



Abuja Fashion Maven Alhassan Seeks Igala Support to Win Fashion Crib 3rd Edition

>>>> Pg 22

Factcheck News

... Checking the fact first

Monday, March 18, 2024

Vol. 01 No. 04

www.factchecknews.com.ng

factchecknews.ng@gmail.com

[factchecknews](#)

N200

CHILD POVERTY:

Another Time Bomb In The Making?

>>>> Pg 5

- Data shows Staggering, Disturbing Indices in Nigeria
- Experts suggest way forward



Ned Nwoko Discloses Receipt Of N1bn Constituency Projects Allocation

>>>> Pg 6

Alleged Budget Padding: Arewa Group Condemns Ningi's Suspension

>>>> Pg 8

Anambra Uncovers "218 Ghost Workers" Sacks Six Deputy Directors Over "Fake Certificates"

>>> Pg 7

Young woman who offers self as sacrificial lamb to be buried alive

>>> Pg 2

Legend

Young Woman Who Offers Self As Sacrificial Lamb To Be Buried Alive

Princess Inikpi was a beautiful and intelligent young woman whose selfless sacrifice saved the Igala people from doom.

She was the only daughter of her parents, Atah Ayegba Oma Idoko and Queen Omele.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Igala Kingdom faced conflict with the Benin Kingdom, one of their strongest adversaries.

Benin warriors persistently attacked Igala territory, seeking to annihilate its people.

The Bini warriors employed various tactics, including poisoning streams, launching sudden attacks day and night, and besieging farmlands.

The Igala people lived in constant fear, unable to tend to their farms or fetch water from the streams.

In response, the chiefs consulted the oracle, which proclaimed that the only remedy for the kingdom's

safety and victory in war was for the king to bury his beloved daughter, Inikpi, alive.

The king had four sons — Akogu, Agada, Eleme, and Ohiemi Obogo — and Inikpi was his only daughter. He cherished Inikpi deeply, often keeping her close in the palace.

Distraught, the king abstained from eating or drinking for days. He pleaded with the oracle to accept slaves, but it insisted on royal blood — specifically, Inikpi's.

Noticing her father's distress, Princess Inikpi inquired persistently until, on the seventh day, the king revealed the oracle's demand to save the Igala land and its people.

Understanding her father's sorrow, Inikpi resolved to offer herself. Her decision brought mourning throughout the kingdom, especially from her mother, Omele.

On the appointed day,

Inikpi journeyed to the bank of the River Niger at Ida, where she was buried alive alongside nine virgin slaves who would assist her in the afterlife.

Following the sacrifice, as the Bini warriors advanced, they observed the entire Igala land ablaze and retreated, believing there was no need to attack a town already engulfed in flames. This deception was attributed to Inikpi's blood, according to historical accounts.

Inikpi's sacrifice brought enduring joy, peace, and security to the Igala Kingdom, liberating its people from the threats of surrounding enemies and ensuring victory in wars.

Inikpi remained a virgin throughout her life, and her courageous act inspired many parents to name their daughters after her. A statue honoring her stands at Ega in the Idah market in Kogi State.



History today March 18



Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini

- 1940 Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain.
- 1932 Mohandas Gandhi was sentenced in India to six months in prison for civil disobedience.
- 1965 Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov left the airlock on his spacecraft for 12 minutes and 9 seconds, becoming the first person to 'walk in space'

Facts You Should Know About Africa

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Largest country in Africa by land mass - Algeria | Nigeria |
| 2) Largest country in Africa by population - Nigeria | 20) largest city by population - Nigeria |
| 3) Largest movie industry in Africa - Nigeria | 21) Largest news network in Africa - Nigeria |
| 4) Largest democracy in Africa - Nigeria | 22) largest car race arena in Africa - South Africa |
| 5) Richest Black man - Nigerian | Africa |
| 6) Richest African woman - Nigerian | 23) largest pharmaceutical industry in Africa - Nigeria |
| 7) largest single solar power plant in Africa - Morocco | 24) Fastest woman in Africa - Nigerian |
| 8) Largest Museum in Africa - Egypt | 25) Fastest man in Africa - Kenyan |
| 9) Tallest building in Africa - Egypt | 26) largest stock exchange by market capitalization in Africa - South Africa |
| 10) Largest rice mill in Africa - Nigeria | 27) largest stock exchange by number of listings - south Africa |
| 11) Largest fertilizer plant in Africa - Nigeria | 28) longest concrete road in Africa - Nigeria |
| 12) largest oil refinery in Africa - Nigeria | 29) largest airline in Africa - Ethiopia |
| 13) largest fish farm in Africa - Egypt | 30) most streamed musicians in Africa - Nigeria |
| 14) largest cement plant in Africa - Nigeria | 31) most awarded artist in Africa - Nigerian |
| 15) largest tea farm in Africa - Kenya | 32) largest mall in Africa by structure - Morocco |
| 16) largest music industry in Africa - Nigeria | 33) most valuable tech startup in Africa - Nigeria |
| 17) largest stadium in Africa - South Africa | |
| 18) Fastest train in Africa - Nigeria | |
| 19) longest subsea gas pipeline in Africa - | |

Business

FG's New Oil, Gas Policy Will Attract Investments, Says Nigerian Gas Association

Sport

Ghana's New Coach Names Assistants Ahead Of Nigeria Friendly

Entertainment

Coker To Raise Awareness On Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, Releases Documentary

Fashion

The Power of Accessories: Elevating Your Fashion Game

CDS Vows To Arrest Culprits Behind Death Of Army Commander, Officers In Delta

By ABAH ADAH, Abuja

Following the killing of troops of the Nigerian Army deployed for a peacekeeping mission to two warring communities in Bomadi LGA of Delta State, including the commanding officer, two majors, one captain, and 12 soldiers, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General CG Musa, has ordered the immediate arrest and investigation of all those involved. The Director, Defence Information, Brigadier General Tukur Gusau, confirmed the killing of the military personnel on Saturday.

He said, "The troops of 181 Amphibious Battalion, Bomadi Local Government Area of Delta State, while on a peace mission to Okuoma community in Bomadi LGA of Delta State were surrounded by some community youths and killed on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

"The unfortunate incident occurred when the troops responded to a distress call after the communal crisis between the Okuoma and Okoloba communities, both in Delta State. "The reinforcement team led by the commanding officer was also attacked, leading to the deaths of the commanding officer,

two majors, one captain, and 12 soldiers.

"The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Christopher Gwabin Musa, has directed the immediate investigation and arrest of those involved in the heinous crime.

"The occurrence has been reported to the Delta State Government.

"However, the military remains focused and committed to its mandate of maintaining peace and security in the country.

"So far, a few arrests have been made while steps are being taken to unravel the motive behind the attack.



General CG Musa

Nigeria's Galloping Inflation Hits 31.70% In February – NBS

By ABAH ADAH, Abuja

Nigeria's galloping inflation has dramatically increased to 31.70 percent in February from 29.90 percent in January 2024, National Bureau of Statistics report revealed.

This amount represents a 1.80 percent increase, according to the National Bureau of Statistics' latest CPI (Consumer Price Index) and inflation data, which was released on Friday.

This implies that the average price level increased at a faster rate in February 2024 than it did in January 2024.

The report read, "In February 2024, the headline inflation rate increased to 31.70 per cent relative to the January 2024 headline inflation rate which was 29.90 per cent."

Comparatively, on an annual basis, February 2024's inflation rate was 9.79 per cent higher than the 21.91 per cent recorded in February 2023.

Also, the month-on-month headline inflation rate in February 2024 reached 3.12%, an increase of 0.48% from January 2024's rate of 2.64%.

This indicates that the pace at which average prices rose in February 2024 exceeded the rate of price increase in January 2024.

The NBS further stated, "Looking at the movement, the February 2024 headline inflation rate showed an increase of 1.80 percent points when compared to the January 2024 headline inflation rate. On a year-on-year basis, the headline inflation rate was 9.79 percent points higher compared to the rate recorded in February 2023, which was 21.91 percent.

"This shows that the headline inflation rate (year-on-year basis) increased in the month of February 2024 when compared to the same month in the preceding year (i.e., February 2023).

"Furthermore, on a month-on-month basis, the headline inflation rate in February 2024 was 3.12 percent, which was 0.48 percent higher than the rate recorded in January 2024 (2.64 percent)."

The latest inflationary surge is despite tightened monetary policy by the Central Bank.

At the latest Monetary Policy Meeting, the apex bank increased the benchmark interest rate by 400 basis points to a record 22.75 per cent.

Justifying reasons for the hike, the CBN Governor, Olayemi Cardoso, explained that members considered various scenarios including whether to hold or hike policy and concluded that inflation could become more persistent in the medium term and pose more regulatory issues if not well-anchored.

Insecurity: Groups To Submit Nigerian Situation Report Before UK Govt, Parliament

By ABAH ADAH, Abuja

Two Nigerian charity organizations based in the United Kingdom (UK) will submit a report on the current security situation in the country to the UK government and Parliament on March 19.

The report was developed by academics at King's College, London.

It is to be presented at the UK Parliament by the two organisations, Ibironke Adeagbo Foundation (IA-Foundation) and the International Organisation for Peace Building and Social Justice (PSJ), UK.

The Chief Executive Officer of IA-Foundation, Mrs Ibironke Adeagbo, told newsmen in a telephone interview on Saturday in Abuja, that the report was meant to keep the UK Government abreast of the current security crisis in Nigeria.

She said that the report had detailed and analysed "the nexus

between education and insecurity in Nigeria."

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and a former British colony has been at the receiving end of relentless abductions of school children, mainly in northern Nigeria.

On March 8, some 287 school children were kidnapped in a school in North western Kaduna State and 15 more were abducted in Sokoto State days later.

The recurring abductions, which started since 2014, have forced about 20.2 million children out of classrooms, disrupted homes and forced millions out of their farms.

Adeagbo said that the report entitled "Illiteracy and Insecurity-an Unholy Marriage", highlighted and appraised the relationship between education and insecurity across Nigeria's 36 states and the FCT.

"Education has been a key sector hit both directly and indirectly with direct attacks on learning

institutions and student populations with kidnappings, killings, destruction of infrastructure and sowing of fear."

She said that the report would also be presented to Nigerian envoys and diplomats in the UK, to make them to have better grasp of the security issues at home.

Adeagbo, who has been at the forefront of tackling Nigeria's out-of-school children crisis, said that the report was being presented at a time Nigeria and the UK had renewed their Security and Defence Partnership Pact.

According to her, the pact seeks to address and eliminate all forms of terror and insecurity in Nigeria for the long-term benefit of the West African country and its former colonial master.

She said that the report presentation was also coming at a time when the Federal Government showed resolve to tackle the

Social Cohesion: FG Launches SD3R Project In North East

By ABAH ABAH, Abuja

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) through the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and a consortium of United Nations agencies, has launched a fresh initiative titled, EU Support for Disengagement, Review, Reintegration and Reconciliation of Persons Formerly Associated with the Non-State Armed Groups (SD3R of NSAGs) in North East Nigeria.

The joint initiative is to foster social cohesion, reduce stigmatisation, promote tolerance, and create space for acceptance as well as belonging within targeted communities in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States, according to a statement issued Thursday by the head, Strategic Communication, NCTC, ONSA, Abu Michael.

While launching the Initiative, the National Security Adviser (NSA) Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, noted that the SD3R Project was conceived to promote peace and stability in the Northeastern part of Nigeria through community-driven reintegration and reconciliation process for persons formally associated with NSAGs.

He said, "The project also strives to support authorities in effectively investigating and prosecuting individuals accused of terrorism offences in the north east, ensuring meaningful accountability and redress for serious crimes."

The NSA added that ONSA through the NCTC would continue to coordinate the project in line with the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022, Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PF-NAP for PCVE), 2017, as well as other relevant policy

documents.

In her remarks, the EU Head of Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ambassador, Samuela Isopi, said healing and reconciliation can be achieved in the sub-region if all work together, leveraging on collective expertise.

"This is why we are happy to continue supporting this process in the hope that it will help rebuild broken bridges within families and communities," she added.

She noted that the Project was part of the broader EU support to the Lake Chad region which amounts to €2.5 Billion since 2014, stressing that its implementation would leverage on the expertise and experience of the four UN agencies involved: International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which is the lead agency, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which have

been working in the northeast of Nigeria for several years.

Dignitaries at the ceremony include: Governor of Borno State, Prof. Babagana Zulum, and his Adamawa State Counterpart, Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri who was represented by the Hon. Commissioner for Reconstruction, Rehab, Reintegration and Humanitarian Services, while the Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni was represented by the Executive Secretary, Yobe State Emergency Management Agency, Dr Goje Mohammed.

Others include Ambassadors of the EU countries in Nigeria, as well as the UN Nigeria Resident Coordinator, Mr Mohamed M. Malick Fall; representatives of the UN agencies consortium, implementing the project.

There were also representatives of Federal and State Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), as well as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Profile

Architect Yemisi Dooshima Suswam Fnia, Phd: A Woman Of Compassion

Architect A/P Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam was born in Ibadan on 30th April, 1967 to the family of Chief Albert and Chief (Mrs.) Hannah Balogun from Emure-Ekiti. Chief Albert, a retired civil servant and renowned business man was the Chief Akeregún of Emure-Ekiti. He was a shareholder in banks, breweries and construction companies. Chief (Mrs) Hannah Balogun is a princess born into the royal family of the first Emir of Kaiaama in Kwara State. She is a retired teacher and also a business woman.

Architect A/P Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam started her primary school education at St Claire's Nursery and Primary School, Oshogbo, Osun State in 1970. She exhibited leadership skills from a tender age as she became a prefect in primary three; assistant head girl in primary four and became the head girl in primary five. She had her secondary education at Federal Government Girls' College, Oyo and graduated in 1985. She was the head girl and sports prefect and represented both her school and Oyo State in track and field events, winning several trophies. She gained admission to study Architecture in the Federal University of Technology, Minna in 1986 and graduated in 1992 as the only female student in the department. She got her master's degree in Architecture from the same university in 1993; she is pursuing a doctoral degree (PhD) in Architecture at the University of Jos.

While in the university, she did her Industrial Training (IT) in private architectural firms to gain experience and ground herself in her chosen field. She had her National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) at the Federal Capital Development Authority, Abuja in 1994. As a youth corp member, she was able to assume full responsibility as a young Architect and was able to supervise major projects across the FCT. On the 26th day of September, 1998, she got married to a young promising lawyer, Barr. Gabriel Torwua Suswam, blessed with awesome children, they have made notable success together.

Her background and upbringing richly grounded her in the Christian faith, contemporary education and afforded her notable business acumen. She took a Woman in Leadership course from the prestigious Harvard University, USA in 2008. This has greatly helped her personal and professional life. Architect A/P Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam, armed with more than 24 years' experience in Architecture has subsequently moved into development consulting and private practice.

At the moment, she is pursuing a doctoral degree (PhD) in Architecture at the University of Jos, Nigeria. Over the

years, Architect Deaconess Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam has accomplished several architectural and administrative works; some of which are:

The Multipurpose Conference Hall and Accommodation at the National Space Centre, Lugbe, Abuja; The Wuye Ultra-Modern (BOT) Market under Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Federal Capital Territory Abuja (FCTA); The Government House Chapel, Makurdi which she did pro bono; The Vice Chancellor's lodge, Federal University, Wukari; Three prototype units of Principal Staff Lodges in Federal University, Wukari; Architectural design for Gudu Multi-Level Car park; Skills Acquisition Centre in Oju, Benue State; Design and Building of the SEV-AV Agro-allied factory in Katsina Ala, Benue State; Design and Building of the SEV-AV Entrepreneurship Headquarters Building, Makurdi; designed and built the administrative block of the Remote Sensing Centre in Jos for Federal Ministry of Science and Technology; as part of her keen interest in health and wellness, she designed and built a gym and spa complex in Makurdi; Proposed American Hospital, Abuja and several other projects by private clients.

These are just a few of her outstanding contributions to the field of Architecture. Also worthy of mention are her contributions to other fields of human endeavor.

At the moment, Architect A/P Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of All-Purpose Shelters Limited (APSL), All-Purpose Shelters Consult Limited (APSCL) and Purpose Lights. She is the founder of Sev-Av (New Dawn) Foundation, her Non-governmental Organisation established in 2008 to corporately touch lives of young widows, youths and school drop outs through her skill acquisition centers for intensive training in beauty, fashion, catering, computer appreciation, knitting and beading departments, for beneficiaries not just for self-reliance but employers of labour after receiving starter packs from the foundation. The foundation has also established three rural clinics where HIV/AIDS patients receive free anti-retroviral drugs with the focus of preventing parent



Yemisi Dooshima Suswam

to child transmission. Over 20,000 patients have benefitted from these clinics since inception. At the foundation, rural farmers are not left out at the Agro-processing centers where farmers are trained to properly process farm produce and granted access to subsidized farm implements and fertilizers in order to curb waste. Several orphans have benefitted from her benevolence of scholarships which she started in 1999 with her husband His Excellency, Senator Gabriel Suswam CON. Today, many of the beneficiaries are graduates and professionals in their chosen field.

Architect A/P Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam has held several political and social positions which include:

First Lady of Benue State between May 2007 to May 2015; Chairperson Northern Governors' Wives Forum (2011-2015); The Grand Patron of Girls Brigade, Benue State; Initiated Breakfast Fellowship for Government Official Wives, Makurdi, 2009; Grand matron of United Nations' "Miss University Beauty Pageant", 2009; and Assistant Pastor of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

She is well decorated with numerous awards and laurels like the Women of Merit Gold Award by the National Council of Women Society (NCWS) FCT, 2006; Zonal Matron Merit Award by the Boys Scout of Nigeria, Benue Zone-One Council; Merit Award by the Women

Consultative Caucus; Best Pet Project Award by Northern Nigeria Queen of the Heart; Award to SEV-AV Foundation by African Independent Television (AIT) in conjunction with Project for Excellence; Leadership Award by European Marketing Research Centre (EMRC) Paris, France 2008; Special Award of Honour by Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON) 2008; African Leader Par Excellence Award by International Institute of Comparative Leadership for African and Blacks in Diaspora in conjunction with Accolade Communications Ltd 2009; Best Dressed Certificate of Achievement by the Women & Power Class of Harvard Kennedy School, USA, 2009; Global Peace and Empowerment Award by Global Business Women and Leaders, 12th Summit in Dubai, UAE 2010; Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) by Rotary International (RI) 2010; Honorary Fellow by Counselling Association of Nigeria, 2010; Woman ICON Award by Iconic International Magazine 2012; African Achievers for Youths & Women Development Award by Institute of Leadership and Management, Nairobi, Kenya 2013; Ambassador of Family Planning by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), 2013; Peace Ambassador by UNICEF; Most Valuable Governors' Wife North Central Zone Of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2014; Governors Wife of the Year by The Sun Newspaper, 2014; Award for Outstanding Performance in Women Advocacy and Development in Nigeria by Arise O' Nigeria (Endorsed by UN Women), 2016; Outstanding Contribution to Community Development & Poverty Alleviation Award by Mike Omotosho Foundation 2018; and most recently, Strong Pillar Award by NKST Orphanage, Mkar, 2019, National Outstanding Leadership Award by Congress of Nigerian Youth (CONYO), 2021; Certificate of Listing by Nigeria Women Annual 100 Leading Women, 2021 among others.

In her leisure time, she enjoys music, reading, driving, cooking and sports. She enjoys discovering and exploring new destinations and cultures. Architect A/P Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam has a passion for rural evangelism and runs a Tracts Ministry, which is meant to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world in ten languages including four Nigerian languages - Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba and TIV, as well as French, Chinese, Arabic, Swahili, Spanish, and English languages. She also visits orphanages and IDP camps bearing gifts and the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Architect A/P Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam is highly disciplined and a disciplinarian to the core. She is dedicated, tenacious, principled, people-oriented, very humble and charismatic.

In her leisure time, she enjoys music, reading, driving, cooking and sports. She enjoys discovering and exploring new destinations and cultures. Architect A/P Oluwayemisi Dooshima Suswam has a passion for rural evangelism and runs a Tracts Ministry

News

Child Poverty: Another Time Bomb In The Making?

Currently, millions of Nigerian children are going through wave of deprivations as a result of many factors including conflicts, the incursion of COVID-19 pandemic, government policies, inflation and other life threatening events resulting in the depletion of the incomes vis a vis purchasing power of many families.

Investigation by this paper has revealed that currently, children (persons between 0 - 17 age bracket) constitute half of Nigeria's over 200 million population. Therefore, fiddling with the future of this important demographic group is archetypal to the immolation of Nigeria's future.

A report on Multiple Overlapping Deprivations Analysis (MODA) published by the Federal Government of Nigeria, (FGN) in 2021 shows a staggering and disturbing incidents of child poverty in the country which called for concerted efforts by all stakeholders before the scourge consumes the nation.

Child poverty which is classified into two broad categories, monetary poverty and multi-dimensional poverty are real threats to the future of Nigeria considering the debilitating consequences an underdeveloped and energetic youthful population constitute to the nation.

An expert in criminology and conflict studies Dr. Baba Maishanu in a phone chat with our correspondent captured the debilitating portents of having high incidents of multiple deprivations in children such as the one we have currently in Nigeria as a time bomb.

"It is high time the federal government and all stakeholders rise to the occasion by ensuring that the incidents of child poverty is drastically reduced to the barest minimum, otherwise, in the nearest foreseeable future, these untamed youths will unleash their full wrath on the nation," he said.

Another expert and Social Policy Specialist, Dr. Yusuf Auta while speaking on the subject said non monetary poverty in children involved deprivations of the children's rights while multi-dimensional poverty in children means deprivations of children in at least three out

•Data Shows Staggering, Disturbing Indices In Nigeria •Experts suggest ways forward

of the eight basic needs of the children.

These basic needs according to Auta include deprivations in water, sanitation, housing, information, nutrition, education and healthcare noting that any child who suffers deprivations in at least three of the areas at the same time is going through multi-dimensional poverty.

The MODA report also indicated that no fewer than 53.9 percent of Nigerian children are multi-dimensionally poor.

While dissecting child poverty by its dimension, the report indicated that deprivations in the nutrition

sector amongst children aged between 0 - 4 is 33 percent adding that nine out of 10 children 95.2 percent of children under five years of age are not exclusively breastfed just as 83.9 percent of children between 6 - 23 months do not have recommended meal frequency and diversity standards. It also stated that three out of four children under four years suffer deprivations in healthcare dimension.

While enumerating the deprivations in education, the report states that 45.4 percent of children aged 5 - 11 and 61.7 percent of children between 12 - 17 years suffer deprivations in

education sector. It also shows that deprivations in water dimension ranges between 37.6 to 40.6 across all age groups.

Ways forward

While offering a way out, a university don and a lecturer with Department of Economics And Development Studies, Federal University Kashere, Dr. A. M Dankumo called on the government to as a matter of urgency improve access to quality education, healthcare, strengthens social safety nets and promote child friendly policies amongst others.

He noted that the government should also

work strenuously to address social inequality, improve funding for agriculture sector, address issues of corruption in government systems and prioritize social investments and cash transfers.

Also providing a way out of the quagmire, Dr. Yusuf Auta called on the government to provide employment opportunities to the citizenry, prioritize basic needs in national development policies and improve production, skills acquisition and invest heavily in agriculture.

He also called on the government to provide incentives to the private sector, target cash transfers, improve on policies which directly affect children and invest in social services.



Why We Were Suspended, Hounded Out Of Zamfara Assembly – Lawmakers

The eight lawmakers suspended indefinitely by Zamfara House of Assembly, said they have been hounded out of the state by political thugs for exposing the worsening security challenges in the state.

The lawmakers also claimed that some security agents have been sent to hunt for them without any reason, a situation which made them to go into hiding.

Bashir Aliyu, who spoke on behalf of the eight suspended lawmakers at a news conference in Zaria on Sunday, said they would not be silenced until action is taken to tame

the high level of insecurity in Zamfara.

Aliyu said when they moved to effect changes in the leadership of the assembly, it was to draw attention to the alleged prolonged absence of the Speaker and his deputy from the state.

He however said some forces in the state have since been hounding them instead of working to make the state safe.

According to him, some of the suspended lawmakers were attacked by thugs linked to a politician in the state during the wedding of the Deputy Governor's daughter on Feb. 24.

He said a letter with reference no. ZMHA/ADM/223/Vol. 1, dated March 7, 2024, has now directed them to return the official vehicles in their care to the Clerk of the state Assembly within seven days.

"We want to notify Nigerians that democracy is in danger in Zamfara despite the prevailing insecurity, poverty and other challenges bedeviling the people of the state.

"We hence call for the intervention of key stakeholders to salvage the situation," Aliyu who represents Gumi I constituency added.

The News Agency of Nigeria

recalls that on Feb. 27, the eight lawmakers were suspended by the state assembly for allegedly holding an illegal plenary.

The suspension of the eight members was to give room for full investigation.

The suspended lawmakers are Bashir Aliyu (PDP-Gummi 1); Amiru Keta (PDP-Tsafe West); Nasiru Abdullahi (PDP-Marun South); Bashir Masama (PDP-Bukkuyum North); Faruku Dosara (APC-Maradun 1); Ibrahim Tukur (APC-Bakura Constituency); Shamsudeen Hassan (APC-Talata-Mafara North) and Bashiru Sarkin-Zango (PDP-Bungudu West).

News

Budget Padding Allegation: ACF Carpets Senate Over Sen. Ningi's Suspension

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has faulted the Senate for suspending the Senator representing Bauchi Central Senatorial District, Senator Abdul Ningi over his allegation of budget padding, with a call on the senate to act with more circumspection and sensitivity in processing criticism of its operations.

The forum expressed support for the suspended senator over his allegation of budget padding and claim that the 2024 budget is unfavourable to the North.

The Bauchi senator was suspended from the Senate for three months following his allegation that the 2024 budget is padded with N3.7 trillion not attached to any specific project, while claiming that the budget was skewed against the North with several Northern communities not benefitting from the projects and programmes in the budget.

Reacting to the development in a statement through its national publicity secretary, Professor Tukur Muhammad-Baba, ACF

said the Senate was too hasty to have arrived at suspending Ningi and therefore urged the National Assembly to carry out a thorough investigation of such allegations in the future.

While the forum noted that Senator Ningi's allegation has since been denied by the Senate as lacking in veracity, it however lamented that the interests of many Northern communities are at stake.

According to ACF, the process of suspending Ningi appeared nimbly rushed, with concerns looking more on the messenger rather than his message.

"ACF acknowledges the 10th Senate's constitutional privilege to determine how it operates or conduct its affairs. However, ACF expects that exercise of the privilege will always be hinged, strictly and transparently on relevant provisions in the Constitution relating to the principles of due process and fair hearing. This is critical for a body empowered to make laws for the country and to exercise oversight

functions over the operations of the executive arm of Government.

"ACF notes that the whole saga hinged on the rather weighty allegation by Senator Ningi, euphemistically called "budget padding". Senator Ningi, and we must say others, had alleged that as much as the sum of N3.7 trillion is not rather egregiously attached to any specific project as it ought to, under the 2024 Budget of the Federation passed for implementation.

"ACF notes that the allegation has since been denied by the 10th Senate as lacking in veracity. However, the interests of many communities in Northern Nigeria are at stake. Rather than the route of a rushed suspension of Senator Ningi, ACF prefers a thorough investigation of the allegation by some statutory or ad hoc committees of the Senate. As things stand, in the eyes of the general public, the allegation of padding as well as those related to the inclusion of curious items that benefit specific communities of some Senators as "constituency



projects", stand unaddressed with all attendant negative implications for the Red Chamber and, vicariously, the Executive, regrettably, unfortunately and avoidably so for Nigeria's nascent democracy.

"ACF regrets that Bauchi Central will be without representation in the 10th Senate for the 3 months and stands with Senator Ningi and his supporters

in whatever constitutional means they seek to respond for a satisfactory denouement to this sad development. ACF also calls on the 10th Senate to act with more circumspection and sensitivity in processing criticism of its operations. Robust debates on public policy issues undoubtedly strengthens development of the democratic project," the statement partly read.

Ned Nwoko Discloses Receipt Of N1bn Constituency Projects Allocation

Ned Nwoko, senator representing Delta north, says he was able to attract N1 billion worth of projects for his constituents.

Nwoko said this when he appeared on 'Mic On podcast', a programme hosted by Seun Okinbaloye, a journalist with Channels Television.

There has been renewed interest in allocations for constituency projects for federal lawmakers, after Jarigbe Jarigbe, senator representing Cross River north, claimed recently that some "senior" senators got N500 million for projects.

Jarigbe made the claim when

the senate deliberated on the allegation by Abdul Ningi, now suspended senator representing Bauchi central, who claimed that the 2024 budget was padded by N3.7 trillion.

Nwoko said he would have preferred a scenario where the constituency project allocation to every senator is fixed.

"The way it is done now, you basically rely on your weights and contacts to see what you can get for your people," he said.

"Well, it is just the system. Just the system. It is a system in Nigeria... like I said, I'd have preferred a situation where we all know what we are getting — you

don't need to lobby for it and it is a standard thing.

"All the 109 senators from the onset should know what is going on in their particular district.

"A better approach would have been for senatorial uniformity. So if they say that everyone should get about N1 billion, so be it. But this way, you rely on your weight and contacts to see what you can get for your people.

"This is not money for us. It is money for projects within our senatorial districts. So if you have roads, water projects, training programmes all aggregate to a certain sum."

Asked if he received as much as N1 billion in allocation, the senator said: "Of course I did. That's why I am who I am. But these are projects for my people."

The senator said he does not want to know who the contractors executing the projects are, but only cares about the delivery of the projects he has been able to attract to Delta north.

On March 13, Ali Ndume, chief whip of the senate, said presiding and principal officers received more in constituency project allocation because "some animals are more equal than others".



Police Confirm Death Of Motorist While Protesting Damage To Car

The police in Lagos State have confirmed the death of a motorist, Seun Sahola, 33, while protesting against another motorist, who allegedly hit and damaged his car on Jakande-Lekki-Epe Expressway.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, confirmed the incident to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Saturday.

Mr Hundeyin said that the Ilasan Police Division got

information on Monday at about 2.30 p.m. of a hit-and-run fatal motor accident along Jakande-Lekki-Epe Expressway, involving a Lexus car.

He said the information revealed that the late motorist drove the car, while a Honda Accord car driven by a yet-to-be identified person damaged his car.

The spokesperson said that the report further revealed that the Honda Accord car driver

allegedly hit the Lexus car, where it was parked along the expressway.

Mr Hundeyin said the owner of the Lexus car, now late, came out from his car and demanded that the Honda Accord car driver must come down and see the damage his car had done on his.

"The report says that instead of the Honda Accord car driver to come down to check, he refused, rather, he allegedly used

his Honda Accord car to knock down the Lexus car motorist and drove off.

"The driver of the Honda Accord car, in an attempt to flee the scene of accident, lost control of his car and ran into an electric pole at Igbo Efon and abandoned his accident car at the middle of the road and ran away.

"The traffic personnel of the police division immediately went to the scene. One Seun

Sahola was rushed to the hospital for medical treatment, where he was confirmed dead by the doctor on duty," he said.

Mr Hundeyin further said that the corpse was deposited at the mortuary for autopsy, while the abandoned car has been taken to the police station for custody.

He said that investigation was in progress as the police were on the trail of the fleeing driver.

News

By Abubakar Yunusa Ojima-Ojo

Anambra Uncovers "218 Ghost Workers" Sacks Six Deputy Directors Over "Fake Certificates"

The Anambra local government service commission has sacked six deputy directors for "possessing fake certificates".

Vincent Ezeaka, chairman of the commission, said it also uncovered 210 suspected ghost workers in the system.

He said the affected deputy directors claimed to be products of Imo State University, adding that investigators are expecting more responses from other universities across the country.

Ezeaka said the move is part of the commission's quest to foster professionalism and stop all forms of corruption in the LG system.

"As for the ghost workers, who cut across the 21 local government areas of the state, we have removed them from the workers' payroll," he said.

"The discoveries were made possible through a dedicated back-to-back personnel audit and the deployment of staff biometrics identification and verification, using a state-of-the-art clock-in-clock-out digital attendance register."

Ezeaka added that the discovery brought to the fore the numerical strength of the physical staff in the unified local government system of the state.

He said certificate screening would become a continuous exercise within the commission.

"Having completed the screening of Grade Levels 15 and 16, the certificate screening of Grade Level 14 and below shall commence in earnest," he said.

"This is all aimed at flushing out fraudsters and all forms of certificate racketeering in the local government system." Ezeaka added that the discovery brought to the fore the numerical strength of the physical staff in the unified local government system of the state.

He said certificate screening would become a continuous exercise within the commission.

"Having completed the screening of Graommence in earnest," he said.

Katsina, Zamfara Govs Get More Knocks Over Failure To Attend Security Meeting

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

Governor Umar Radda of Katsina State and his Zamfara counterpart, Dauda Lawal, have received more condemnations over failure to attend a crucial meeting with security chiefs and the Northern Governors Forum aimed at finding lasting solutions to the escalating insecurity in the North-West region.

The recent criticism of the two governors is contained in a press statement issued by Katsina Youth Vanguard (KYV), which was signed by its chairman, Aliyu Tanko, on Sunday.

The group said it was disheartening to note that the governors of Zamfara and Katsina, who are among the

worst hit by the pervasive insecurity in the region, could miss the golden opportunity afforded by meeting to address the rampant cases banditry, kidnapping, and loss of lives and property.

It also faulted the deployment of non-state actors to address the security issues in the states by the two governors.

"The introduction of Yan Sa Kai civilian outfits in these states, supposedly meant to complement the efforts of the security agencies, has unfortunately exacerbated the situation by leading to human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, and further destabilization of the already fragile security landscape.

"The refusal of the two governors to attend this critical security meeting is a

clear indication of their lack of commitment to addressing the security challenges facing their respective states and the entire North-West region. It is unacceptable for elected officials to neglect their responsibilities to protect the lives and properties of their citizens, especially in the face of escalating insecurity and widespread fear among the populace.

"The KYV reminds Governor Lawal and Governor Raddah to prioritize the security and well-being of their people above all other considerations. They must set aside any political differences and work collaboratively with the security agencies and the Northern Governors Forum to find lasting solutions to the insecurity plaguing our region.

"We warn against the

politicization of security matters, as this only serves to worsen the already dire situation. It is imperative that all stakeholders come together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to tackle the root causes of insecurity and restore peace and stability in our communities.

"The KYV stands ready to support all efforts aimed at safeguarding the lives and properties of our people and creating a conducive environment for socio-economic development in the North-West region. We call on Governor Lawal and Governor Raddah to demonstrate strong leadership and commit to working towards a peaceful and secure future for all residents of Zamfara and Katsina states," the statement said.

Customs Reopens Kamba Land Border In Kebbi



The Comptroller, Nigeria Customs Service, Kebbi State command, Iheanacho Ojike, has reopened Kamba land border in compliance with the directive of President Bola Tinubu on immediate reopening of land border with Niger Republic.

The Public Relations Officer of the Kebbi Customs, Mohammed Tajuddeen Salisu, disclosed this in a statement on Saturday.

Shortly after reopening the border, in the midst of district head of Kamba, Alhaji Mamuda Fana, stakeholders and other sister agencies, the CAC said Kamba is a strategic border with major share in Kebbi Revenue generation.

He further stated that the border reopening was aimed at paving way for legitimate trade

that would impact positively on nation building, not a permission for importation of prohibited items that would ransack the economy and compromise national security.

Going further, Ojike emphasised that officers and men of the Command are ever ready to facilitate legitimate trade and act within the ambit of the law to simplify trade across Kamba Border seamlessly as long as stakeholders import what is permitted by Customs extant laws, make proper declaration and pay appropriate duties to the Federal Government coffers.

He concluded by stressing that food grains are still prohibited for exportation out of the country, considering the scarcity of food in the country.

Responding, Mallam Fana commended the effort of the Federal Government and emphasised that it is a new wave of hope to his people who have interest in cross-border businesses, and even small-scale business owners domiciled in Kamba town, promising to caution his people on illegitimate trade.

In another development, The CAC paid a courtesy call visit to the Emir of Gwandu, Major General Muhammed Bashir Iliyasu (Rtd), to seek his blessings and cooperation as the royal father of the state, other sister agencies to gain their mutual cooperation and collaboration towards ensuring steady trade across borders, curb smuggling activities and provide security to the host communities.

WHO Donates 2 Mini Laboratories To Plateau Gov't

The World Health Organisation, WHO, has donated two mini COVID – 19 laboratories to the Plateau Government.

Handing over the facilities on Saturday, Dr. Musa Mahdi, the Coordinator of WHO in the state, expressed confidence in the state's ability to uphold the current standards of the facilities.

Mr Mahdi, who was represented by Dr Andrew Abiodun, said that the organisation said that the labs would enhance access to quality healthcare services by people in the state.

Responding, Dr Cletus Bako, the Commissioner for Health in the state, thanked the donors for the gesture.

Mr Bako, said that the laboratories would ensure proper diagnoses of medical challenges in the health facilities they are domiciled.

He added that the laboratories would go a long way toward providing improved healthcare services to the people.

The two mini laboratories donated are located in Primary Healthcare Centres Bukuru and Tudun Wada, in Jos South and Jos North Local Government Area, respectively.

News

Story By ABAH ADAH, Abuja

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

The Senate has condemned the gruesome murder of 16 Army personnel of 'Operation Delta Safe' in Okuama community of Ughelli South Local Government Area of Delta State.

Reacting to the killing of the army personnel during a peace

Those Behind Army Personnel Killing In Delta Must Be Brought To Book – Senate

mission between two warring communities, the Senate in a statement on Sunday said that the culprits must be made to face the full consequences of their actions.

In the statement signed by the chairman, Senate Committee on Nigerian Army, Senator Abdulaziz Yar'adua, the Senate noted that the sacrifices made by the Commanding Officer, three officers, and 12 soldiers during the distressing incident shall forever be remembered.

"On behalf of the 10th Senate Committee on Nigerian Army, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chief of Army Staff, the Nigerian Army and officers and men of Operation Delta Safe on the tragic loss

of our galant personnel who were mercilessly killed by some youths during a peace mission to Okuama Community in Ughelli South Local Government Area of Delta State on Thursday 14th March 2024.

"The sacrifices made by the Commanding Officer, 3 officers, and 12 soldiers during this distressing incident shall forever be remembered. Their bravery and commitment exemplify the highest virtue of patriotism, courage, and sacrifice, and their legacy will forever inspire us all.

"I wish to commend the swift response of the Chief of Defense Staff in directing an immediate investigation to apprehend those responsible for this heinous crime. It is crucial that justice is served and those

behind this criminal act are brought to account for their actions. The Nigerian Army's unwavering focus on upholding peace and security in our nation is a testament to the resilience and dedication of our Armed Forces.

"The Senate Committee on the Nigerian Army stands resolutely alongside the Defence Headquarters and the Nigerian Army in seeking justice for the fallen heroes. We shall spare no effort in supporting the necessary investigations and legal processes to ensure that those responsible for this crime face the full consequences of their actions.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with you, the families of the fallen heroes, and the entire



Akpabio

Armed Forces as we honour the sacrifice and service of our brave personnel," the statement read.

Withheld Salaries: SSANU, NASU Direct Members To Begin Nationwide Strike Monday

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

The leadership of both the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU) have directed their members across university and inter-university centre campuses nationwide to withdraw services beginning from Monday, 18 March.

The seven-day industrial action, according to a memo addressed to the branches of the unions and dated Friday, 15 March, is in fulfilment of the earlier threat and ultimatum issued to the Nigerian government by the unions over the unpaid withheld salaries of their members.

The memo, which was issued by the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of both SSANU and NASU, and signed by the National President of SSANU, Mohammed Ibrahim, and the General Secretary of NASU, Peters Adeyemi, urged the branch leaders to ensure total compliance to the directive.

JAC blamed the Nigerian government for allowing the matter to degenerate, querying the justification for the payment of the withheld salaries of the members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) but decided to leave out their members.

The memo reads in part: "Please note that the 7-day warning strike should be comprehensive and total as no concession should be given in any guise.

"Your strict compliance and adherence to this directive is mandatory for all NASU and SSANU branches in the Universities and Inter-University Centres."

TETFund: Students' Accommodation Challenges Will Soon Be Over, Rector Fed Poly Mubi

By ABAH ADAH

The Rector of the Federal Polytechnic Mubi, Dr. Abdulrahman Ishaka, has stated that over 70 percent of the student population of the Institution stays off campus, a development he attributed to lack of adequate hostel accommodation and paucity of funds occasioned by the present harsh economic realities.

Speaking in Mubi recently, the Rector said that one of the major challenges facing the Institution is the scarcity of staff and students hostel accommodation over the

years.

According to him, the lingering problem of hostel accommodation has resulted to the massacre of over 20 students of the Institution who resided off campus in 2012 as a result of a surge in cultist activities among students.

He however said that with the recent intervention by TETFund, both students and staff accommodation difficulties would become history between now and the next six months, as the construction of additional hotels and staff accommodation were at 90 percent completion.

He described the intervention

as timely and progressive aimed at enhancing learning and teaching environment at the Institution.

The Rector noted that the Institution is passing through structural and academic transformation under his leadership, emphasising that prior to his appointment as the Rector, the Institution had been plagued by apparent disunity, labour conflicts, and perceived ethnic chauvinism which had stunted the growth of the Institution over the years.

He said that such obstacles to development has given way for peace, unity and progress of the Institution as he enumerated

some of the major achievements under his able leadership to include, improved road network, impressive accreditation status of the Institution, improved water supply, peaceful resolution of land encroachment matters, completion and handing over of the school of science project, initiation of the civil engineering complex project nearing completion and the expansion of the ICT center and students hostels among others.

Dr Ishaka admitted that the Institution is a major beneficiary of federal government intervention through TETFund and Needs Assessment Fund Allocation.

Alleged Budget Padding: Arewa Group Condemns Ningi's Suspension

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

•Demands unconditional reinstatement

Rebuild Arewa Initiative for Development (RAID), on Friday, condemned the Senate's decision to suspend senator Abdul Ningi for three months for expressing concern over irregularities in the 2024 national budget.

The suspension was a result of his expression of concern over alleged irregularities in the 2024 national budget. RAID is calling for the swift and unconditional reinstatement of Senator Ningi.

The president of RAID, Balarabe Rufai, disclosed this in Abuja, during a

press briefing, said that the suspension of Senator Abdul Ningi from the National Assembly is a matter of great concern and one that it will approach with both seriousness and sensitivity.

He said that it is crucial to navigate this situation with the utmost respect for all parties involved and for the democratic principles that guide the nation.

Rufai said: "It is important to us that we navigate this situation with the utmost respect for all parties involved and for the principles that guide our democracy. Today,

we will share details on this decision, the reasons behind it, and how we plan to move forward, always with the goal of ensuring the well-being and stability of our nation.

"We appreciate your attention and understanding, and we are open to any questions you may have. This suspension extinguished the senator's esteemed privileges and effectively muted a voice that had become a staple in our political discourse."

He highlighted the impact of the senator's expulsion from the Senate floors, describing it as a catastrophe that robs the

nation of a powerful political advocate

Rufai added, "The shockwaves of his suspension have triggered divisive views amongst his peers, with one senator condemning Ningi's move as a so-called 'civil coup' and another calling for a meticulous investigation by the Ethics and Privileges Committee.

"Adding insult to injury, Senator Ningi has been stripped of his emoluments - his salary and allowances withheld, in what appears to be an injustice to his service and commitment."

EDITORIAL

Fresh Abductions Of Schoolchildren And Nigeria's Descent To State Of Anomie

Despite all the efforts federal government said it was making to ensure a watertight security across the length and breadth of Nigeria, criminal and rogue elements are seemingly riding our country roughshod and unleashing mayhem on families and communities in an unprecedented manner.

These outlaws from all indications seem to be on top of their games subjecting Nigerians to all sorts of abuses and infringing their fundamental rights in a manner which shows that they are really above the law. The government's ability to discharge its fundamental function of securing the citizens is being questioned everyday while the confidence of Nigerians on the government is ticking away by the minute.

These criminal elements have become so daring that in recent times, they carry out their dastardly acts unchallenged in the day time while security operatives who ought to checkmate them continue to slumber.

It is noteworthy to state that these heightened attacks on innocent Nigerians especially schoolchildren is coming not long after Nigeria's National Security Adviser (NSA) Malam Nuhu Ribadu stated in unequivocal terms that the administration of Ahmed Tinubu has succeeded in nixing the activities of those rogue elements.

While pushing home his points, the NSA noted that Abuja-Kaduna highway which earned notoriety as the flashpoint and den of kidnappers has been rescued and kidnapping or any untoward activity has eluded the highway for many months.

Ribadu also told Nigerians that the country is also capitalizing in the renewed peace in Niger Delta ushered by the administration to boost its daily oil production output hence swelling the national revenue and the GDP.

But from recent events and degenerating insecurity, it is important to tell the government that all is not well and the picture it is trying to paint is suspicious.

The resurgence of Schoolchildren abductions and the concomitant national odium and embarrassment can not be wished away with the wave of the hand.

It has also shown that the government is either living in denial, ignorance or

both. Whatever it is, Nigerians are really living in perilous times which necessitated government's quick action if its capacity or the political will is intact. It is a misnomer that children who ought to be enjoying the perks and joys of childhood are currently going through their worst times in the history of Nigeria. At no time in history even during the civil war had children come under such heavy stress and attacks.

It is really heartbreaking that in one fell swoop, criminal elements in separate attacks abducted no fewer than 300 school children across northern states.

The gory spectacle started when hundreds of armed men stormed LEA Primary and Secondary School Kuriga, Kaduna State in broad day light and abducted 287 schoolchildren without any challenge. Less than forty eight hours later, another daredevil men armed to the teeth, stormed an Almajiri school in Sokoto State and seized about 15 schoolchildren.

All these are happening despite the claims of the government of expending trillions of naira to fight insecurity.

For instance, the government through the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS) disclosed that the princely sum of N5 trillion has been expended to procure tanks, armoured fighting vehicles and other military hardwares majorly from Singapore in the last quarter of 2023.

It is the informed stance of this paper that the security situation in the country May be the result of the serious corruption and vast pecuniary interest embedded by conflict entrepreneurs, otherwise, there would have been no plausible explanation to such a huge expenditure in the face of the intractable social insecurity which the country is grappling with at the moment.

If such a whopping amount is expended in eradicating child poverty and extending social safety nets to the over 133 Nigerians ensnared in multi-dimensional poverty, Nigeria's present and future generations would have been saved. It is our view that government should stop its procrastination and fiddling while outlaws are on the verge of taking over the land. A stitch in time saves nine.

THE TEAM

Henry Ubimago
CEO

Ismail Mohammed
Editor-in-Chief

Abubakar Momoh
COO

Abubakar Yunusa
General Editor

Grace Anyanwu
Business Development

Suleiman Usman
Design and Layout

Andrew Attah
Graphics

VISION

To become an authoritative medium of projecting understanding, tolerance and cooperation for positive change in the country.

MISSION

To be eye of the society, Monitoring activities with a view to Telling the story as it happens

FactcheckNews

... Checking the fact first

ADVERT RATES

SIZE	COLOUR	BLACK & WHITE	Effective September, 2022																		
Full Page	499,487	335,800	SPECIAL POSITIONS		#																
Half Page	308,220	229,400	Front Page (10x6)		10M																
Quarter Page	175,688	134,262	Back Page (10x6)		8M																
10x6	314,502	237,728	Center Spread		1.3M																
10x5	262, 085	198,107	Double Spread		1M																
10x4	209,660	158,485	Full Wrap Around		12M																
10x3	157,251	118,864	Half Wrap Around		10M																
9x6	283,051	213,956	Front Page Strip (2x6)		500,000																
9x5	235,876	178,296	Back Page Strip		400,000																
9x4	18,701	142,637	Ear Piece Back Page (2x2)		367,800																
9x3	141,525	106,975	Ear Piece Front Page (Col. 2x2)		426,000																
8x6	251,601	190,189	Strip Solos Front		350,000																
8x5	209,668	158,485	Strip Solos Back		250,000																
7x6	187,734	126,788	<table><tr><th colspan="2">CLASSIFIED ADVERTS</th><th>SIZE</th><th>RATE</th></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Registration of Trustees</td><td>3x2</td><td>1,500</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Loss of Documents</td><td>3x1</td><td>1,500</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Change of Name</td><td>1x1</td><td>1,000</td></tr></table>			CLASSIFIED ADVERTS		SIZE	RATE	Registration of Trustees		3x2	1,500	Loss of Documents		3x1	1,500	Change of Name		1x1	1,000
CLASSIFIED ADVERTS		SIZE				RATE															
Registration of Trustees		3x2				1,500															
Loss of Documents		3x1	1,500																		
Change of Name		1x1	1,000																		
7x4	146,767	110,940																			
6x5	104,834	79,242																			
6x3	94,350	71,318	<table><tr><th colspan="2">LOSS INSERT</th></tr><tr><td>Magazine 100 Copies</td><td>57,600</td></tr><tr><td>Handbills / Lappets</td><td>34,440</td></tr><tr><td>Handing Changes</td><td>98,400</td></tr></table>			LOSS INSERT		Magazine 100 Copies	57,600	Handbills / Lappets	34,440	Handing Changes	98,400								
LOSS INSERT																					
Magazine 100 Copies	57,600																				
Handbills / Lappets	34,440																				
Handing Changes	98,400																				
6x2	62,900	47,100																			
5x2	50,400	42,100																			
4x2	45,000	35,000																			
3x2	35,000	25,000																			
2x2	30,000	15,000																			
2x1	15,000	10,000																			
1x1	11,000	8,000																			

ALL ADVERT RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE

Email: factchecknews.ng@gmail.com Tel: Abuja: 08065799223, 08068640944
Lagos: 08033890265, Kano: 08065461856, Yola: 08083037770

Opinion

Innovate or Perish: The Fintech Evolution

By Aluko Oluwatosin Joseph

In the ever-evolving landscape of business and technology, the adage “Innovate or Perish” has become more than a cautionary mantra—it’s a guiding principle for survival and success.

In the last decade, the financial services industry has undergone a paradigm shift propelled by the relentless rise of Financial Technology, or simply known as Fintech. Fintech, at its core, represents the intersection of finance and technology, harnessing innovations to transform the way we manage, conduct, and think about financial transactions.

The roots of Fintech can be traced back to the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, where a growing distrust in traditional banking systems spurred the quest for alternative solutions. Fintech emerged as the answer, driven by a digital-first approach and a commitment to enhancing user experience.

One of the key catalysts behind Fintech’s explosive growth is its ability to democratize finance. Fintech platforms have empowered individuals and businesses by providing accessible, affordable, and user-friendly financial services. From mobile banking apps simplifying daily transactions to peer-to-peer lending platforms facilitating easier access to credit, Fintech has disrupted traditional models, making financial services more inclusive.

Moreover, the global surge in smartphone adoption and internet penetration has been a driving force behind Fintech’s expansion. These technological advancements have paved the way for innovative solutions such as mobile wallets, digital payment systems, and robo-advisors, redefining how individuals engage with their finances.

As we navigate this era of Fintech evolution, it becomes evident that the industry is not just about financial transactions; it’s about fundamentally transforming the financial ecosystem. From blockchain revolutionizing the security and transparency of transactions to artificial intelligence enhancing data analytics for better decision-making, Fintech continues to push the boundaries of what is possible.

The significance of innovation in Fintech cannot be overstated. In an era defined by rapid technological advancements and changing consumer expectations, innovation is the lifeblood that propels the financial technology industry forward. It is the driving force behind the transformation of traditional financial services, ushering in a new era of efficiency, accessibility, and user-centric solutions. As Fintech continues to reshape the financial landscape,

innovation becomes the linchpin, enabling companies to stay competitive, meet evolving consumer needs, and navigate the complexities of a digital age. In essence, innovation in Fintech is not merely a choice but a necessity, ensuring survival and relevance in an ever-evolving financial ecosystem.

Challenges and Opportunities

The Fintech landscape, while dynamic and transformative, is not without its share of challenges and opportunities. Two critical facets that define this dichotomy are:

Fintech operates at the intersection of finance and technology, and its rapid evolution has presented regulatory bodies with the formidable task of keeping pace with innovation. The diverse and dynamic nature of Fintech services necessitates a regulatory framework that balances fostering innovation with ensuring consumer protection and financial stability.

Achieving this delicate equilibrium is an ongoing challenge, as regulators globally grapple with harmonizing standards while accommodating the unique characteristics of various Fintech services. Regulatory clarity and adaptability are imperative for Fintech firms to thrive, and collaboration between the industry and regulatory bodies becomes crucial in navigating this intricate landscape.

While regulatory challenges persist, they also present opportunities for Fintech firms to actively engage with policymakers, contributing to the establishment of a robust regulatory environment that fosters innovation responsibly.

Similarly, the rapid digitization of financial services brings with it a heightened risk of cybersecurity threats. Threats such as data breaches, ransomware attacks, and identity theft pose significant challenges to the integrity of financial systems. However, these challenges also underscore opportunities for innovation in cybersecurity within the Fintech sector.

Investing in state-of-the-art encryption technologies, implementing stringent authentication protocols, and fostering a cybersecurity culture are avenues through which Fintech firms can not only mitigate risks but also gain a competitive edge by building trust among users. Successfully addressing cybersecurity challenges is not only a necessity for Fintech companies but also a demonstration of their commitment to safeguarding the financial well-being of their users in an increasingly digitized world.

Joseph (FCCA, MCMI, MBA), is a renowned Financial Consultant in Nigeria.

A Dazzling Affair: Miss World 2024 Celebrates Beauty and Grace

By Anne Ajodo

The Miss World event which held in India from February 17 and ended on March 9th 2024 with Miss Krystyna Pyszkova of Czech Republic winning the crown was a dazzling affair, showcasing the beauty, talent, and intelligence of women from all around the world. The competition celebrated diversity and empowered women to embrace their unique qualities.

One of the remarkable contestants was Miss. Ada Eme from Nigeria, who captivated the audience with her grace and elegance. Throughout her journey, she represented Nigeria with pride and showcased the rich culture and heritage of her country. Miss Eme was truly inspiring. She was an incredible representative from Nigeria who participated in the Miss World competition. While she didn’t win the coveted title of Miss World, she made her country proud with her grace, elegance, and captivating presence. Her journey in the competition was truly inspiring. It’s amazing to see talented individuals like Miss Eme shining on the global stage.

The runners-up of the competition were equally exceptional, each bringing their own charm and charisma to the stage. Their performances left the audience in awe and demonstrated the incredible talent and beauty present among the contestants.

The Miss World event was not only about outer beauty but also emphasized the importance of inner beauty and intelligence. The contestants showcased their talents in various rounds, including talent showcases, question-and-answer sessions, and traditional wear presentations. It was a celebration of the diverse talents and aspirations of women from different corners of the globe.

The Miss World event not only provided a platform for these incredible women to shine but also supported numerous charitable causes. The contestants actively participated in various philanthropic activities, using their influence to make a positive impact on society.

As the curtains closed on the Miss World event, it left behind a trail of inspiration and empowerment. Miss Eme’s journey, along with the other contestants, showcased the power of determination, resilience, and the ability to embrace one’s uniqueness.

The Miss World event in India was a true celebration of beauty, talent, and the indomitable spirit of women. It was a reminder that every woman has the power to make a difference and leave an indelible mark on the world.

So, let’s applaud the incredible journey of Miss Eme from Nigeria and all the inspiring women who graced the Miss World stage. They have shown us that beauty goes beyond the surface, and it is the inner strength and grace that truly shine.

Remember, beauty comes in many forms, and each of us has the power to make a positive impact in our own unique way.

Ajodo is a Nigerian fashion enthusiast.

Factcheck News

Classifieds

Classifieds Self-Booking Service
Book Online Simple And Quick
E-Booking/E-Payment Steps

FOR ENQUIRIES, CALL:
ABUJA: 08068640944,08065799223
YOLA: 08083037770

Using The Format Below As It Relates To You,
Step 1:- Make Payment Into Account Name:
Account Number:1432742090
Bank Name:Access Bank
Setp 2:- Send A Proof Of Payment With Attached Court Affidavits, Relevant Certificates Includ-
ing Marriage Certificates **To:** factchecknewsclassifiedadvent@gmail.Com

PRICES	
CHANGE OF NAME:	3,000
LOSS OF DOCUMENTS:	7,500
COMPANY TRUSTEES:	15,000

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASCENSION OF SAINTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY RC NO 167981

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE COPERATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR CHANGE OF ITS TRUSTEES UNDER PART C OF THE COMPANY AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 1990
RETAIN TRUSTEE
DIVINE JIMOH
BLESSING DIVINE
COMFORT MORIS
REMOVE TRUSTEE
CHRISTOPHER ADAJI
U ANUMBA VICTOR

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES REMAIN THE SAME

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWADED TO THE REGISTRA GENETRAL COPERATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT MAITAMA ABUJA WITHING 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION
SIGNED: SECRETRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

NDU WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FOUNDATIONS INTERNATIONAL

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE COPERATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR CHANGE OF ITS TRUSTEES UNDER PART C OF THE COMPANY AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 1990
RETAIN TRUSTEE
1. IDAHOSA OMWANOR
2. TINUOLA OLUSIKE OYE-JOHNSON
3. ENYINNAYA OKWUONU
4. DR. ONWEREMADU IHEANACHO
5. MRS CHRISTABEL MERCY ANAGWONYE
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
THIS IS A NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION THAT EMPOWERS WIDOWS AND ORPHANS TO SELF-RELIANT, INDEPENT AND PRODUCTIVE IN THE SOCIETY IN A PRAGMATIC MANNER
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWADED TO THE REGISTRA GENETRAL COPERATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT MAITAMA ABUJA WITHING 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION
SIGNED: SECRETRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF ORIGINAL LAND DOCUMENTS (R OF O) WITH FILE NO. OG 60617, PLOT NO. 4227 WITH PLOT SIZE 2390.55 SQUARE METERS AT CADASTRAL ZONE A09 FCT ABUJA BELONGING TO ADEDOTUN AREMU GBADEBO OF AAFIN AKE ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE.
ALL EFFORTS MADE TO TRACE THE DOCUMENTS PROVED ABORTIVE. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

OMOYE WOMEN AND YOUTH FOUNDATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED FOUNDATION LOCATED AT NO. 34, ARUOSA STREET OFF SOKPONBA ROAD, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO. 1 OF 1990.
TRUSTEES
1. EHICHIOYA OMOYIE ANGELA----CHAIRMAN
2. OTUERORO EMMANUEL ONOME---- SECRETARY
3. EHICHIOYA INNOCENT-----MEMBER
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
1. TO PROMOTE AND ASSIST IN THE ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY HENCE EMPOWERING THE LESS PRIVILEGED IN SOCIETY.
2. TO PROMOTE AND ASSIST WIDOWS AND ORPHANS IN THE SOCIETY
3. TO ASSIST THE DESTITUTE AND REFUGEES TO FIND SHELTER, SUCCOR, AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT.
4. TO TEACH, AND E...
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWADED TO THE REGISTRA GENETRAL COPERATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT MAITAMA ABUJA WITHING 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION
SIGNED: SECRETRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

AKIN & MARY MOROHUNFOLA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED FOUNDATION LOCATED AT NO. 34, ARUOSA STREET OFF SOKPONBA ROAD, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO. 1 OF 1990.
NAMES OF TRUSTEES
1. MOROHUNFOLA KEHINDE ADEMOLA
2. OJO FOLASADE AYODEJI
3. OLAGBAMI ADENIKE IBJOKE
4. OLAGBAMI ADEBIYI OLUBUNMI
5. OLOWUDE IBIKUNLE ADETUNJI
6. OYELOWO BABATUNDE OYEBANJI
7. MOROHUNFOLA OLUSHOLA KEHINDE
8. FALADE AYOBOLA TAIWO
9. MOROHUNFOLA KAYODE BOLAJI
10. ILUPEJU SUNDAY ADEBAYO
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
TO CREATE AWARENESS PROGRAMS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR, THE DISTRESS AND THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED THROUGH THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE.
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWADED TO THE REGISTRA GENETRAL COPERATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT MAITAMA ABUJA WITHING 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION
SIGNED: SECRETRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

UGHELLI BUILDING MATERIALS TRADERS ASSOCIATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED BODY HAS APPLIED TO CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, NO. 1 OF 1990.
THE TRUSTEES ARE:
1. ISOJE MATTHEW UFUOMA - CHAIRMAN
2. UDUENI ONOAJODE BENSON - SECRETARY
3. OGU CHRISTIAN
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
TO CREATE A FORUM, DISCOVER AND ASSOCIATE WITH THOSE WHO DEAL WITH BUILDING MATERIALS.
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, P.M.B 198, GARKI ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.
SIGNED: SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

ROSY UNITED FRIENDS CLUB

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED FOUNDATION LOCATED AT NO. 34, ARUOSA STREET OFF SOKPONBA ROAD, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO. 1 OF 1990.
AIMS
THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
(1) TO FOSTER ONENESS AND LOVE BETWEEN THE MEMBERS
(2) TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE NEEDY ND POOR IN THE SOCIETY
(3) TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT POSTRATE CANCER IN THE COMMUNITY
(4) TO RENDER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN FROM POOR BACKGROUND IN THEIR ACADEMY CARRIER
TRUSTEES :
1. IHEBIGHI CHIDIEBERE KINGSLEY
2. NWOSU FRANCIS IKECHUKWU
3. ANAEMENA CHRISTIAN OKWUCHUKWU
4. OSONDU UZOCHUKWU VITALIS
5. AMARAKWUBE JEFF RAPULUCHUKWU
6. ONYILIMBA ARINZE HENRY
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWADED TO THE REGISTRA GENETRAL COPERATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT MAITAMA ABUJA WITHING 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION
SIGNED: SECRETRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

OJODU ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, IKEJA. LAGOS

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT OF 2020
RETAINED MEMBERS
(1) DR. BABATUNDE OLUFEMI OBASANYA -CHAIRMAN
(2) REVEREND BABAFEMI AJAYI ASIWAJU -SECRETARY
NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS
(1) SALIU SHAKIRU ALADE
(2) SOTUBO BOLA OLUMUYIWA ABAYOMI
(3) ALABI OLUADE SIMEON
REMOVED MEMBER
(1) ENGINEER MICHEAL AKUGBE UZAMERE
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION. NO 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT PMB 198 MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION.
SIGNED: SECRETRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

TORCH AND LIGHT FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED FOUNDATION LOCATED AT NO. 34, ARUOSA STREET OFF SOKPONBA ROAD, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO. 1 OF 1990.
NAMES OF TRUSTEES:
ONUOHA SYLVANUS ATULAYO
TRUSTEE/CHAIRMAN
EBIKA JENNIFER BLESSING
TRUSTEE/SECRETARY
UZOKWE PRINCESS AGOMA MILLIE
TRUSTEE
ONYEGBU KINGSLEY IKEMBA
TRUSTEE
OBJECTIVES:
TO ERADICATE HOMELESSNESS OF CHILDREN BY PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION AND FEEDING FOR THEM.
TO CATER FOR THE WELLBEING OF IT'S MEMBERS.
TO MAINTAIN CENTRES IN THE SOCIETY WHERE HOMELESS CHILDREN WILL BE GIVEN SHELTER AND EDUCATION.
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWADED TO THE REGISTRA GENETRAL COPERATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT MAITAMA ABUJA WITHING 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION
SIGNED: SECRETARY

Classifieds

SAADIYA

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **HALIMA MAHMUD USMAN** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **SA'ADIYA MUHMUD USMAN**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

NAZIRU

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **USMAN NEZIRU** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **NAZIRU BAWA USMAN** DATE OF BIRTH: 15/3/1984. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

USAINA

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **USAINA BICHI ABDULHAMID** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **USAINA ABDULHAMID BICHI**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

USAINA

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **USAINA BICHI ABDULHAMID** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **USAINA ABDULHAMID BICHI**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

ZAKARIYYA

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **YA'U ABDULLAHI**. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **ZAKARIYYA ADAMU ABDULLAHI** ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

ABDULLAHI

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **ABDULLAHI MUSA ABDULLAHI** **NEWMM** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **ABDULLAHI MUSA**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE

MRS MODUPE

I FORMALLY KNOWN AS **MISS MODUPE OVIOSUN** NOW WISHED TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **MRS MODUPE DANIELLA ODIGIE**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

MRS MODUPE

I FORMALLY KNOWN AS **MISS MODUPE OVIOSUN** NOW WISHED TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **MRS MODUPE DANIELLA ODIGIE**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

EDOH

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **DJIKPO EDOH ANTOINE**. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **EDOH TONY**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE

MRS EMEM

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **MISS EMEM JIMMY UMOH** NOW . NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **MRS EMEM UTOMOBONG ASUQUO**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

BABATOLU

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **WAYAKE SEYI** NOW . NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **BABATOLU UTOMOBONG ASUQUO**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

FALEYE

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **FALEYE DAVIES TAIWO OLUWOLE** NOW . NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **FALEYE TAIWO OLUWOLE DAVIES**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

TONY

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **DJIKPO EDOH ANTOINE**. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **EDOH TONY**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE

UTOMOBONG

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **MISS EMEM JIMMY UMOH** NOW . NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **MRS EMEM UTOMOBONG ASUQUO**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

ASUQUO

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **WAYAKE SEYI** NOW . NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **BABATOLU UTOMOBONG ASUQUO**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

UTOMOBONG

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **WAYAKE SEYI** NOW . NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **BABATOLU UTOMOBONG ASUQUO**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

FGGC GBOKO 98 EXCELLERS

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED ASSOCIATION HAS APPLIED TO CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION(CAC),ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'C' THE COMPANY AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT OF 2020.

TRUSTEES:

1. IBRAHIM ESTHER AFOR
2. AUSTIN-MODU SERAH ILE
3. KAJO SARAH OKA
4. OLEKWU ONYOIBO ESTHER

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. TO PROMOTE UNITY, PROGRESS AND STABILITY AMONG ALL FGGC GBOKO 98 EXCELLERS SET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2. TO PROMOTE AND CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS EMPOWERING TO ALL,SO AS TO FOSTER IDEAS IRRESPECTIVE OF CLASS, AGE OR INDIVIDUAL STATUS
3. TO WORK FOR, PROMOTE AND ASSIST THE GROWTH, EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ALMA MATA
4. TO COOPERATE WITH ALL OTHER FGGC GBOKO ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS IN ALL MANNERS AFFECTING THE PROGRESS, UNITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF FGGC AND ITS ALUMNI MEMBERS

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION,PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET,MAITAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED : SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

IRENE RELIEF INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA, FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. ONYEIBOR IRENE CHIDINMA.
2. NAIBE FAUSTINA IFEOMA.
3. DIALA RICHARD OBINNA.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION AND IMPROVING VENERABLE LIVES IN AFRICA.
2. PROMOTION AND PROVISION OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES.
3. PROMOTING HEALTH EDUCATION AND HARNESSING COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUND LADIES SOCIAL CLUB

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA, FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. JABITTA OLABISI KAFAYAT.
2. ADESHINA OLAIDE.
3. BADERO FAUSAT ADETUTU.
4. OMOTOLA OLUWAKEMI AMOKE.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF MEMBERS.
2. TO FOSTER AND ENCOURAGE THE SPIRIT OF ONENESS AND COMPANIONSHIP AMONG MEMBERS AND BETWEEN THE CLUB AND OTHER FRIENDLY ASSOCIATIONS.
3. TO ACT AS A FORUM FOR DISCUSSING MATTERS AFFECTING THE PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING OF MEMBERS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.
4. TO ORGANIZE SUCH ACTIVITIES AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF ANY OF THE OBJECTIVES.
5. TO PROVIDE FOR AND ENGAGE IN ACTS OF PHILANTHROPY IN FAVOUR OF THE NEEDY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AT LARGE.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: SECRETARY.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SPACE FOR SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE

AKANUEZEALA CLAN UNION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED ASSOCIATION HAS APPLIED TO CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION(CAC),ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'C' THE COMPANY AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT OF 2020.

TRUSTEES:

1. EZEANYANWU CHUKWUEMEKA CHRISTIAN
2. OBI DESMOND ONWABIKE
3. NJOKU JOHN C.
4. NWAIWU CYPRIAN CHIBUEZE
5. EGBULEH BONIFACE CHIJIJOKE

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. TO PROMOTE PEACE, UNITY AND GOOD RELATIONS AMONG MEMBERS OF THE UNION
2. TO FUNCTION AS AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND GENERAL LIVING CONDITIONS OF MEMBERS
3. TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND INTEREST OF MEMBERS
4. TO PROMOTE INFORMATION SHARING AND EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AMONGST MEMBERS
5. TO ASSIST EACH OTHER IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE BUT ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF CAPACITY BUILDING SO AS TO ENSURE THAT MEMBERS ARE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION,PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET,MAITAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED : SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

AGBONS 2 FOUNTAIN OF DIVINE SETTLEMENT ORPHANAGE INTERNATIONAL

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'F' OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, (CAMA 2020).

THE TRUSTEES ARE :

1. AIHIE PRECIOUS AGBONS
2. AIHIE VICTOR IMAFIDON
3. OGUNDERU EHIZOJIE LORETTA

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE :

1. TO CATER FOR ORPHANS AND BUILD ORPHANAGE HOMES.
2. TO EMPOWER ORPHANS AND CHILDREN THROUGH EDUCATION AND SKILLS ACQUISITION.
3. TO ASSIST WIDOWS, ORPHANS, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP) AND THE LESS PRIVILEGED PERSONS IN THE SOCIETY.
4. TO PROVIDE CARE AND SUPPORT FOR ORPHANS, VULNERABLE AND MOTHERLESS CHILDREN IN THE SOCIETY..

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT , OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET , MAITAMA , ABUJA WITHIN 28DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: SECRETARY

News

Ajaokuta: CSO Tackles Former Kogi Deputy Governor, Labels TV Appearance Shameful

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

In the ongoing discourse surrounding the state of the Ajaokuta Steel Company, a Civil Society Organization (CSO), Integrity Watch, has entered the fray, taking aim at the former deputy governor of Kogi State, Hon. Simon Achuba, and his recent assertions regarding the management of the steel industry.

In a statement issued by Integrity Watch's Director General, Prince Daniel Maman Musa, the organization expressed disdain over Achuba's appearance on Arise TV, labeling it as "shameful" and questioning his moral standing to accuse former Governor Yahaya Bello of hindering Ajaokuta's development.

Achuba, in his interview, accused Bello of thwarting efforts to revive Ajaokuta Steel, alleging personal interests in the company's operations. He cited instances of bureaucratic interference and alleged mismanagement under Bello's administration, fueling the controversy surrounding the steel industry's stagnation.

The Senate's recent formation of a 10-member ad hoc committee to investigate Ajaokuta's decline further underscores the gravity of the situation. Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan's motion, identifying political will and bureaucratic corruption as contributing factors, aligns with Achuba's claims, adding weight to the calls for transparency

and accountability.

However, Integrity Watch rebukes Achuba's accusations against Bello, asserting that the Ajaokuta Steel issue transcends the state government's jurisdiction. They highlight historical setbacks dating back to 1983 when Muhammadu Buhari halted the project, emphasizing its exclusive federal mandate. How can Governor Bello, who became Governor of Kogi State on January 27, 2016, be responsible for the Ajaokuta crisis dating back to 1983, when Bello was barely 7 years old? The host of the Arise TV program, Dr. Abati, exposed Achuba's flaws by asking questions on how he could ridiculously accuse Bello of the challenges surrounding Ajaokuta steel development.

Moreover, Integrity Watch challenges Achuba's credibility, citing a purported history of corruption and misconduct during his tenure in various positions. They allege Achuba's dismissal from previous roles, including his service as former Deputy Speaker with the state assembly and as Director-General in the Ministry of Environment under former Governor Idris Wada's administration. He was said to be found diverting government funds by issuing his personal receipt to collect funds belonging to the Kogi State Government and sacked for gross misconduct and embezzlement, as well as his time as deputy governor where he was also sacked for abuse of office, fraud, and gross incompetence.

In a scathing critique, Integrity Watch portrays Achuba as an unreliable figure, prone to political opportunism evidenced by his frequent party affiliations. They argue that such instability undermines his moral authority to implicate Bello in corruption allegations.

Contrary to Achuba's claims, Integrity Watch defends Bello's administration, touting its transparency and accountability in managing state funds.

They cite numerous awards received by Bello for good governance and excellent service delivery, challenging Achuba's narrative of malfeasance within the government.

The CSO urged Nigerians to ignore Achuba and "focus more on how the supposed largest steel plant in Africa will become fully operational to improve the economy of the country and reduce unemployment nationwide."



Osun PDP Accuses Oyetola Of Using Tinubu's Name To Endanger Peace, Governance

The Osun State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has warned former Governor Gboyega Oyetola to stop using and dropping the names of President Bola Tinubu to disrupt governance in Osun state, warning that the state will open a can of worms on the former governor unless he stopped his disruptive activities.

In a strongly worded statement issued by the party's chairperson in the state, Sunday Bisi, on Sunday, the party accused the former governor of being a bad loser who has continued to pursue a failed agenda to make Osun state ungovernable through the dropping of Mr President's name.

The statement reads further: "We are constrained to bring to the attention of Mr President and the entire Presidency the untowards activities of former Governor Oyetola which are capable of destroying the peace and stability of Osun state and negatively undermine the presidential agenda for Osun state, South West and Nigeria as a whole.

"We start by noting that the opposition has a legitimate right to play the role of the opposition. Such opposition roles do not however entail evil moves targeting at destroying the peace of the state, misrepresentation of presidential

intention, the deliberate disruption of state-federal relations or attempted unlawful abuse of federal power against state officials performing their statutory roles. That will amount to malignant behaviour and a direct threat to democratic ideals.

"We posit that Mr Oyetola was not the first person to lose an election. Great democrats abide by people's wishes and prepare to recontest. They don't pull down the house; they don't get consumed under vengeful poison.

"Governor Adeleke, despite being rigged out in 2018, congratulated Mr Oyetola and moved abroad to complete his education. He instructed us never to attack the new government but to go and prepare for 2022, a process we launched when the timetable for the election was released.

"In 2022, Osun people voted for Governor Adeleke. Right now, the governor is delivering many projects and programmes which Oyetola failed to achieve under four years. This government has full records of several projects for which money was collected without the jobs being done. Mr Governor abandoned the idea of a probe and is instead completing many projects and starting new ones. Osun is today one of the most peaceful states in Nigeria attracting multiple interests and

attention of foreign investors

"Surprisingly, Mr Oyetola has been dropping Mr President's name to manipulate federal agencies to serve his selfish interest. The other time, he hijacked SMEDAN SME programme to serve his own faction of APC, even leaving out other APC members, giving Mr President a bad name. He did the same on rice distribution which he allegedly took from NEMA but which he shared to his faction against reaching out to the generality of Osun people as Mr President clearly preferred in line with the law.

"Rather than working to unite his party ahead of 2026, he is busy trying to make the state ungovernable, disrupting federal – state collaboration and attempting to use federal agencies such as the FCT DSS to harass state officials. We learnt Oyetola has used the FCT DSS to threaten arrest of the spokesperson to the Osun State Governor for performing his statutory duties of projecting and promoting Mr Governor.

"We warn that such an attempt at arm twisting is a failed strategy as officials and citizens are entitled to the enforcement of their fundamental human rights as enshrined in the constitution and as the same constitution also regulates human rights and intergovernmental relations among the three tiers of government.

We are also convinced that both the Presidency and the national headquarters of the DSS will not endorse deployment of sensitive state services to pursue personal political vendetta.

"Mr Oyetola should stop his evil agenda against Osun state because he should know we have the capacity to tame him but for the state government's due respect for Mr President. If he does not stop, we will open his records which we are not doing because of our respect for the Presidency.

"We urge Mr President and the entire Presidency to nip in the bud the nefarious, vindictive, anti-state and vengeful activities of Mr Oyetola which are tarnishing the image of the Number One Citizen of the nation as he is using the President's name to pursue vendetta and activities directly contrary to the bigger agenda of the Presidency.

"Mr President should call Mr Oyetola to order before plunging Osun into an avoidable crisis. Osun is peaceful and our Governor is delivering dividends of democracy under the umbrella of good governance. The State-Federal partnership is moving smoothly and no sore loser should be allowed to jeopardize the larger political and bigger interest of Mr President," the statement concluded.

Politics

Kogi Govt Slams EFCC Over 'Baseless Witch-hunt' Of Yahaya Bello

The Kogi State government has called out the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over what it described as a "witch hunt" of the immediate past governor, Yahaya Bello.

A statement by the Commissioner for Information in Kogi State, Kingsley Fanwo on Friday, claimed that the witch-hunt was orchestrated by some political actors around the Presidency bent on destroying the image of the former governor.

It said the world would be eager to know why the Commission was trying so hard to find what was not missing, insisting that its funds were not missing, and called on the EFCC to desist from mentioning the name of Kogi State in its ongoing persecution.

"We believe that this ignoble agenda is unknown to President Bola Tinubu, who trusted those people with power with the hope that they will use it judiciously for the greatness of our nation.

"Unfortunately, they have decided to use the privileges given to them as tools for political vendetta.

"The amended charges in which the name of the former governor, Bello, was mentioned are false, frivolous, fictitious, and far from the truth. They are cooked-up charges that signpost their desperation to call a dog a bad name to hang it.

"The intention was to sensationalise the whole scenario and promote a media war against the former governor and other officials of government.

"We have seen how low EFCC and its paymasters can go to pander to the political agenda of those afraid of the rising profile of Alhaji Yahaya Bello," it added.

The state government called on President Bola Tinubu to order a special probe into "what is happening in Kogi State before the EFCC is pushed into being used as a hired gun by political hawks who are acting a selfish and overambitious script."

It said those who had personal grievances could vent their grievances without dragging the name of Kogi State in the mud.

The commissioner maintained that the Kogi government "believes in transparency, accountability, and probity in line with the trend from 2016".

Furthermore, the statement read in part, "As a subnational in the Nigerian nationhood, we wish to express our utmost respect for agencies set up to perform specific functions towards the greatness of Nigeria.

"The Kogi State government is also conscientiously committed to the determination of the present administration to stop corruption and fight corruption.

"As an administration, we inherited the zero tolerance for corruption policy from the immediate past administration of Alhaji Yahaya Bello.

"From 2016, the government of Kogi State has continually strengthened its anti-corruption

brakes and bumps to ensure the commonwealth of the people works for the common good of Kogites.

"This has won the State Government a lot of credible awards from national and international organisations, including the World Bank.

"The desperation of the EFCC to hastily and for glaring political reasons, hound the immediate past governor on their corruption list is unfortunate and speaks volumes on how we reward altruistic leadership in our nation.

"For the records, we wish to make it clear that Kogi's funds are not missing and that the EFCC is trying so hard to find

what is not missing.

"Therefore, call on the EFCC to desist from mentioning the name of Kogi State in its ongoing persecution, orchestrated by some political actors in and around the Presidency bent on destroying the image of Alhaji Yahaya Bello and Kogi State.

"As a government, we will continue to support the anti-corruption crusade of the Federal Government. However, such a crusade should be based on the rule of law, purity of conscience, and devoid of political scheming.

"We cannot afford to politicise our fight against corruption. We will continue to have faith in the judiciary to protect our name and integrity.

"Those who have personal grievances can vent their grievances without dragging the name of Kogi State in the mud. Our Government believes in transparency, accountability and probity in line with the trend from 2016.

"We also wish to assure the good people of our state that nothing will be spared to protect the integrity of our government.

"Our administration will continue to act in a way that Kogites will be respected wherever they go and for us to retain the respect of our international development partners who have persistently commended our anti-corruption credentials."



From left, The celebrant, Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili; his wife and former minister of education, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili; and their children during the 70th birthday Symposium for purposeful Men in Abuja yesterday

Police Begin Operation To Rescue Kidnapped Edo PDP Chair

The Edo State Police Command, on Saturday, commenced rescue operations following the kidnap of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman in the state, Tony Aziegbemi.

Gunmen had on Friday abducted Aziegbemi shortly after a meeting with the Edo State Governor, Godwin Obaseki, at the Government House in Benin

City.

After confirming the incident in a statement, the Edo State Government said it is working closely with security operatives to ensure the victim regains freedom.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Chidi Nwabuzor, called on Edo residents to avail the police of useful information that would

lead to the timely rescue of the PDP Chairman.

He said the state Commissioner of Police, Funsho Adegboye, received the report of the incident with shock.

"The Commissioner of Police Edo State Command, CP Funsho Adegboye, mni who received the report of the incident with a shock immediately gave a marching order to the tactical

team leaders to conduct a rescue party. In collaboration with the Vigilantes group and the Hunters to rescue him unhurt," the statement read.

"He, however, solicited the cooperation of the law-abiding citizens of Edo State and urged them to give information to the Police that would lead to the arrest of the perpetrators and the rescue of the victim unhurt."

Christopher Kolade: Politicians In First Republic Worked For Nigeria — Today, They Are selfish

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

Christopher Kolade, former Nigerian high commissioner to the United Kingdom, says the current crop of Nigerian politicians prioritise their personal interests over the nation's.

Kolade, who spoke in an interview with Channels Television's Amazing Africans, said he never joined politics because he "would not be able to be myself".

The nonagenarian said things have changed compared to the politicians of the first republic who "actually were serving the country", and were imprisoned because of their beliefs.

Nigeria's first republic lasted from 1963 to 1966.

"My view of politics is that the practice of politics can be very sensitive and one can begin to do things, begin to participate in decisions that conflict with the values, the standards, the principles that one believes. That has been my experience," he said.

"I've never gone into politics because the way it was being practised, I thought I would not be able to be myself if I became a politician now.

"That may be simply my own weakness but this is the situation and so when I see politicians today and the way they behave, if I compare today's politicians with politicians of the First Republic, for example.

"I can tell that my experience of the politicians of the First Republic was that they actually

worked for Nigeria; they actually were serving the country, they put themselves and their own interests lower than the national interests and some of them in order to serve the country well were actually imprisoned, they suffered hardships in order to get the country to where they thought it should go.

"I think that has changed. I believe that today many politicians, in fact most politicians that I know of, tend to put their own interests ahead of the national interest."

Kolade, who was appointed chair of the Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) by the Goodluck Jonathan administration in 2012, said his friends advised him against

accepting the role to safeguard his reputation.

He said despite the advice to decline the offer, he went on to accept the job because "somebody must do it".

"In fact, there was a group of young people that I was mentoring at the time and they said to me in a meeting: 'We respect you too much, don't go for this,' he added.

"I asked for God's direction, I asked them a question: 'I said so if I don't take it, if I say because I want to protect my reputation I don't take it, whom shall I point to and say you take it, you go and endanger your reputation, you go and do this?' I said so I cannot refuse to take it because I know somebody must do it.

"What I can do is to say if I

go and do it, God is able to see me through it. That was what happened.

"So, friends can tell me their preference and sometimes I even have my own preference but I remember always that I'm God's child and that he has my best interests at heart."

Kolade later resigned from the role in 2013, citing advanced age, corruption and transparency issues.

Voting Wrong Candidates Responsible For Economic Hardship, Says Imo PDP Chieftain

Stanley Ekezie, a chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Imo state, says the prevailing economic hardship across Nigeria should be blamed on voters.

He said this during an interview in Owerri, the state capital, over the weekend.

Ekezie added that Nigerians collected peanuts from politicians in exchange for good governance.

"Blame Nigeria's electorate for the current economic crisis. Nigerians prefer to take peanuts in lieu of good governance," he said.

"During the last elections, there was massive vote buying and voters were busy collecting money and allowing politicians rig themselves into government."

A former aspirant for Okigwe-north federal constituency, Ekezie said Nigerians lamenting the economic hardship should have known that their wrong choices would result in difficult times.

He said nothing would change on the economic front as long as Nigerians continue to elect unqualified people into public offices.

"The situation will persist so long as the wrong people continue to occupy the seat of power," he added.

"2027 is another opportunity for Nigerians to choose the best leaders."

Regretting the problems bedevilling the opposition PDP at the centre, Ekezie urged members to address the issues so that the party can win the 2027 presidential poll.

Alleged N84bn Fraud: Declare Yahaya Bello Wanted Now, Okai Urges EFCC

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

•Urges Kogites to support EFCC's efforts to bring Bello to justice

The House of Representatives candidate for Dekina/Bassa in the 2023 elections, Usman Okai Austin, has called on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to declare Former Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello wanted over the Misappropriation of funds.

Okai also issued a fervent call to safeguard the interests of the people of Kogi State regarding the misappropriation of funds by the former governor, Yahaya Bello.

According to him, despite the arduous task of protecting the state, it is imperative not to overlook the plight of civil servants grappling with the repercussions of fiscal misdeeds.

Recall that on August 31, 2021, Justice Tijani Garba Ringim, a vacation judge, had ordered the freezing of the account following an ex-parte application filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The anti-graft agency, in a 13-paragraph affidavit in support of the ex-parte application, had stated that it received credible and direct intelligence, which led to the tracing of funds reasonably suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities in an account No. 0073572696 domiciled in Sterling Bank Plc with the name Kogi State Salary Bailout Account.

Moving the application for the interim forfeiture of the funds on August 31, 2021, A. O. Mohammed, counsel to the EFCC, had urged the court to grant the order to prevent

further dissipation of the funds in the account.

Mohammed had also told Justice Ringim that the N20 billion meant to augment payment of salary and running cost of the government was kept in an interest-yielding account with the bank.

According to him, "Instead of using the money for the purpose it was meant for, Sterling Bank Plc, acting on the instruction of the Kogi State government, transferred it from the loan account and placed it in a fixed deposit account."

Reacting, Mr Kingsley Fanwo, Kogi State Commissioner for Information debunked the allegation, stating that the State government judiciously used the funds for its intended purpose.

While countering Fanwo's comment, Okai said, "It is untenable to shield any individual, including former Governor Yahaya Bello, at the expense of the welfare of Kogi workers. The ramifications of such actions are profound, with millions of lives hanging in the balance."

Recently, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) named former Kogi State Governor Yahaya Bello in an ongoing corruption case but has yet to formally charge him.

Mr Bello's nephew, Ali Bello, and his associate, Dauda Suleiman, the two defendants in the case, were accused of diverting funds belonging to Kogi State.

But in the newly introduced count, the two defendants in the case were accused of conspiring with Mr Bello to

convert the total sum of N80.2 billion (N80,246,470,089.88) belonging to Kogi State Government to personal use.

Reacting to the development via a statement made available to newsmen in Abuja on Saturday morning, Okai urged Kogites and all concerned Nigerians to galvanize support for the EFCC's efforts to bring him to justice.

He underscored the urgency for enhanced scrutiny of Bello's alleged transgressions.

"What is EFCC waiting for to declare Bello wanted? And why does EFCC put 2015 in the charges, or are they trying to give ex-Governor a soft landing to escape judgment?" Okai questions EFCC's integrity.

"The staggering loss of billions of naira, a burden borne by the citizens, serves as a stark reminder of the imperative to uphold accountability and transparency in governance.

"Moreover, revelations of property acquisitions in lucrative locales like Dubai, Maitama, and Lagos raise serious questions about fiduciary responsibility.

"It is disconcerting that despite the confiscation of numerous properties by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), investigations were impeded by immunity provisions.

Now, with Bello out of office, I urge Kogites and all concerned Nigerians to galvanize support for the EFCC's efforts to bring him to justice. The misappropriation of public funds cannot be tolerated, and those responsible must be held accountable irrespective of their



former positions."

Speaking further, Okai said, "This call to action is not driven by personal animus but rather by a steadfast commitment to the principles of good governance and fiscal probity.

The good governance advocacy implores citizens to set aside differences and unite in the pursuit of justice and accountability.

"As the wheels of justice turn, it is incumbent upon every citizen to remain vigilant and resolute in demanding transparency and accountability from those entrusted with the stewardship of public resources.

"The future well-being of Kogi State hinges upon the integrity of its leaders and the diligence of its citizens in upholding the rule of law.

Meanwhile, Okai reiterated the imperative of collective action in safeguarding the interests of the people. Let us stand together in the pursuit of justice, ensuring that the misappropriation of state funds does not go unchecked. The time for vigilance is now."

Business

FG's New Oil, Gas Policy Will Attract Investments, Says Nigerian Gas Association

The Nigerian Gas Association (NGA) has commended the federal government for the recent gazetting of three policy directives in the oil and gas sector.

The directives, issued on March 1, include introducing fiscal incentives for non-associated gas, midstream, and deepwater developments, as well as reducing the contracting cycle from 36 months to six months.

According to a statement by the association, Aka Nwokedi, NGA president, said the policies mark a significant step towards unlocking investments in the oil and gas sector.

Nwokedi lauded the directives as transformative milestones poised to revolutionise Nigeria's energy landscape, with gas as a critical enabler.

He said the strategic introduction of fiscal incentives for

non-associated gas, midstream, and deepwater developments "is poised to attract substantial investments, bolster security measures, escalate production rates activities, amplify domestic gas utilisation, and refine the ease of doing business within the sector".

Furthermore, he described the reduction of the contracting cycle as a "game-changer".

The NGA president added that

this would significantly reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks and improve operational efficiency in the sector.

The streamlined approach, he said, will catalyse project execution, optimise resource allocation, and provide a favourable climate for local and foreign investors.

Nwokedi also said implementing local content standards without compromising investments or

cost competitiveness underscores the government's commitment to promoting sustainable development and empowering local stakeholders.

The directives, he said, could pave the way for inclusive growth, knowledge transfer, and skill development within the Nigerian workforce by balancing local content obligations and investment incentives.

"We commend the Federal Government for its unwavering commitment to driving positive change and fostering a conducive environment for investment in the oil and gas sector," Nwokedi said.

"These progressive policy directives mark a significant leap forward in our collective journey towards a sustainable energy future and bolstering security across Nigeria."

Nwokedi reiterated NGA's commitment to partnering with the federal government to actualise the nation's strategic energy objectives and focusing on leveraging gas as a crucial catalyst of economic prosperity and national development.

Budget Padding : Recall Ningi Immediately, SERAP Tells Akpabio

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project has urged the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, to recall Senator Abdul Ningi who was suspended for three months over his allegation of budget padding.

Ningi, the lawmaker representing Bauchi Central, was suspended for three months over an interview in which he alleged that the National Assembly padded the 2024 N28.7 trillion budget as against N25tn.

He was quoted as saying, "For the first time in Nigerian history,

today we are operating two different budgets. One budget was approved by the National Assembly and signed by President Bola Tinubu, and the one was implemented by the presidency.

"The one approved by us is N25tn while the one operating by the Federal Government is N28tn."

Two days after his resignation as the Chairman of the Northern Senators' Forum, Ningi was replaced by Senator Abdulaziz Yar'Adua (APC Katsina Central).

In a statement dated March 16, 2024, and made available to journalists on Sunday, March 17; and

signed by SERAP Deputy Director, Kolawole Oluwadare, the group urged Akpabio "to immediately reinstate whistleblower Abdul Ningi who was recently suspended from the Senate over his allegations that the lawmakers padded the 2024 budget by irregularly inserting projects worth N3.7 trillion."

SERAP equally told the Senate President to refer the allegation to the country's anti-graft agencies – the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Crimes Commission, which would improve public trust in the Senate.



Outrage As FG Signs Rail MoU With 'Unknown' UK Firm

Some Nigerians have expressed displeasure over the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the ministry of transportation and MPH Rail Development Limited.

The company, registered in the UK, is expected to manage the design, construction, commissioning, operation, and eventual transfer of the Port Harcourt-Enugu-Calabar-Abuja standard gauge rail line.

"The Minister of Transportation, Sen. Said Alkali on behalf of @NigeriaGov has signed an MoU with Messrs MPH Rail Development (UK) Limited

for the design, construction, operation & transfer of the Port Harcourt-Enugu-Calabar-Abuja SGR Line on a PPP basis," the ministry wrote on its X page.

The ministry said the signing followed the approval of the outline business case and the issuance of a compliance certificate by the Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission (ICRC).

This clearance, the ministry said, enables the firm to focus on compiling the necessary documentation for the federal executive council's (FEC) approval to advance the project.

In another statement, the ministry said vital documents required for the project's progression include a comprehensive feasibility study report, a complete business case study, an environmental and social impact assessment, the development of a resettlement action plan, and the formulation of a financial model to facilitate project implementation.

The ministry said this would ensure the transfer of the project to the government under a PPP arrangement without incurring loans or debts for the Nigerian government.

However, social media users have knocked the agency for signing an MoU with a company that was only incorporated less than five years ago – September 26, 2019.

Others have described it as a "PI&D (sic) saga in the making", adding that a project of such magnitude should not be entrusted to a young company of unknown history.

According to TheCable, the company was formed by one Andrew James, a British citizen, in 2019 and went on without any relationship with the Nigerian government or private sector

until August 24, 2023, when the company appointed Osinowo Rotimi as the first director with a Nigerian background.

Subsequently, Osinowo Sayeed was also appointed as a director in January 2024.

Further checks showed that the company had filed as a dormant organisation three times since its registration in 2019.

Other discrepancies pointed out by disgruntled Nigerians are that the company, since its incorporation in 2019, has no track record of engaging in any rail construction business and lacks a website.

CBN Reiterates Directive To Banks On Utilisation Of Forex Gains

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has reaffirmed its directive to banks regarding the utilisation of foreign currency (FCY) revaluation gains.

In a circular released by the bank on Thursday and signed by the Acting Director of the Banking Supervision Department, Adetona Adedeji, the CBN advised banks against undertaking such actions.

In the circular, referencing a letter dated 11 September 2023, the CBN emphasised the need for banks to exercise utmost prudence in handling these gains.

According to the directive, banks are required to set aside FCY revaluation gains as a counter-cyclical buffer to mitigate any adverse movements in the foreign exchange (FX) rate. It specified that banks should not use such gains to pay dividends or cover operating expenses.

"Further to our letter dated September 11, 2023, referenced BSD/DIR/CON/LAB/16/020 on the above subject, the Central Bank of Nigeria wishes to reiterate that banks are required to exercise utmost prudence and set aside FCY revaluation gains as a counter-cyclical buffer to cushion any adverse movements

in the FX rate.

"In this regard, banks shall not utilize such FX revaluation gains to pay dividends or meet operating expenses. Please be guided accordingly," it said.

"Banks and financial institutions are advised to take note of this directive and comply accordingly to avoid any sanctions or regulatory actions from the CBN."

In September 2023, the CBN instructed banks to cease using profits from their foreign exchange revaluation for dividends and operational costs. The directive, outlined in a letter dated 11 September 2023,

and signed by the then Director of the CBN's Banking Division Department, Haruna Mustafa, was to be implemented promptly.

"The bank thus approved the following prudential guidance and directives for immediate implementation by banks. Treatment of FX Revaluation Gains: Banks are required to exercise utmost prudence and set aside the FCY revaluation gains as a counter-cyclical buffer to cushion any future adverse movements in the FX rate. In this regard, banks shall not utilise such FX revaluation gains to pay dividends or meet operating expenses.

"Single Obligor Limit (SOL): Banks that inadvertently breach the Single Obligor Limit (SOL) due to the FX policy will be granted forbearance upon application to the CBN. The forbearance shall apply only to existing facilities as of the effective date of this policy. Such banks shall be exempted from the regulatory deductions on the excess above the SOL limit in their CAR computation.

"Net Open Position Limit: Banks that exceed the NOP prudential limits due to the FX revaluation shall be granted forbearance for the breach upon application," the circular stated.

Swift Networks, a facilities-based telecommunications company, says it is restoring capacity from some of its cable vendors.

On March 14, subsea cable providers were affected by major cuts to undersea submarine cables, disrupting internet traffic in major parts of Africa.

In Nigeria, banking and telecommunications services were significantly hampered.

Some of the affected submarine communications cables included the West Africa

Internet Disruption: We've Started To Restore Service, Swift Assures Of Improved Connectivity

Cable System (WACS), the Africa Coast to Europe (ACE), MainOne, and SAT3.

According to available records, Swift Networks is among seven internet service providers (ISPs) that have connected to the MainOne submarine cable system in Nigeria.

Giving updates on the undersea

cable cuts in a notice to customers on Saturday, the company said due to its efforts in restoring capacity, some of its customers may notice improvements in its broadband service.

The firm, however, said some customers may still have trouble accessing certain websites as the cable vendors are yet to reach full

capacity.

"We have started to restore capacity from some of our cable vendors. As such, you may notice improvements in our broadband service," the company said.

"However, as our cable vendors are yet to reach full capacity, you may still experience intermittent broadband connectivity and/

or difficulty in accessing some websites."

Swift said it anticipates further improvements over the weekend as it continues "with all efforts to get to full capacity".

The organisation also urged customers to contact its customer care team for assistance or clarification.

CBN Speaks On Fertiliser Donated To Boost Food Production

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has provided clarifications regarding its recent donation of 2.15 million bags of fertilisers to farmers across the country through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

The CBN had on Wednesday donated fertilisers valued at over N100 billion at current market prices, aiming to support domestic agricultural production and address rising food inflation.

Inflation in Nigeria has continued to rise largely because of the high cost of food items. As of February, the country's annual inflation rate rose to 31.70 per cent from 29.90 per cent in January.

In his remark, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Olayemi Cardoso, said the bank is committed to price stability, recognizing the significant impact of food prices on inflation. Acknowledging persistent inflationary pressures, particularly in food prices, he emphasised collaboration with the agriculture ministry to address these challenges.

"This reinforces the critical need to address food inflation as a pivotal aspect of managing overall headline inflation rates. While the CBN has been implementing comprehensive measures to curb inflation, it is evident that in the short term, inflationary pressures may persist, predominantly driven by escalating food prices," Mr Cardoso said.

The apex bank governor had upon assuming office suspended all direct interventions in the real sector of the economy saying it was not the apex bank's mandate.

In a note published on its website on Saturday, the bank said it has not initiated any new intervention but has rather donated fertilisers from the remnants of its stock, which were blended under its previous interventions in the agricultural sector.

"These fertilizers are now being donated to farmers across the country through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. This decision is aimed at supporting domestic agricultural production rather

than allowing the fertilizers to remain unused and go to waste. We anticipate that the fertilizers will ultimately support our overall objective of price stability which is being challenged by rising food inflation," it said.

On why the fertilisers were released to the ministry, the CBN said it is realigning its focus towards its core mandate of ensuring monetary and price

stability, thus stopping its direct involvement in development finance interventions.

However, it said it will support relevant organisations that possess the expertise and capacity to intervene directly.

The bank said the partnership was aimed at supporting the ministry's efforts to enhance food productivity and security, ultimately curbing food inflation

and reinforcing the CBN's pursuit of price stability.

Addressing concerns about the distribution process, the CBN stated that it collaborated with the ministry due to its expertise and infrastructure for efficient delivery to farmers. It also clarified that they will be distributed to farmers free of charge to enhance agricultural productivity and ultimately

contribute to price stability.

Giving details of the donated fertilisers, it said the 2.15 million bags contained various blends of fertilizers, with each bag of fertilizer weighing 50 kilograms.

A breakdown of the donated fertilisers includes 545,000 bags of NPK 20-10-10, 542,200 bags of NPK 27-13-13, 378,091 bags of NPK 15-15-15, 635,444 bags of UREA, and 50,000 bags of SSP.



Undersea Cable Cut: MainOne provides more info, says service restored to some customers

MainOne, a Digital Infrastructure Service Provider, on Saturday, said that it had restored service to some customers and was actively working on restoring all services through capacity acquired on available cable systems.

The organisation made this known via a statement on its website after it earlier said it would take two weeks to five weeks for it to fully restore internet services.

The statement said that the estimated repair time that it had earlier declared was for its submarine cable fault to be fixed.

"The repair time is to enable our services to become fully restored and independently supply capacity to customers.

"We have already restored services to some customers and

are actively working on restoring services to others via capacity acquired on available cable systems," the statement said.

Earlier, MainOne said that it recognised the impact of the outage and was working tirelessly to make available restoration of capacity for temporal relief where feasible.

"We are very optimistic that our cable will be repaired as planned and services fully restored so that we can continue to operate with continued integrity of the submarine cable," it said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) had said that the internet disruptions being experienced by organisations, banks, and individuals were a result of damage affecting major undersea cables near Abidjan in

Côte d'Ivoire.

The NCC said that the damage was causing downtime across West and South African countries.

It said that the cuts occurred somewhere in Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal, with an attendant disruption in Portugal.

It said that cable companies – West African Cable System (WACS) and African Coast to Europe (ACE) in the West Coast route from Europe – had experienced faults, while SAT3 and MainOne had downtime.

The regulatory body added that similar undersea cables providing traffic from Europe to the East Coast of Africa, like Seacom, Europe India Gateway (EIG), and Asia-Africa-Europe 1 (AAE1), were said to have been cut at some point around the Red Sea.

This, it said, resulted in the

degradation of services across these routes.

NAN reports further that in an earlier statement, MainOne had declared a force majeure on its contractual obligations while explaining steps to restore connectivity.

The force majeure is an unforeseeable circumstance that prevents someone from fulfilling a contract.

The unforeseen circumstances may be natural disasters (fire, storms, floods), governmental or societal actions (war, invasion, civil unrest, labour strikes), or infrastructure failures (transportation, energy).

MainOne, an Equinix company, is one of the leading data centre and connectivity solution providers with a presence in Nigeria, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

Healthy Living

How To Teach Children To Share Things



Sharing and giving starts in the home where parents teach by example, not only words. Experts reveal how children can be taught to be more charitable and giving. Whether it is sharing toys or willingly donating clothes to others, many times parents often hear the selfish words of their children: 'give me that, or that's mine'. A child must be taught from infancy to be generous. At an early age little children learn to share food, clothing, and other things with those around them. A clinical psychologist Dr Saliha Afridi says a very simple way to tell whether your child is generous or selfish is to observe them while they are playing with other children. A young child

who is selfish will be very possessive with their toys. Often they refuse to let anyone even touch them. A generous child is more willing to share. Many children's behaviour is picked up from observing their parents

What parents can do

* A major factor on helping your child is continuous encouragement given by their parents. Children do as we do not as we say.

* If parents walk by and don't take note of those who are needy, it is highly likely that the child will also learn to not notice those who are less fortunate

* If parents want their children to give, it will not be through lecturing, but rather it will be by

engaging in the act of giving

Proactive steps.

* If we want our children to give, we need to make sure that we are creating a family culture of giving. * One way is to involve children at an early age; parents can have conversations that involve children being creative about how the family can give those who need; this can happen at a very early age and not just when children are older

*. Another way to imbibe the gift of giving on your children is to spend time, not just money. Community service is a responsibility and a duty as it creates empathy and awareness that is more deeply rooted than if they were to just give money. * When

parents see someone on the street or in the neighborhood that is less fortunate, discuss with the child about how it is that they can give you that individual or family. Once they decide on a way, then they should have the child follow through with the giving. For example, having the child tip someone who has served him or her. The point being that the exchange of money, things, or service should involve the child.

*. Aim to give a percentage of what you have; teach the child that you do not have to have a lot to give. If they get N2000 for their birthday, teach them at an early age to give a certain percentage of that money to someone less fortunate

Freed Opposition Leader Predicts Win In Senegal Elections

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

Leading Senegalese opposition figure Ousmane Sonko on Friday predicted a comfortable first-round win for his coalition's presidential candidate, in his first public appearance a day after being freed from prison.

Sonko was greeted by hundreds of supporters outside a hotel in the capital Dakar, where he held a news conference with his deputy and presidential hopeful Bassirou Diomaye Faye, also released from prison late Thursday.

Sonko predicted a convincing first-round victory for Faye if the March 24 vote went ahead without fraud.

"If the election goes well, I don't think we'll get less than 60 percent," he said.

He called on "the Senegalese people to remain vigilant, especially as there are rumors of corruption circulating," while adding that he did not have "sufficient evidence" on the matter.

Disqualified from running in this vote, 49-year-old Sonko has been at the center of a more than two year stand-off with the state.

Sonko named Faye to replace him on the presidential ballot and in Friday's speech, he reiterated his backing for him.

"My person is not the most important thing. My objective is to help win the election," he said.

"I did not choose Diomaye by chance," he added, referring to Faye.

Sonko reserved his sharpest attacks for

the presidential camp's candidate, former prime minister Amadou Ba.

But he insisted "the election will not be a war."

"There will be no revenge, there will be justice," Sonko said, referring to accountability for those currently in power should his camp win.

Faye is thought to be one of the favorites to win the presidential election.

His coalition had kicked off the campaign while he was still behind bars, pitching him as the candidate for "system change" and "left-wing pan-Africanism."

The opposition figure has promised to reclaim Senegal's sovereignty and renegotiate oil and gas contracts, as well as defence agreements if elected.

In the early hours of Friday, thousands thronged the streets of Dakar, singing and dancing as Sonko and Faye were driven away from the city's Cap Manuel prison.

Upon his release, 43-year-old Faye, smiling and raising his arms to the sky after almost a year behind bars, praised the "support and solidarity" of his followers.

Faye and Sonko benefited from an amnesty law passed by MPs last week.

It had been proposed by the outgoing president with the aim of easing tensions after three years of unrest, reignited last month by his last-minute postponement of the presidential vote.

The impromptu rally after the release of Sonko and Faye was the largest for any of the 19 candidates since campaigning began on March 9.

It was an indication of the popularity of both men, particularly Sonko, who is not even in the race for the top job. Their release is now likely to galvanise the election campaign.

Faye had been imprisoned since April 2023 charged with contempt of court, defamation and acts likely to compromise public peace after posting a message critical of the justice system.

His manifesto reflects the themes which have made Sonko popular, including attacks on corruption, elites, multinationals and former colonial ruler France.

The legal case against Sonko, along with economic and social tensions and concerns about whether Sall would run for a third presidential term, led to deadly unrest between 2021 and 2023.

Sonko was jailed at the end of July on a string of charges, including provoking insurrection, conspiracy with terrorist groups and endangering state security.

His political party was also dissolved.

Earlier Friday, Senegal's Supreme Court confirmed the date of the delayed presidential election, rejecting an attempt by disqualified candidates to cancel the date.

The petitioners had wanted presidential decrees setting the date for the election and the duration of the campaign to be suspended.

But the court said the issue did not fall within its purview, adding that the Constitutional Council had "full jurisdiction in electoral matters."

essential goods.

Chol, 43, an ally of Kiir, was appointed as finance minister last August and had undertaken various reforms including trying to clean the government employee register to get rid of "ghost staff." He also tried to plug revenue leakages.

Kiir appointed Awow Daniel Chuong, a former minister for petroleum, to replace Chol.

South Sudan President Fires Finance Minister Amid Economic Crisis

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has fired the nation's finance minister without giving a reason, although the move comes amid worsening inflation and a sharp depreciation of the local currency against the dollar.

The dismissal of the finance minister, Bak Barnaba Chol, was

announced in a decree read on state TV late on Friday.

As South Sudan's economic crisis continues, some civil servants have gone at least six months without being paid salaries.

Over the past two months the local currency, the South Sudanese pound, has lost about half of its value against the dollar, fueling a surge in prices of food and other

South Sudan Closes Schools Due to Heatwave

South Sudan on Saturday said it would close schools and told children not to play outside as temperatures were set to soar to an exceptional 45 degrees Celsius.

Heatwaves are increasingly becoming common in the East African nation, which is particularly vulnerable to climate change, but temperatures rarely exceed 40C.

"High temperatures of 41C-45C are expected this week," the ministries of education, health and environment said in a statement, adding that the heatwave was expected to last "at least two weeks."

"There are already cases of death related to excessive heat being reported," the ministries added, without giving further details.

The government will close all schools from March 18 due to the "serious health hazards" posed to students.

"Parents are advised to



stop their children from playing outdoors," the statement added, saying young children should be monitored for signs of heatstroke.

Episodes of drought and increasingly extreme rainfall are adding to already difficult living conditions in South Sudan, which has been plagued by violence and economic instability since it declared independence from Sudan in 2011.

Scientists say recurring heatwaves are a clear marker of global warming and that they are set to become more frequent, longer, and more intense.

One of the poorest countries in the world despite large oil reserves, South Sudan has spent almost half of its life as a nation at war. The nation has also endured persistent natural disasters, famine, economic collapse, and communal conflict.

According to the U.N., 80 percent of the nations estimated 11 million population will need humanitarian aid in 2024.

A power-sharing peace agreement was signed in 2018, but many of its provisions remain unfulfilled due to ongoing disputes.

Guinea Sacks Electricity Chief After Protests



By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

Guinean authorities on Saturday announced that the head of its national electricity company had been sacked after repeated power cuts sparked deadly protests in the military-ruled country.

Laye Sekou Camara of Electricity in Guinea, EDG was dismissed along with his two deputies, Fode Soumah and Abdoulaye Kone, in a decree signed by junta chief General Mamady Doumbouya.

The managing director and deputy of Guinean's national oil company were also dismissed in a separate decree.

"Those responsible for this situation (linked to the power cuts) owe us an explanation and everyone must take their share of responsibility," Prime Minister Amadou Oury Bah told the press on Friday.

The decision comes after two children, aged eight and 14, were shot dead amid violent protests on Tuesday in Kindia,

130 kilometers east of Conakry.

Clashes also erupted between protesters and security forces in Conakry on Thursday after a power cut plunged much of the capital into darkness.

In a statement, EDG said the blackout was the result of "an incident on a high-voltage pylon."

Guinea, which is poor despite considerable mineral and natural resources, has endured decades of dictatorial rule and suffers from fuel shortages and power cuts.

Fashion

By Yahaya Adawiyah
Creative Director: Sheezah CollectIONS

The Power Of Accessories: Elevating Your Fashion Game



In the ever-evolving world of fashion, accessories have emerged as essential elements that can elevate any outfit from ordinary to extraordinary. They possess the remarkable ability to transform your look, allowing you to express your individuality and make a bold fashion statement. From statement necklaces to trendy handbags and stylish sunglasses, accessories have become a must-have for fashion enthusiasts worldwide.

Expressing Personal Style:

Accessories serve as a reflection of your personal style. They allow you to experiment and showcase your creativity, bringing a unique touch to your ensemble. Whether you prefer a minimalistic approach or love to go all out with bold and vibrant pieces, accessories provide the perfect canvas to express your fashion preferences. They enable you to curate a look that is entirely your own, setting you apart

from the crowd.

Enhancing Your Outfit:

One of the most significant advantages of accessories is their ability to elevate and enhance any outfit. They have the power to completely transform the overall look and feel of an ensemble. A simple dress can be instantly elevated with the addition of a statement belt or a pair of eye-catching earrings. Accessories add depth, texture, and visual interest, making your outfit visually appealing and captivating.

Making a Fashion Statement:

Accessories are the perfect tool for making a fashion statement. They allow you to experiment with different trends, colors, and textures, enabling you to stand out and make an impact.

A well-chosen accessory can become the focal point of your outfit, grabbing attention and leaving a lasting impression. Whether it's a bold handbag, a chunky bracelet, or a pair of stylish shoes, accessories provide endless opportunities to showcase your unique fashion sense.

Versatility and Adaptability:

Accessories are incredibly versatile and adaptable, making them a valuable

asset in your fashion arsenal. They can effortlessly transition your look from day to night, from casual to formal, and from season to season.

A simple scarf can add warmth and style to your winter attire, while a statement hat can provide shade and glamour during the summer months. Accessories enable you to maximize the potential of your wardrobe, allowing you to create multiple looks with a few key pieces.

Conclusion:

In the fast-paced world of fashion, accessories have become a necessity rather than a mere add-on. They possess the power to transform, enhance, and elevate your outfit, enabling you to express your personal style and make a fashion statement.

Accessories play a crucial role in the fashion world, with the ability to transform any outfit and add a touch of personal style. Whether it's a statement necklace, a trendy handbag, or a stylish pair of sunglasses, accessories can elevate your look and make a fashion statement. They allow you to express your creativity, enhance your outfit, and showcase your unique personality. So, don't underestimate the power of accessories in completing your fashion ensemble!

A Guide To Healthy Eating In Nigeria

By Chef Queen Asabe Joseph

Now that we've set up our kitchen, I thought it expedient to delve into what, in my opinion, is at the center of a healthy lifestyle: 'Healthy Eating.'

As a continent, we possess a vibrant tapestry of culture and flavor. Nigeria offers a rich culinary heritage that extends beyond its borders. As we savor the diverse tastes of this West African nation, it becomes crucial to explore the path of healthy eating within our traditional framework.

Nigerian cuisine, known for its bold spices and hearty dishes, is a treasure trove of nutrient-rich options. Embracing healthy eating involves a thoughtful balance of staple foods such as rice, yams, and plantains with an abundance of colorful vegetables. Incorporating local favorites like ugu, fluted pumpkin leaves, and

okra can elevate your meals with vitamins and antioxidants.

In a quest for balanced nutrition, it's essential to celebrate the diversity of proteins available. Lean meats like grilled fish and chicken, paired with legumes such as beans and lentils, offer a protein-packed punch. These choices not only contribute to muscle health but also align with a heart-friendly approach to eating.

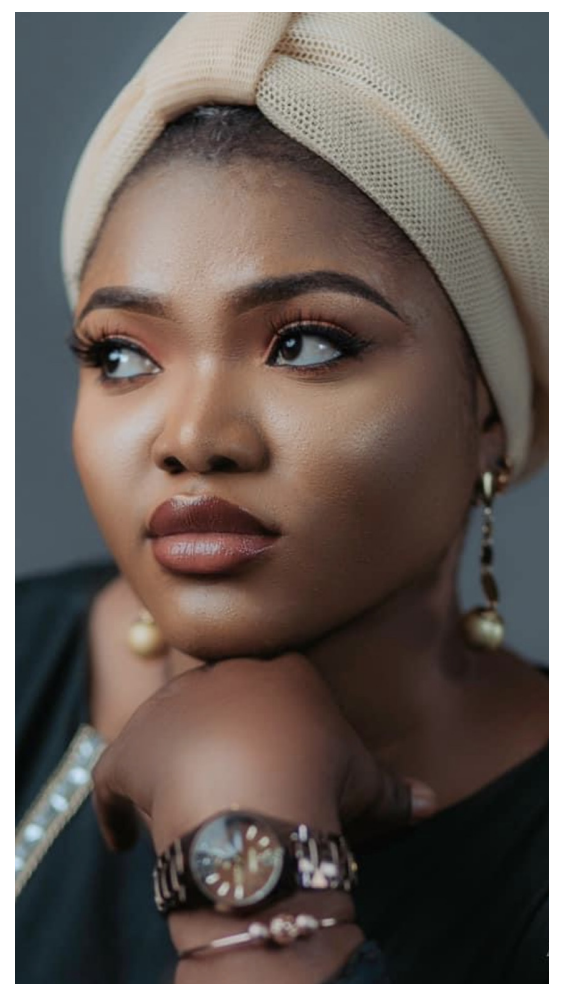
Let's not forget the golden elixir of health – water. Emphasizing hydration by incorporating traditional drinks like zobo (hibiscus tea) or kunu (fermented sorghum drink), to name a few from the array of natural drinks and healthy fruit juices we can make, depending on availability, adds not only cultural authenticity but also essential hydration to our diets.

When opting for in-between meals to snack on, choosing roasted plantains or groundnut cakes

over fried alternatives should be considered a commitment to health without compromising flavor. Additionally, exploring the benefits of local fruits in season such as mangoes, oranges, and pineapples provides a naturally sweet alternative to processed sugars.

As we navigate the modern landscape, it's crucial to be mindful of portion sizes and avoid excessive use of oil and salt. By combining the wisdom of our culinary traditions with contemporary nutritional knowledge, we can forge a path to healthier living.

In essence, the journey toward healthy eating in Nigeria is an exciting fusion of tradition and well-being. Let our plates be a canvas that reflects not only the richness of our culture but also the vibrancy of a nourished, healthy life. Asabe Joseph writes from Abuja.



Entertainment

Abuja Fashion Maven, Alhassan Seeks Igala Support To Win Fashion Crib 3Rd Edition

Abuja-based fashion maven and Founder of HabFashion Stitches, Alhassan Habibullah, has called on fellow Kogites, Igala, and Nigerians to vote for him in the upcoming Fashion Crib Africa 3rd edition slated to be held in Lagos.

In an interview with Urah TV recently, the fashion maven expressed confidence and determination, rallying support from his Kogites, Igala, and Nigerian community. He emphasized the pivotal role their votes will play in his success.

Habibullah humbly acknowledged his talents but asserts that his journey to victory hinges on the support of his followers, particularly those from the Igala tribe. He passionately urged Kogi East to cast their votes, assuring them that their contribution will significantly impact his performance in the competition.

"I'm not boasting about my talents," states Habibullah, "but I firmly believe that I possess the necessary skills to excel in this competition. However, without your votes, my aspirations remain unrealized. Your votes are paramount."

Reflecting on his journey thus far, Habibullah highlights his achievement of being selected as one of the 33 finalists out of a staggering 7,000 applicants. This recognition is a testament to his dedication and proficiency in the fashion industry.

As he prepares to showcase his creativity and flair on the esteemed platform of Fashion Crib Africa, he remains steadfast in his commitment to representing not only

himself but also Igala with pride and distinction. With determination as his driving force and the unwavering support of his Igala brethren, he is poised to make waves in the world of fashion.

The Fashion Crib Africa competition serves as a melting pot of talent, innovation, and style, attracting participants from across the federation. For Habibullah, it represents an opportunity to showcase his unique aesthetic vision and leave an indelible mark on the fashion landscape.

In his plea to the Igala people, Habibullah underscores the significance of unity and solidarity, emphasizing that their collective support can propel him towards victory. With their votes, he believes he can emerge triumphant, bringing honor not only to himself but also to the Igala community.

As the countdown to the competition intensifies, Habibullah remains resolute in his pursuit of excellence. With his eyes firmly set on the prize, he is prepared to seize every opportunity to demonstrate his prowess and captivate the judges with his designs.

For Alhassan Habibullah, the Fashion Crib Africa competition represents more than just a chance to showcase his talent—it is a platform for him to inspire aspiring designers and leave a lasting legacy in the world of fashion. With Kogites rallying behind him, he is ready to embark on this transformative journey and etch his name in the annals of fashion history.



24-year-old Nigerian Singer, Ruger Expresses Desire To Date DJ Cuppy

Michael Olayinka, the Nigerian singer better known as Ruger, says he would like to date DJ Cuppy.

Ruger was featured on the Bahd and Boujee podcast co-hosted by Moet Abebe and Tolani Baj.

In a clip from the yet-to-be-released episode, the 24-year-old artiste expressed his desire to be in a "committed relationship".

Ruger said he is open to finding love, adding that he is no longer a toxic person.

"I have never done an orgy though but I have done threesomes with white and black women, I like to mix the race," he said.

"I want to see if I can actually be committed to someone, I want to see if I can try. I am not a toxic guy again."

When asked if he would like to be in a relationship with Cuppy and if the 31-year-old disc jockey is his type of woman, the singer said: "Yes I go run am"

Ruger's rise to fame began in 2021 when he signed with D'Prince's Jonzing World Record, an affiliate of Don Jazzy's Mavin Records.

In January, he unveiled his record label named 'Blown Boy Entertainment'.

The singer previously said he "likes the idea of a relationship" and that he values mutual companionship.

Cuppy, on the other hand, is the daughter of Nigerian businessman Femi Otedola.

In December 2022, she revealed that she got engaged to Ryan Taylor, the UK boxer, after 25 days of meeting him.

However, in July 2023, the pair sparked rumours they were no longer together. Cuppy later opened up about the failed relationship.

She also said it is terrible being a single and childless woman in her thirties.



Ned Nwoko: I Can't Marry A Woman Who Is Already Deflowered

Ned Nwoko, the Nigerian businessman, says that he cannot marry a woman who is not a virgin.

Nwoko, in a snippet of an unreleased episode of the Mic On Podcast, said many ladies have been brought to him for marriage.

The businessman said he, however, refused to marry them because they did not meet his requirements.

Speaking on his marriage to

Regina Daniels, he said he married the Nollywood actress because "we are from the same place".

"My uncles have brought some local girls and they have been like marry this one but I said no, they do not meet what I want," he said.

"I mean for her particularly, I married her because she is from my place. I cannot marry a woman who is not a virgin."

Nwoko had previously opened up

about his stance on polygamy. The politician said his decision to marry more women is "only a gesture that would eventually help society."

In 2019, Nwoko, at the age of 59, got married to Daniels, who was then 19, as his sixth wife.

His marriage to the actress fueled mixed reactions on social media as many users argued over their age difference. Their union is blessed with two children.

Coker To Raise Awareness On Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, Releases Documentary

Stephanie Coker-Aderinokun, the British-Nigerian actress, has released a documentary titled 'Where The Heck Is My Period?' on Prime Video.

The documentary offers an intimate perspective on the experiences of people living with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS).

PCOS is a hormonal disorder that causes enlarged ovaries with small cysts at the outer edges.

Directed by Michael 'AMA Psalmist' Akinrogunde, the documentary explores the challenges, triumphs, and resilience of women as they navigate the complexities of the condition.

"Stephanie Coker Aderinokun alongside other African women from different socioeconomic backgrounds bravely open up about their own experiences with PCOS," the statement reads.

"Their vulnerability and courage serve as a beacon of hope for women everywhere, inspiring them to seek support and take control of their health."

"It also educates its audience on the life-altering experiences such as menstrual irregularities, depression, anxiety, obesity, irregular hair growth, unexpected physical changes and

infertility as some of the challenges women with PCOS face."

Speaking about the documentary, Coker said she hopes "every woman living with PCOS watches this and feels loved, seen and heard".

The actress said filming the documentary was "very emotional for me", adding that she poured her heart into it.

"I have always been passionate about women's health especially women living with PCOS but I wanted them to feel seen, loved, understood and supported," she said.

"Taking the big step of being vulnerable enough to share my story publicly was a big step I was willing to take. Although nerve-racking, I'm glad I did it."

"This documentary is very dear to my heart and I decided to pour myself into this by telling my story and being a major part of the filmmaking process."

"Every time I heard the stories of the women, I felt a wave of emotions. While it was hard listening to their struggles, I'm happy I could find women who are willing to be vulnerable, be their

authentic selves and support each other by telling our stories."

Coker had previously revealed that she was diagnosed with the syndrome at age 16.

The filmmaker is the founder of The Future Is Her, a nonprofit organisation dedicated to the education and early diagnosis of people living with PCOS.



Sports



By ABUBAKAR YUNUSA OJIMA-OJO

Miami Beat DC United Without Messi

Luis Suarez came off the bench and scored twice as Inter Miami, without the injured Lionel Messi, won 3-1 at D.C. United in Major League Soccer on Saturday.

Suarez continued his prolific start to life in MLS with his sixth goal in seven games in all competitions for the South Florida club.

Miami had failed to win their last seven games without Messi, a run dating to September, but despite that record, coach Gerardo Martino left Suarez and Jordi Alba on the bench.

Jared Stroud put for D.C. United ahead, latching onto a Mateusz Kilch pass and firing a first-time shot past Drake Callender.

The lead lasted only for 10 minutes, however, with Leonardo Campana leading the Miami attack in place of Suarez, seeing a header saved by Alex Bono but then, after D.C. failed to clear, turning in after the ball was scooped to him by Federico Redondo.

Busquets delivered a superb cross-field pass to set Robert Taylor in down the left but his low drive clipped the outside of the post on the stroke of half-time.

Uruguayan Suarez was brought on in the 62nd minute and the 37-year-old was to settle the contest.

Just 10 minutes after coming on Suarez finished off a fine move, turning in a low cross from Campana at the back post.

Then Diego Gomez, Miami's powerful Paraguayan midfielder, won the ball in the centre of the field and broke forward, finding Suarez, whose route to goal was initially blocked.

But Suarez was able to find space for a chip that Bono clawed at but was unable to stop crossing the line.

D.C. United had Pedro Santos sent off after he brought down substitute Shanyder Borgelin in the final minute.



Martino said Suarez's performance had gone perfectly according to his plan.

"We had talked about him having half an hour and he defined the game," said the Argentine coach.

"One of the coach's tasks, with these players, is to convince them when to stop, when to allow themselves a break and not risk injury.

"I try to get them to make a contribution not only when they play 90 minutes but less, and boy, did he do that today."

Martino said Messi's rear-leg injury was being dealt with "week to week" and he refused to be drawn on his potential involvement in Argentina's upcoming friendlies.

"It is clear that with him there is an objective that he can play in the quarter-finals of the CONCACAF Champions Cup. We're not going to take any risks," he said.

Miami will play Mexican club Monterrey in the regional competition on April 3.

Ghana's New Coach Names Assistants Ahead Of Nigeria Friendly

Following his appointment as head coach of Ghana's Black Stars, Otto Addo has announced his coaching staff.

Addo has named a trio of assistants: Joseph Laumann, John Painstil, and Fatau Dauda.

They will work with him to improve the Black Stars' performance.

Head Coach Otto Addo has appointed Joseph Laumann, John Painstil, and Fatau Dauda as our assistant coaches.

Laumann, a UEFA Pro-Licensed coach, boasts of a playing experience in Cyprus, Germany, and Vietnam.

His coaching career includes stints with Standard Liege, VfL Bochum, and Barnsley in the English Championship.

The other backroom staff are former Ghanaian internationals John Painstil and Fatau Dauda.

Painstil, a former assistant coach at Kaizer Chiefs and a CAF License B holder, represented Ghana in two World Cups and was part of the squad that won bronze at the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations.

Dauda, a former goalkeeper, played for Voradep, Okwahu United, AshantiGold, and Orlando Pirates.

He earned 23 caps for Ghana and participated in the 2014 World Cup.

Addo returns after 15 months Addo, the strategist behind Ghana's victory over Nigeria in the 2022 World Cup playoff, returns after a 15-month absence.

This follows Chris Hughton's dismissal after Ghana's disappointing group-stage exit at the recent Africa Cup

of Nations.

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) awarded Addo a 34-month contract on Friday, with an option to extend for two more years.

His impressive performance during a rigorous interview process convinced the selection panel.

"Otto was exceptional and highly rated by the search committee," said GFA president Simeon-Okraku, according to CAF Online. "There were strong candidates, so the committee interviewed many to gather their insights."

Currently with Borussia Dortmund's coaching staff, Addo will be released for this international window before returning to Germany.

The Black Stars will face Nigeria on 22 March and Uganda four days later, with both matches taking place in Marrakech, Morocco.

These friendlies will be an opportunity for Addo and his assistants to assess the Black Stars ahead of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers in June.

Unlike Ghana, Nigeria has yet to appoint a new coach since José Peseiro's departure at the end of February.

Reports suggest assistant coach Finidi George might lead the Super Eagles in the upcoming friendlies, possibly positioning himself for the permanent role.

Other former Nigerian internationals, including Emmanuel Amunike, Sylvanus Okpala, Samson Siasia, and Sunday Oliseh have also expressed interest in the head coach position.

EPL: Iwobi, Bassey Shine As Fulham Crush Tottenham

By Abubakar Ojima-Ojo

Nigerian duo Alex Iwobi and Calvin Bassey were instrumental in Fulham's dominant 3-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

While Brazilian striker Rodrigo Muniz stole the show with a brace, Iwobi and Bassey put in stellar performances to secure all three points for the Cottagers at Craven Cottage.

This defeat is a major setback for Tottenham's Champions League aspirations.

A win would have placed them above Aston Villa in fourth, but now they find themselves two points adrift.

For Fulham, the victory brings an end to a demoralising run of seven consecutive Premier League defeats against Tottenham.

It also reignites their hopes of securing European football for the first time since

the 2010/11 season.

Substitute Luke Berry scored a dramatic late equaliser to salvage a vital point for Luton as they held Nottingham Forest to a 1-1 draw.

Chris Wood had put Forest ahead, but Berry's 89th-minute strike ensured a share of the spoils.

Nigeria's Taiwo Awoniyi and Ola Aina did not feature for Forest in this match.

Also, Burnley boosted their survival hopes with a crucial 2-1 victory over Brentford.

This win marks their first Premier League triumph of 2024.

Frank Onyeka played for 59 minutes for Brentford, who remain precariously close to the relegation zone, just four points clear of 18th-placed Luton Town.

Burnley still have a significant climb ahead of them, sitting eight points from safety in 19th position.





Guest Column

Dr. Hassan Gimba

Tinubu, Beware Of The Gathering Clouds (2)

Last week, we read how the signs are not looking good for a nation like ours that wants to be reckoned with internationally. We concluded by asking the federal government to look at ways to reduce the cost of governance and the unimaginable take-home pay of political leaders and redirect the excess towards production. And we emphasised that we must become a productive nation that eats, drives and wears what it produces.

We also exhorted anyone genuinely interested in the welfare of workers, and of Nigerians, to proffer solutions that would boost our economy and strengthen our currency and not suggestions that would bastardise our economy and drive the naira's value further down. And that salary increase at the moment will not help the economy.

The federal and state governments must also, as a matter of urgency, resuscitate moribund industries dotted across the landscape so as not to only galvanise production but to improve locally generated revenue. And because millions will get direct and indirect jobs if the moribund industries dotting all over the country become alive, the production of local materials will be boosted as there will be more buyers, leading to more employment.

Government, and here I mean the federal and state governments, must always be truthful and fair to the citizens. They must also make their agencies work. The government must let government function. In almost all cases, it is the government that makes government fail because the actors do everything from a prism of personal gain. Nothing about service anymore. Then there is the Nigerian syndrome of "Do you know who I am?"

I will give you an example. Just recently there was a furore that the Presidential Villa owed the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company N923 million, the Nigerian Police owed N1.4 billion and the office of the Central Bank Governor, N1.6 billion. Put together, the federal government and its agencies were indebted to the tune of N47 billion. And, you see, God save any AEDC official who tries to disconnect power from Villa, Police Headquarters or CBN

But every year there is money for the payment of NEPA bills in the government and its agencies' budgetary allocations, so why should the bills accumulate? If the power company has not been paid, where

did the appropriated money go? Is the government here not strangulating the electricity company with its hand, yet every day we cry of epileptic power?

It is commendable that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu ordered the immediate payment of the Villa bill; however, is it enough without instituting an investigation into the failure of the Villa bureaucracy to pay its electricity bills despite budgetary provisions? This is the sort of thing that would make Nigerians sit up and take note. Otherwise, it is just the old system: sweep the sleaze under the carpet and let sleeping dogs lie.

Perhaps, because citizens, rightly or wrongly, think those in authority would naturally dip their hands into the treasury, and also scramble (as the Europeans scramble for Africa) over state resources, that is why some of them scramble over any resources close to them. Maybe this is why any warehouse they see, any trailer load of food that enters their 'trap', they pounce on it. And do you blame them when they refuse to pay NEPA bills?

Every day something new is trending. Yesterday it was budget padding; today it is "each senator got N500million." Who knows what tomorrow will bring? The citizens must feel that their interests are also part of the mix. That sense of belonging would automatically bring down the crime rate substantially.

Governance must be accorded the seriousness it deserves. When you go through our budget and the imputed figures, like a template across the MDAs, one would

be forgiven to think that governance is a joke and budget implementation is akin to sharing the national cake within an anointed group.

Justice and fairness must permeate the land. No nation can rid itself of crime as long as its leadership does not go out of its way to give the people a sense of belonging and fairness, and its judiciary fails to give protection to the oppressed.

Therefore, leaders at the centre must be exemplary, which will make those in charge of other tiers of government follow suit. It is not enough for a leader to be mouthing platitudes while his actions go contrariwise. This is what is meant by "Change must begin with the leader" where the Brazilian lyricist and author of *The Alchemist*, Paulo Coelho, said, "The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion."

I will never get tired of hammering it - to all who care to listen - what Sheikh Usman Dan Fodiyo wrote in his book, *Bayan Wujub al-Hijrah alal ibad*: that "the death of a thousand good men is not as tragic as having an unfit man in a position of national leadership and that "a kingdom (nation) can endure with unbelief, but it cannot endure with injustice."

To ensure that justice is served, we must strengthen our legal and judicial systems. We need to reform our laws and improve the capacity and independence of our judges and lawyers. This will earn the system more respect and bring back the trust of the people that has been heavily eroded.

These, and more along this line, are the things our leaders must do to make our country the great nation it is meant to be. Every leader will be proud that under his watch we became a united people and forged ahead to become an industrialised nation.

To stitch the "merely geographical expression" that we currently have, therefore, is a task that must involve all of us. We do not have any other country to call ours. And we cannot afford to see the country put together by God through the British rendered asunder.

Another reason I always look at some Nigerians from the south and north who shout "Let Nigeria be divided" and shudder. Do they know what they are saying? Do they think that that is feasible anymore? Would it be beneficial to all concerned? We will look at this next.

Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

“

To stitch the "merely geographical expression" that we currently have, therefore, is a task that must involve all of us. We do not have any other country to call ours. And we cannot afford to see the country put together by God through the British rendered asunder