigation of Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Prof. Suleiman Bogoro, describing it as "diversionary plot to derail crusade for transparency".

The coalition, led by the Advocates of Social Justice for All, the Coalition for Transparency and Accountability and the Equity Initiative, among others, in the report of a survey on the activities of TETFund under the leadership Bogoro, alleged that the call for his investigation was from disgruntled sources unhappy with some of his new initiatives.

In the report signed by its national president, Joseph Guona, the coalition also alleged that vice chancellors of some universities were not pleased with the monitoring team deployed by the TETFund to all project sites across the country.



■ Commander, Operation Safe Haven in Plateau, Maj-Gen. Augustine Agundu (right) presents relief materials to an elderly woman, during the free medical outreach and distribution of relief materials in Southern part of Kaduna State on Saturday

Photo: NAN

## Crisis brews in Osun community over emergence of two Chief Imams

By Idowu Isamotu

There was palpable tension last Friday in Apomu Central mosque, the headquarters of Isokan Local Government Area of Osun State, following the emergence of two Chief Imams in the town.

It was gathered that supporters of the two Clerics, parading as Chief Imams, Ismail Eniafe and his rival, Alhaji Olawale, have been boasting to cause mayhem in the town if 'Suroh' Committee (Kingmakers) allowed any of

them to lead Jumaat prayer at the mosque.

*Daily Trust* reports that the two clerics were turbaned at separate venues last Thursday, with a view to leading prayers on Friday, barely one month after the demise of former Chief Imam, Alh. Muritadoh Akintayo, who died on November 28, 2019.

Our Correspondent, who was at the mosque, saw large crowd of youths loyal to both parties, and the security operatives, including Police and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps

(NSCDC) in their large numbers, also on ground to forestall breaking of law and order.

Speaking with *Daily Trust*, a supporter of Alhaji Olawale, who simply identified himself as Alfa Olohunosebi, said the selection of Chief Imam is not complicated, arguing that it is a tradition to pick 'Nahibu-l-Imam' (Second-in-Command) to occupy the position if the former occupier joins his ancestors.

He said, "Alhaji Olawale is the best person to fill the

vacant position of Chief Imam. He is the person who is next to Late Chief Imam. I wonder why some youths are going against such a tradition. They should allow peace to reign and stop threatening people with charms."

But one of the Eniafe's supporters, who simply identified himself as Lekan, faulted the claim, saying that there was no any written agreement as regards who is supposed to occupy the position when it becomes vacant.

## Cold weather due to climate change, others - NCRS

From Lami Sadiq, Jos

The National Centre for Remote Sensing (NCRS) has explained that the severe cold witnessed in parts of northern Nigeria was partly connected to climate change and other phenomena such as jet streams and harmattan wind. Head of Unit, Hydrology and Climate (Water Resources) at the National Centre for Remote Sensing, Onoja Desmond in an interview with *Daily Trust* said while weather remains unpredictable, the drop in temperature was partly due

to climate change which he said cuts across all weather elements.

Desmond said temperatures would likely drop further in the coming years, exposing residents to colder weather conditions unless the issues of climate change are checked globally.

He explained that Jet streams which are rapidly moving air at the upper level of the atmosphere as well as the northeast trade wind, otherwise referred to as harmattan with the altitude of Jos, the Plateau State capital has made the city the coldest in the country.

## 16,000 farmers receive dry season loans in Taraba

By Magaji Isa Hunkuyi, Jalingo

About 16,163 Rice Farmers have received farm inputs worth N200,000 each for the 2020 dry season farming in Taraba state.

The loan was provided by Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria (RIFAN) to its registered members.

The Taraba State Chairman of the association, Mallam Tanko Andami said during the distribution of the farm inputs in Jalingo at the weekend that the association secured the loan through Unity Bank.

He said the loan facility was guaranteed by the Central Bank of Nigeria under its anchor borrower scheme.

He said apart from the inputs, each beneficiary will receive N60,000 cash from Unity Bank to take care of cost of labour in the rice farms.

The chairman stated that beneficiaries of the loan are expected to repay after harvest.

He said this was the second time the loan was extended to rice farmers in the state, adding that the scheme had helped boost rice production.



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX  
THREE ARMS ZONE  
PMB 141 GARKI, ABUJA, NIGERIA

### SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDUM/POSITION PAPERS & INVITATION TO INVESTIGATIVE PUBLIC HEARING

The House of Representatives at its plenary session of Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 debated a motion on the **“Need to Investigate the Deliberate and Reckless Refusal by Non-Treasury Funded Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to Render Audited Accounts covering 2014-2018 to the Auditor General of the Federation” (HR.252/12/2019)**; and in exercise of its powers under Sections 85(5), 88 & 89 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), mandated the House Committee on Public Accounts (Committee) to investigate the allegations and report back to the House within Six (6) weeks.

2. The Committee having begun its investigations, hereby requests the submission of Memorandum/Position Papers, along with supporting documents from all relevant stakeholders.
3. Ministries/Departments/Agencies/Parastatals/Corporations of the Federal Government and Organisations listed hereunder are specifically requested to submit their respective Memorandum/Position Papers, along with relevant supporting documents on or **before 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020** and also be present at the Public Hearing:



- Auditor General of the Federation
- Accountant General of the Federation
- Office of the Attorney General of the Federation/Ministry of Justice
- Fiscal Responsibility Commission
- Ministry of Finance, Budget & National Planning
- Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and its subsidiaries/affiliates, including –
  - Nigerian Petroleum Development Company Limited;
  - Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company;
  - Pipeline and Products Marketing Company Limited;
  - Duke Oil Company Inc;
  - West Africa Gas Limited;
  - Nidas Marine Limited;
  - Hyson (Nigeria) Limited;
  - Nigerian Gas Company;
  - National Engineering and Technical Company;
  - National Petroleum Exchange;
  - NNPC Pensions Limited;
  - Warri Refining and Petrochemical Company;
  - Port Harcourt Refining Company;
  - NNPC Retail Limited;
- Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR)
- Integrated Data Service Limited;
- National Petroleum Investment & Management Services (NAPIMS);
- Petroleum Product Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA)
- Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)
- Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)
- Debt Management Office (DMO)
- Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
- Nigeria Export Import Bank (NEXIM)
- Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA)
- Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Investment and Securities Tribunal
- National Insurance Commission
- Nigeria Stock Exchange Commission
- Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG)
- Petroleum Equalisation Fund (PEF)
- Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF)
- Nigeria Railway Corporation
- Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Plc
- Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)
- Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA)
- Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)
- Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA)

- Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN)
  - Accident Investigation Bureau
  - Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System Plc (NIBSS)
  - Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND)
  - Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board
  - Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN)
  - Bank of Industry (BOI)
  - Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN)
  - Bank of Agriculture (BOA)
  - Niger Delta Power Holding Company (National Integrated Power Project)
  - Nigeria Communications Satellite Ltd (NIGCOMSAT)
  - Galaxy Backbone Plc.
  - Ajaokuta Steel Company
  - Urban Development Bank
  - Transcorp Hilton Hotel
  - Asset Management Company of Nigeria (AMCON)
  - Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
  - Abuja Investment Company Ltd
  - Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON)
  - Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria
  - National Agency for the Control of Aids (NACA)
  - National Agency for Food & Drug Administration & Control (NAFDAC)
  - National Examination Council (NECO)
  - Nigeria Agriculture, Co-operative & Rural Development Bank Ltd.
  - Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc.
  - Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC)
  - Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC)
  - National Iron Ore Mining Company Ltd.
  - Onne Oil & Gas Free Zone Authority, Rivers State
  - Joint Admission & Matriculation Board (JAMB)
  - Lagos Interaction Trade Fair Complex Management Board
  - Joint Marine Labour Industrial Council
  - River Basin Development Authorities
  - Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)
  - Industrial Training Fund (ITF)
  - New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)
  - National Lottery Regulatory Trust Fund
  - West Africa Examination Council (WAEC)
  - Nigeria Football Federation (NFF)
  - Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC)
  - Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC)
  - Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC)
  - National Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF)
  - National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
  - National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)
  - Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET)
  - Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN)
  - National Collateral Register (NCR)
  - NIRSAL MicroFinance Bank
  - Nigeria Incentive Based Risk-Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL)
  - Navy Holding Limited
  - NAF Properties Ltd. Nigerian Air Force Holding Company
  - All Federal Universities
  - All Federal Polytechnics
  - All Colleges of Education
  - All Teaching Hospitals
  - All Federal Medical Centres
  - All Colleges of Agriculture
  - All other FGN/Public Corporations or Institutions that are Self and Partially Funded
4. The Memoranda/Position Paper should include the following information where necessary:
- a) Copies of Audited Accounts of the Organisation for 2014 – 2018;
  - b) Evidence of submission of relevant Audited Accounts to the Office of the Auditor General for the Federation in line with Section 85 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as altered) 1999;
  - c) Evidence of cooperation or reasons/justification for non – cooperation with the Office of the Auditor General for the Federation in respect of Constitutional checks conducted based on Section 85(4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

**Concerned Ministries /Department /Agencies /Parastatal, Corporations, Organizations and Stakeholders** are invited to the Investigative Public Hearing as scheduled below:

**Date:** 30th January - 30th February, 2020;  
**Venue:** Conference Room, 028, House of Representatives, New Building, National Assembly Complex, Abuja;  
**Time:** 10:00 am daily;  
**Guest Speaker:** Rt. Hon Femi Gbajabamila.

All Memoranda/Correspondences/Submissions/ Positions Papers should be in 40 copies with a soft copy attached and is required to reach the Committee Secretariat latest by 21st January, 2020, in Hearing Room 4, White House, House of Representatives, National Assembly Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja. **For further inquiries please call – (+234) 706 813 4354.**

**Host**  
**Rep. Oluwole Oke**  
**Chairman**



# SPORT

Musa wins Saudi Super Cup title with Al Nassr

→ Pg 48



## Why we hired private firm to recruit national team coaches - NFF

By Olusola 'Jide @jide\_olusola

The Nigeria Football Federation has stated that the recruitment of national team coaches which is being handled by a private consulting firm is to get the best hands to handle the teams.

This was made known by the NFF's Second Vice President, Shehu Dikko while speaking in an online interactive interview said the all arrangements have been concluded to recruit the coaches by PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited (PWC)

Dikko who also doubles as the chairman of the League Management Company stated that "Well, the NFF has concluded arrangements to advertise for all the available national team coaches positions for all qualified and competent coaches to apply and it's hoped the best hands would get the job," he said.

"The NFF technical department, technical committee and the establishment committee has sat down and came up with strict criteria for each of the available coaching position as well as the remuneration. And this has been handed over to our consultants PwC that will now review it and benchmark it to global standards."

"PwC will advertise and managed the process so as to ensure only those that meets the requirements are selected and interviewed to select the best."

He said that the objective here is to give a level playing field for all qualified interested coaches. Hopefully this will be completed soonest to enable the teams starts preparations in earnest" he concluded.

It would be recalled that virtually all the National team coaches have been relieved of their jobs with exemption of those of the Super Eagles. This no doubt may not unconnected to series of poor results recorded by the teams in the last one year.

# Plateau Utd rout Enyimba as Kwara Utd conquer Abia Warriors

By Olusola 'Jide @jide\_olusola

**T**able-toppers, Plateau United have again shown their intentions to reclaim the title following a comprehensive 4-0 victory over defending champions, Enyimba during Match Day 12 of the Nigeria Professional Football League.

Uche Onwuasoanya opened the scoring in the 38th minute before Mustapha Ibrahim doubled the lead in the 59th minute after rising highest to head home a corner from Ibrahim Babawo.

As the game wore on, Abba Umar ended every hope of the 'Peoples Elephant' to stage a comeback as he scored the third goal of the game in the 71st minute as he capitalized on poor communication between Nwabili and Adebayo to slot home.

With the away side already demoralized, Umar just two minutes after scoring, scored the fourth and last goal of the match to condemn Enyimba to the 13th position on the log with 15 points despite having two games at hand.

The People's Elephant has been unable to win a match in their last four matches in all competitions and has now conceded 4 goals in an NPFL match for the first time since a 4-3 loss to Nasarawa United in June 2018.

However, the sending of Plateau captain, Daniel Itodo for second booking offence in the 84th minute was a dent to



■ Adeniji Adewole Kabir of Mfm vs Nasarawa defenders during the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) Match between MFM and Nasarawa United at Agege Stadium recently.

a perfect day for the Jos based club.

In the same vein, Kwara United defeated visiting Abia Warriors by 2-0 at the Kwara Stadium in Ilorin.

In the cagey first half, both teams played cautious football while seeking out ways to hurt each other.

But at the restart of the second half, the complexity of the game changed as the home side began to dominate proceedings as goals from Abdulrazak and Adah Stephen gifts the Ilorin based team maximum points to

secure their fourth win of the league.

Results from other matches saw Wikki Tourists holding Katsina Utd down to play out a 1-1 game while Dakkada FC defeated Adamawa Utd.

MFM had no response to the two goals scored by Rivers Utd's Martin Ossy and Nelson Esor, while Heartland further compounded the woes of Enugu Rangers in a 2-1 victory.

Kano Pillars who hitherto had been in a great form were held to a 1-1 draw by Warri Wolves at home while Lobi

Stars dimmed the stars from Sunshine Stars with two unreplied goals.

At the Lafia Township Stadium, Nasarawa Utd secured its second league in a 3-2 victory over IfeanyiUbah to climb to 18th position on the table.

Following these results, Plateau Utd remain top of the table with 24 points, followed closely by Lobi Stars on 21 points.

At the bottom, Enugu Rangers are 20th with 6 points while Adamawa Utd who are 19th are on 10 points.

## UI All Stars Win Veterans Championship in Ibadan

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

All Stars of the University of Ibadan, (UI) has emerged the winners of the maiden Championship, Veterans Football Championship organised by the Ibadan Soccer Ambassadors, in conjunction with the Ibadan Football Association.

The All Star defeated Ibadan City All Stars (ICAS) by a lone goal. The only goal of the competition was scored towards the end of the first half of the match by Allen Eduvehre.

The third place prize went to the Wesley All Stars after they worked over Bodija Housing All Stars, who didn't turn up.

Coach Sanusi Adeniyi of Wesley All Stars won the Best Behaved Coach, Nurudeen Fijabi of Ibadan Soccer Ambassadors Team A won the Most Valuable Player and Omokhabi Emmanuel of UI All Stars won the Highest Goal Scorer.

The occasion also witnessed Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Ibadan Soccer Ambassadors, where

Alhaji Wasiu Rufai was installed as the new President of the club.

In his acceptance speech, the new President promised to build on the achievements of the immediate past president, Barrister Tajudeen Alli, who he described as his brother, leader and role model.

"I will consolidate on the achievements of the immediate past president, his development plans is enviable and must be built on. We shall make good contribution to the renovation and reconstruction of the

Olubadan Stadium and shall make IFA League the largest. The Seven A Side Veterans Championship that we started this year shall be maintained.

"First we shall meet with Segun Odegbami, Mutiu Adepoju, Ike Shorumu and others, our meeting with them shall be based on their return to the club and facilitate others return as well. We shall visit and assist the family of our late members including families of late Rashidi Yekini, Nuru and others," he added.



■ Liverpool players celebrating with Curtis Jones after he scored the stunner against Everton

## Liverpool teenager Jones scores stunner to knock out Everton

**C**urtis Jones scored his first senior goal for Liverpool with an astonishing long-range effort as the Reds knocked Merseyside rivals Everton out of the FA Cup in the third round.

The 18-year-old, from Liverpool and an academy product, curled in the only goal of the game as Jurgen Klopp's side edged a 1-0 win over the Toffees at Anfield.

Championship side Derby knocked Crystal Palace out with a 1-0 win as Middlesbrough forced a third-round replay against Tottenham.

Chris Martin scored the Rams' only goal with Wayne Rooney going close to doubling their lead late on against the Premier League side.

Lucas Moura saved Spurs from a cup upset against Middlesbrough, equalising midway through the first half to salvage a 1-1 draw.

Ashley Fletcher had given

the hosts - who are 16th in the Championship - the lead at Riverside Stadium.

Eight-time FA Cup winners Chelsea eased into the fourth-round draw with a 2-0 victory over Nottingham Forest.

Callum Hudson-Odoi put Frank Lampard's side ahead after only six minutes before Forest - fourth in the Championship - had a penalty decision reversed by the video assistant referee (VAR). Ross Barkley added a second for the Blues just after the half-hour mark.

AFC Fylde, the lowest-ranked team in the third round, fell to a 2-1 defeat by Premier League outfit Sheffield United but it was a performance that defied their non-league status.

The Blades took the lead inside eight minutes through Callum Robinson but it took until the hour mark for them to get a second

through Leon Clarke. Jordan Williams pulled a goal back for the Coasters with a clever lob over the head of Dean Henderson, who had replaced the injured Michael Verrips.

QPR thrashed Swansea 5-1 with Jordan Hugill scoring two first-half goals for the hosts. Bright Osayi-Samuel, Lee Wallace and Josh Scowen also scored for Mark Warburton's side with substitute George Byers bagging a consolation for the Swans.

Elsewhere, Kenneth Zohore scored the only goal as West Brom knocked Championship rivals Charlton out while Barnsley defeated Crewe 3-1.

Northampton beat Burton 4-2 but Bristol Rovers and Coventry will meet again after seeing out a 2-2 draw, with Rovers captain Tony Craig scoring an own goal after giving his side the lead.

## Vandals destroy Ibrahimovic's statue again

Vandals have toppled a statue of former Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic by sawing it off at the ankles.

The statue, which is outside Malmö's stadium in Sweden, previously had its nose cut off after Ibrahimovic invested in a rival club in December.

The damage was discovered at 3.30am local time on Sunday, and there was graffiti reading "take away", written in Swedish, next to the statue.

Ibrahimovic, 38, made his

professional debut for Malmö 20 years ago.

The statue's face was also covered by a shirt bearing the Swedish badge.

In the latest incident, the statue had collapsed against the barrier protecting it, its feet partially chopped off.

"A vandalism complaint has been lodged," a police spokesperson told AFP.

There are calls from local inhabitants for the statue outside Malmö's city stadium to be moved.

"I can understand that many people are disappointed in Zlatan's behaviour but vandalising a statue is simply unworthy. Better to express your dissatisfaction in a democratic way," Malmö deputy mayor Frida Trollmyr told AFP.

A citizens' initiative to move the sculpture will be considered in February, she added.

Ibrahimovic, 38, is set to make his debut for former club AC Milan in Serie A on Monday after signing a six-month contract with the former European champions last week.

## Volleyball: Nigeria face Cameroon in Olympic qualifiers

By Olusola 'Jide @jide\_olusola

Nigeria women's volleyball team will today begin their quest for 2020 Tokyo Olympic ticket against Cameroon in Yaoundé.

The head coach of the Nigeria senior women's Volleyball team, Samuel Ajayi said the team will go all out when the team meets Cameroon by 7pm.

Ajayi said Nigeria is in a tough group but believes that the country can make it to Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

"We are no doubt in the toughest

group, but for me we must remain positive and believe we can make it to Japan," the head coach said.

"We all know that Kenya and Cameroon have a lot of quality players in their team and since everybody wants to be at the Olympics, they will be difficult opponents no doubt," he added.

Coach Ajayi, who warned that Botswana cannot be underrated either, also posited that for Nigeria to actualize her dream of making her first ever appearance in Japan, all hands must be on the deck as the

coaches, players and officials must all be ready to give their all to this mission.

He said, "It is a collective task. We have to recognise the fact that we have good players in our team and we must be ready to give our all.

"You don't expect any easy game at this level and we must work hard to ensure we scale through at the end of the day."

Nigeria will battle North African, Egypt on Tuesday by 4pm before slugging it out with Botswana on Wednesday by 4pm.

## Benin residents enthusiastic ahead of National Sports Festival

Residents of Edo State are excited as preparations enter final stage ahead of the hosting of the 2020 National Sports Festival (NSF) in the first quarter of the year.

A cross-section of Benin residents, who spoke to journalists at the weekend, said with the level of preparation for the hosting of the national sports fiesta by the state government, the people are optimistic that the state will put up an impressive outing, even as checks at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium showed reconstruction is almost complete and the edifice wearing a new look.

A Benin resident, Mr. Darlington Ekele, said he is confident the state will put up an impressive outing, noting, "I am anticipating an impressive showing with the level of work we have seen the state government put in transforming the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium."

Another resident, Mr. Kenedy Aisosa, said the hosting of athletes from across the 36 states of the country for the games will translate

to more business opportunities for hoteliers and airlines operators, ride hailing service operators, among other business in the state.

"For me, I see the hosting of the 2020 National Sports Festival as more business opportunities for more persons to create wealth and jobs for people in the state. The state government is doing well with the preparations to host the athletes and other sports enthusiasts visiting Edo for the sports fiesta," he said.

The state government has assured that arrangements are in top gear for the successful hosting of the sports festival, noting that modalities are being finetuned to host over 8,000 athletes and sports enthusiasts across the country to an unforgettable championship at the National Sports Festival.

It said the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium is as good as ready to host the games after a successful novelty match to test-run the football pitch and the lighting of the newly rebuilt stadium.

## Onyekuru joins Galatasaray on 6-month loan deal

Monaco's exciting young Nigerian striker Henry Onyekuru is to spend the rest of the season on loan at Galatasaray, the Ligue 1 club announced on Sunday.

It will be the 22-year-old's second loan spell in Turkey as he shone for Galatasaray last season when he was still at English club Everton.

He scored 14 goals in 35 appearances for Galatasaray who went on to win the Turkish championship.

Monaco, who signed

million euros during the summer, have not included an 'option to buy' clause in the loan, suggesting that Onyekuru remains a part of their long-term strategy.

Since his arrival in the principality, Onyekuru, who joined Monaco on a five-year deal, figured in just four matches under Leonardo Jardim who was sacked just after Christmas and replaced by ex-Spain boss Roberto Moreno.

He hasn't played in Ligue 1 since September 29.



■ Henry Onyekuru during the signing of his loan deal agreement

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**GUEST COLUMN**

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## Don't call me at 9 o'clock

Once upon a time, there were very few television stations in operation in Nigeria, and they only operated for a few hours a day. In those days most stations came on in the afternoon and went off at about midnight. The stations would open with a hissing sound which was followed by the national anthem before the presenters popped up to give a rundown of the programme for the day. Watching TV was a big deal as not every family had one. It was not unusual to see kids peeping through the window into their neighbour's homes to snatch a few minutes of their favourite programmes.

In the 1990s many states in Nigeria had television stations, but they were obliged to join the national station at 9:00pm for the Network News. That was prime time and it was a standard routine for some of us to watch at least the headlines. Watching the news was important if you wished to keep abreast of the thinking of the military dictatorships that held sway at that time. The radio was also useful, but in the tumultuous days of pro-democracy agitations, it was wiser to tune to foreign stations to confirm the reason for the commotion on your streets rather than tune to the local stations. It was that bad.

As twisted as some of the official media had become in those days, they provided fairly good sources of information if you learned the art of paying attention to what was not said. On one occasion watching a special broadcast by a military governor following a major uprising in my city gave some of us an inkling as to who the jackboots were targeting for arrest,

assault and incarceration. And we took some preventive measures that were partially successful, at least for a while. But that is a story for another day.

At a point, using the publicly owned mass media for propaganda to promote self-succession or transformation became the standard fair, especially in the regime of General Sani Abacha. There were advertisements extolling "who the cap fit." Although the general was known to always spot a beret, he was getting itchy to switch over to a taller hat. The National Network news at 9:00pm became so cluttered with officially sanctioned alternative news that there was little room to actually get to know what the real situation in the country was. It was at that time that my family decided that having that news hour as our family time was more productive than opening ourselves to servings of officially fabricated fake news.

So, for over twenty years it has become a tradition in my family that we dedicate 9:00-10:00pm as a time for coming together. This has meant keeping the phones aside and ensuring that no one watches television. Although this has become a family tradition, we have thought it wise to regularly remind ourselves of the origins of this routine.

In recent times, the travails of Omoyele Sowore, Col Sambo Dasuki (ret'd), Sheik Zakzaky, Agba Jalingo, Jones Abri, and some judges arrested in peculiar manners, and for sundry reasons, have raised a number of questions on the state of the democratic space in Nigeria. The brushes of these Nigerians with the law, judicial processes and security agencies have led many to ask questions about the direction suggested by the drift. One of the key indicators that things are not well has been the role of the judiciary in protecting the human rights of citizens and then the obedience of court orders by security agents and actions and statements from the executive arm of government. An alarming apogee was reached when Sowore was wrestled down in the hallowed chambers of justice and whisked away into another round of detention while he had been released on bail.

The assault of Sowore rightly drew national and global condemnation, thanks to the wide sharing of the sordid spectacle through social media. We should note here that because President Buhari appears to be a man of few words, his spokespersons have resorted to speak even when silence would be more salutary. The unsavoury courthouse incident was presented as being essential for national security and other nations were told to mind their business. The Department of State Services (DSS) came up with the story that the incident

Unfortunately, a cabal cannot be equated to a "kitchen cabinet" in the Nigerian context. It is a much more sinister construct, speaking of a clique that works assiduously to subvert public interests while ensuring the rule of personal or sectional interests

was stage-managed and that Sowore was actually wrestled down and rough-handled by his supporters to give the security outfit a bad name. What they could not deny was that they were the ones that took him back into custody.

It has been so bad in recent days that a presidential spokesman even justified the presence of a cabal in Aso Rock, claiming that this was simply equivalent to having a kitchen cabinet. Unfortunately, a cabal cannot be equated to a "kitchen cabinet" in the Nigerian context. It is a much more sinister construct, speaking of a clique that works assiduously to subvert public interests while ensuring the rule of personal or sectional interests.

In all, we can say that the brashness displayed by the security forces, sections of the judiciary and the executive are very troubling indeed and needs to be checked before things deteriorate further. The spokespersons of the president and the governors should retool and be reminded that abusive and unrestrained language cannot be the hallmark of governance or diplomacy.

So, Sowore was released from incarceration on Tuesday 24 December 2019 on the directive of the Attorney General to the DSS to let him regain his liberty. The same Attorney general had stated on Monday 16 December 2019 that he could not ask the DSS to release Sowore. Femi Falana, Sowore's lawyer, had on the previous Friday asked the Attorney General to seek the release of his client since he had taken over the case from the DSS.

It came as a surprise that a few days later, he did not only ask the DSS to release Sowore but cited Section 150 (1) of the Nigerian constitution to back up his directive. It was a long, tortuous road to obeying court orders, especially when the case of Colonel Dasuki is also taken into account. Will that constitutional provision now be routinely respected or is what has transpired a fluke?

At 9.00pm on Tuesday 24 December 2019 I tuned into the Network News to see if the release of Sowore and Col Dasuki, the most significant events of the day, would make the headlines. They did. Does that mean that things have changed significantly? Is it time to adjust the family tradition? Should I begin to take calls at 9:00pm? Whatever is the case, have an eventful New Year.

**SPORT REPORT >>**

### Vandals destroy Ibrahimovic's statue again

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### Near-death experience gives Osaka new perspective

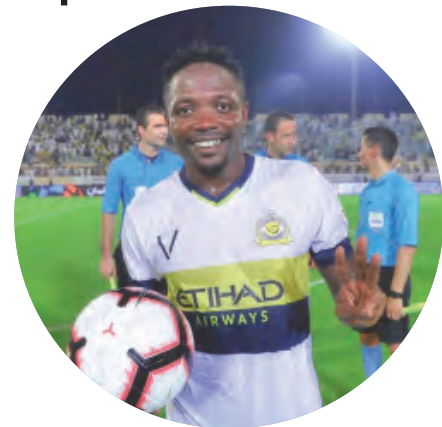


■ Naomi Osaka

A "near-death" experience off the coast of the Turks and Caicos Islands has given reigning Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka a new perspective heading into the 2020 season. An upbeat Osaka told reporters ahead of the season-opening Brisbane International that she had tried to have a bit of fun and experience new things during the off-season, which meant her "first vacation ever".

"It was really fun -- my sister was there. She made me paddleboard, and then the current took us and I almost died," a smiling Osaka said. Osaka said she and her sister had been in shallow waters but she noticed a current had taken them away from the shore.

### Musa wins Saudi Super Cup title with Al Nassr



■ Ahmed Musa

Super Eagles captain Ahmed Musa played a key role as Al Nassr won the Saudi Arabia Super Cup title following a 5-4 penalty shootout win against Al Taawon at the King Abdullah Stadium yesterday night. Both teams battled to a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes of thrilling football action.

It was Musa's second title with the Saudi Arabia Professional League champions. The 27-year-old was replaced by Abdulfattah Mohamed Adam five minutes from time.

Al Taawon took the lead through Cameroonian forward Leandre Tawamba Kana in the 18th minute. Abderrazak Hamdallah equalised for Al Nassr two minutes before the half hour mark. Al Nassr then converted all five spot kicks during the shootout, while Al Taawon scored four.

So, for over twenty years it has become a tradition in my family that we dedicate 9:00-10:00pm as a time for coming together. This has meant keeping the phones aside and ensuring that no one watches television. Although this has become a family tradition, we have thought it wise to regularly remind ourselves of the origins of this routine