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Niger police confirm abduction of 14 Islamic school pupils in Rafi

From SAMUEL MATHIAS, Minna

THE Niger State Police Command has confirmed the abduction of 14 pupils of an Islamic school in Tungan-Bako village, Rafi Local Government Area of the state, days after the incident, saying joint security agencies have commenced rescue operations to secure their release.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Superintendent Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the incident in a statement issued to journalists in Minna on Wednesday.

According to the police, the victims were abducted from their Islamic teacher's (Mallam's) farmland, where they had been assisting him in harvesting maize when suspected bandits invaded the area and whisked them away.

The statement said: "On 31/10/2026 at about 12.30pm, suspected bandits invaded Tungan-Bako village via Rafi LGA and abducted some persons working on the farm.

"Report further indicated that the abducted victims were about 14 students of an Islamiya school helping their Mallam to harvest maize on the farm before the incident."

Abiodun added that joint security rescue efforts were ongoing, assuring that further developments would be

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PDP crisis: A'Court rejects recognition of interim NWC

THE Court of Appeal in Abuja on Wednesday dismissed an appeal seeking to compel the Independent National Electoral Commission to recognise the Interim National Working Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party.

PUNCH reports that the three-member special panel, presided over by Justice Ugochukwu Anthony Ogakwu, with Justices Laja Balogun and Ruquayat Oremei Ayoola, who delivered the judgment, dismissed the appeal marked CA/ABJ/CV/1221/2026.

The appeal was filed by Senator Adolphus Wabara and seven others against INEC and six other respondents.

The appellants, including the Chairman and members of the PDP Board of Trustees and some founding members, had asked the appellate court to set aside a Federal High Court judgment delivered by Justice Salim, which refused to compel INEC to recognise the Interim National Working Committee led by Kabiru Turaki

The interim committee was constituted following a National Executive

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From DAVID MICHAEL, Lafia

Tinubu seeks bloc votes for APC candidates in Nasarawa

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has urged his supporters across the 13 local government areas of Nasarawa State to vote for candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2027 general elections to ensure sustained development in the state.



Tinubu

Tinubu made the appeal through Vice President Kashim Shettima during the APC presidential campaign rally held on

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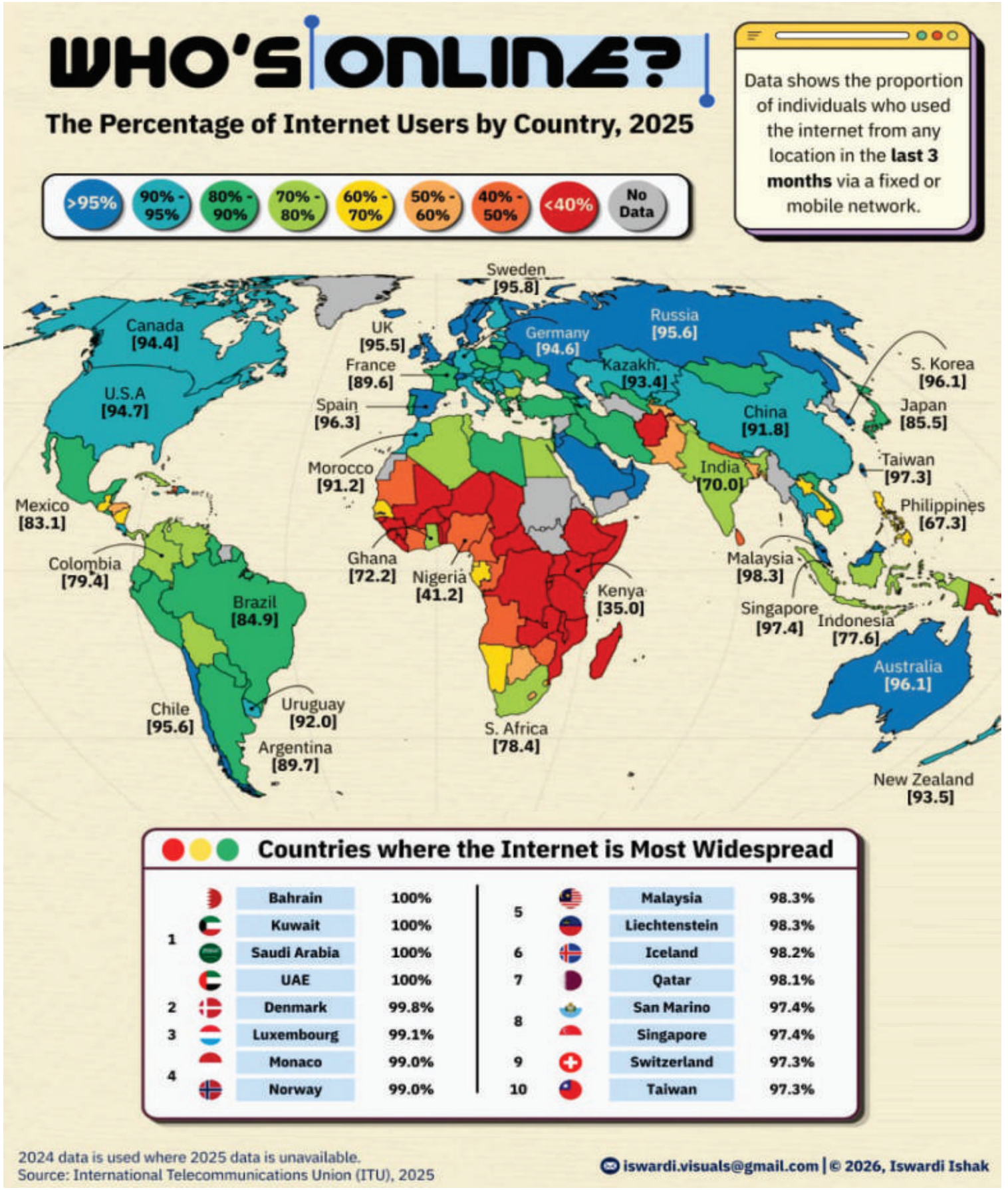

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communicated.

Meanwhile, the incident had earlier generated conflicting accounts as different sources attempted to establish the circumstances surrounding the abduction.

While some reports indicated that the students had been alerted to the impending attack upon the arrival of the gunmen and attempted to flee to safety, they claimed that 15 of them were eventually abducted.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD also learnt that Mallam Aminu Bako, Head Teacher of Madarasatul Nuru Islam in the Maikujeri area of Rafi Local Government Area, had earlier informed the acting chairman of the council that 15 of his pupils had been abducted.

Niger police confirm abduction of 14 Islamic school pupils in Rafi



Disu

The report was made when the local government chairman paid him a sympathy visit following the incident.

However, the police maintained that the whereabouts of the abducted Islamic school pupils remained unknown, adding that efforts to locate and rescue them were being intensified.

PDP crisis: A'Court rejects recognition of interim NWC

Continued from page 1

Committee meeting held after a Supreme Court judgment on the party's leadership dispute.

However, the Court of Appeal upheld the Federal High Court's decision in its entirety and dismissed the appeal.



Ogakwu

Reacting to the judgment, the National Publicity Secretary of the Interim National Working Committee, Comrade Ini Ememobong on the party's X handle, said the group respected the court's decision but would challenge it at the Supreme Court.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Ememobong said the group remained committed to pursuing what it described as justice.

"We are determined to take our quest for justice anchored on truth to the apex court in the land. It is our belief that no matter how deep the truth is buried, if those seeking it are persistent in digging, it will one day resurface," the statement read.

He disclosed that the group's lawyers had been instructed to immediately commence the process of appealing the judgment before the Supreme Court.

"We have instructed our lawyers to immediately file an appeal before the Supreme Court, in the hope that justice will eventually be done," he added.

The statement also emphasised the importance of a strong opposition party to Nigeria's democratic development, arguing that the PDP must remain an independent political force capable of holding the ruling party accountable.

It stated, "The PDP, as the main opposition party, must provide a credible alternative to the ruling party and not become its appendage."

"Democracy survives only when the opposition is strong enough to effectively engage the government," it added.

The interim NWC urged party members to remain steadfast as the legal battle moves to the Supreme Court, expressing confidence that the eventual outcome would strengthen multiparty democracy in the country.

The latest ruling is another development in the prolonged leadership crisis rocking the PDP, which has been characterised by competing claims over the control of the party's national leadership and structures.

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Tinubu seeks bloc votes for APC candidates in Nasarawa

Wednesday in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

Shettima noted that voting for candidates of the party would help sustain the Renewed Hope Agenda of the present administration at all levels of government.

He said Nasarawa State had witnessed tremendous development under Tinubu's administration, particularly in the construction and rehabilitation of roads, healthcare facilities and schools, among other sectors.

The president therefore appealed to residents of the state to give him another opportunity to lead the country for a second four-year term, promising to do more for Nigerians if re-elected in 2027.

According to Shettima, "We want to assure you that if God wills and we win the upcoming elections, we will see that we support you for maximum safety. We call on you to vote for all our party's candidates. The biggest message from the leader of the country is: APC from top to bottom, APC from bottom to top.

"We do not want a situation where they say vote for the President and not the governor, or vote for the governor and not the President, or the senator, or the House of Assembly.

"We want APC straight! APC straight! APC from top to bottom and bottom to top. May God give us peace and understanding. May God grant us peace of mind. We thank you very much," he emphasised.

Shettima further commended the Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule, for embarking on people-oriented projects which, he said, had improved the living conditions of residents.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the Progressive Governors Forum and Governor of Imo State, Hope Uzodinma, highlighted the benefits of President Tinubu's economic policies and urged the people to ensure his re-election for another four-year term to enable him to deliver more dividends of democracy.

"It is our decision to continue the deliberate trajectory of Nigeria through the architect of modern Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"We have come to Nasarawa State, we have seen the developments. We have seen that through the Renewed Hope Agenda, the hope of Nasarawa State is renewed.

"And we are here to affirm once more that Nigeria is in good hands, that all of you should vote for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.



Tinubu

"We plead for peace, we plead for harmony, we plead for a peaceful Nigeria. Support our President, support our governorship candidate, support Nigeria. May God bless all of us as we support the All Progressives Congress," he said.

In their separate remarks, the APC National Chairman, Professor Nentawe Yilwatda; Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas; and Director-General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, Senator Abdulaziz Yari, expressed optimism that Nasarawa State would give the party maximum support to ensure that all its candidates emerged victorious in the forthcoming elections.

Earlier, Governor Sule, who expressed delight at the massive turnout of APC supporters, reassured the President of the commitment of the presidential and state campaign councils to securing victory for all the party's candidates in the 2027 general elections.

Nigeria, UK explore media partnerships to combat election misinformation

From DANMALE ABDULMUMIN, Abuja



Idris

THE Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, has reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to strengthening international partnerships to tackle misinformation, disinformation and emerging challenges in the information landscape ahead of Nigeria's 2027 general elections.

Idris stated this in Abuja during a courtesy visit by the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Peter Vowles, who has been in the country for about eight weeks.

Discussions focused on strengthening relations between Nigeria and the United Kingdom, improving public communication and exploring areas of cooperation in addressing shared information challenges.

The minister identified the growing threat of fake news and misinformation, particularly in the context of the forthcoming general elections, as a major concern requiring sustained collaboration between Nigeria and its international partners.

"I think the threat of fake news and misinformation, and how that can be an obstacle to a credible election, is one of the biggest challenges we have as Nigerians now," he said.

Idris pointed out that the Federal Government was working with the United Kingdom and other international partners to promote responsible information management and safeguard the integrity of the electoral process.

He welcomed the High Commissioner's interest in Nigeria's information environment and expressed the country's readiness to deepen cooperation in addressing the challenges.

"We are working hard in conjunction with them, as we do with other countries and partners, to make sure that we have a smooth electoral process," the minister stated.

He described the visit as an opportunity to sustain the longstanding relationship between the two countries and explore practical responses to challenges posed by artificial intelligence, fake news and the rapidly evolving digital media environment.

In his remarks, the British High Commissioner, Peter Vowles, said the visit provided an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations and gain a better understanding of Nigeria's information landscape.

He noted that both countries faced similar challenges, particularly misinformation and the misuse of artificial intelligence.

"That kind of area is something we might be able to work more together on, shared challenges and how we have shared approaches to tackling these challenges," he said.

The visit underscores the shared commitment of Nigeria and the United Kingdom to strengthening bilateral relations and promoting responsible communication in an increasingly complex global information environment.

Jos North to strengthen water, sanitation services – Chairman

By JIDAUNA DARING

CHAIRMAN of Jos North Local Government Council, John Christopher, has assured residents that his administration will continue to prioritise the water and sanitation sectors, describing them as critical areas requiring sustained attention to safeguard public health.

Christopher gave the assurance when he received officials of the Network of Civil Society Organisations of Nigeria on Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN), Plateau State chapter, who paid him an advocacy visit at his office at the council secretariat in Jos recently.

"I must appreciate the contributions of your society to the water and sanitation sector in Jos North. As a council, we will not relent in our efforts to provide people with safe drinking water. Clean water reduces the incidence of many water-borne diseases," he stated.

The chairman described the advocacy visit as timely, noting that the council had recently grappled with cholera and diphtheria outbreaks.

He attributed the outbreaks recorded in parts of Jos North to poor sanitation in the affected communities.

"This advocacy visit has strengthened us to do more. We will partner with the society to ensure that more basic necessities are provided to the people. Providing good service delivery remains our priority," he added.

Earlier, the Coordinator of NEWSAN, Plateau State chapter, BitrusSauta, commended the council chairman and his management team for providing the opportunity to engage with the council on issues relating to water, sanitation, hygiene and public health.

"We commend the leadership of Jos North LGC for its notable interventions in improving water, sanitation and hygiene services across the local government area, particularly for promoting monthly environmental sanitation, cleaning of drainage systems and flood-prone areas, and



Christopher

renovating boreholes in various wards to improve residents' access to water," he noted.

Sauta urged the council to sustain and strengthen these interventions through regular monitoring, community participation and preventive maintenance.

"NEWSAN believes that the achievements recorded so far provide a strong basis for collaboration between the Local Government Council, civil society organisations, community structures and relevant government agencies," he added.

He explained that the visit was intended not only to advocate improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services but also to commend existing efforts, identify areas requiring further attention and offer partnership in building healthier, cleaner and more resilient communities across Jos North LGA.

"Our key advocacy priorities include sustaining environmental sanitation and flood prevention, renovating and ensuring the sustainability of boreholes across the wards, intensifying efforts to end open defecation, proactively activating Ebola prevention and public health protocols, and strengthening community participation and WASH accountability," he said.

Sauta pointed out that NEWSAN would continue to support the council through community mobilisation, public awareness campaigns, hygiene education, stakeholder engagement and civil society monitoring.

"We are ready to work with the council and its relevant departments to promote environmental cleanliness, improve sanitation practices, support water safety awareness and encourage communities to take responsibility for WASH facilities," he noted.

He further informed the chairman that the society's requests included encouraging relevant departments to incorporate WASH priorities into local development plans and budgets, facilitating periodic stakeholders' meetings to identify priority needs, reviewing progress and coordinating interventions across the LGA, among other measures.

"We know that government resources and interventions are more effective when complemented by community ownership, responsible behaviour and constructive partnership," he added.

Court ruling won't stop my campaign — Karimi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SENATOR Sunday Stephen Karimi has said he will continue his campaign for the 2027 Kogi West senatorial election despite a Federal High Court judgment against his emergence as the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate.

Karimi, who represents Kogi West, rejected Wednesday's judgment in a suit filed by Samuel Bamidele Aro challenging the conduct of the party's senatorial primary.

He described the ruling as unfortunate and contrary to the evidence presented before the court, arguing that the judge had contradicted previous decisions on similar pre-election matters.

“It is crystal clear that the judgment is contrary to the evidence before the Court and it is unfortunate that the trial judge overruled himself, having ruled in not less than three similar cases on the issue of statute of limitation in pre-election proceedings as well as proper authority to conduct and determine winner of political party primary elections,” Karimi said.

He said he would pursue redress through the appellate process, expressing confidence in the judicial system.

Karimi also alleged that Aro did not participate in the APC primary and accused him of presenting fabricated documents to support his case. These allegations were not independently established in the statement.

The senator attributed the judgment to people in the state whom he accused of seeking to protect their control of Kogi's resources, saying he had repeatedly spoken against them.

“I remain strong and undeterred and my campaign continues with adequate zeal and vigour,” he said.

Bauchi approves N12bn livestock centre, N8bn tertiary projects

From GEORGE COBEN, Bauchi

THE Bauchi State Executive Council has approved more than N20 billion for a livestock service centre and projects across 22 tertiary institutions in the state.

The approvals were announced after a council meeting presided over by Governor Bala Mohammed at the Government House on Tuesday evening.

Commissioner for Livestock Development, Musa Lukshi, said the proposed livestock service centre would cost more than N12 billion and cover over 12,000 hectares. He described it as a facility of its kind in Nigeria, designed to serve different sectors of the livestock industry.

Lukshi said the project would be implemented through a public-private partnership and completed later this year or early next year.

Commissioner for Higher Education and Regional Development, HadizaKango, said the council also approved more than N8 billion for infrastructure projects across the state's 22 tertiary institutions, including the construction of perimeter walls to improve security.

The council approved the merger of the Bauchi State Road Transport Agency (BAROTA) with the State Vehicle Inspection Office (VIO) under the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Head of Civil Service, Mohammed Umar, said it also approved Grade Level 09 as the entry point for graduate engineers in the state civil service, replacing Grade Level 08.

Commissioner for Commerce and Industry,



Mohammed

Ibrahim Aliyu, said the council approved the reconstruction of Destination Hotel in Bauchi through a partnership with a Chinese company.

The project is expected to upgrade the hotel to a four-star facility, with the partners expected in the state soon to begin work.

The council also approved the installation of solar-powered streetlights along the Gidan Mai–Miri stretch of the Bauchi–Jos highway, as well as the ratification of road projects in urban and rural areas.

Commissioner for Lands and Survey, AbdullahiGwaram, said the council had also approved the establishment of a development control agency to support orderly growth in the state.

2027: Yahudim group pledges support for Tinubu

From DANMALE ABDULMUMIN, Abuja

THE Yahudim Shabbat Observers in Nigeria have pledged to mobilise millions of their members to support President Bola Tinubu's re-election bid in 2027.

The group made the pledge on Tuesday when a delegation led by its leader, Levi Nabbi Mosheh, met with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Akume.

The Director of the SGF Main Office, Francis Ikeynge Tyokase, received the delegation on Akume's behalf and urged the group to promote peaceful coexistence as part of efforts to advance national development.

Tyokase commended the organisation's stated commitment to peace, prayer, moral values and national unity.

He said national development required contributions from government, religious institutions, the private sector, civil society organisations and other Nigerians.

He also urged Nigerians, regardless of religious affiliation, to exercise their civic responsibilities peacefully and in accordance with the Constitution and electoral laws.

Speaking during the visit, Mosheh said the organisation was preparing for an international anniversary celebration and the proposed launch of an African Yahudim headquarters building in Nigeria.

He described Yahudim Shabbat Observers as a religious organisation comprising denominations, associations, councils, groups and committees whose members observe the Sabbath on Saturdays.

The delegation said the organisation had maintained a presence in Nigeria for several decades and remained committed to prayer and peaceful coexistence.

340 women to receive cash under Bauchi empowerment scheme

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

MORE than 340 women in Bauchi State are set to receive cash grants of between ₦20,000 and ₦30,000 under an empowerment programme launched on Tuesday by the state's First Lady, Aisha Bala Mohammed, in collaboration with the Commissioners' Wives Association (COMWA).

The programme, organised in support of the Alliance People's Movement (APM), is intended to provide financial assistance to women and support their economic activities at the grassroots.

Under the scheme, beneficiaries living in their respective local government areas will receive ₦30,000 each, while those residing within the Bauchi metropolis will receive ₦20,000 each.

The organisers said the initiative would support small businesses, improve household livelihoods and promote women's economic independence.

The event also provided an opportunity for women to strengthen their participation in community development and grassroots engagement.

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Millions missing as Jaiz Bank, customers trade accusations

By MARIAM WILLIAMS

CUSTOMERS of Jaiz Bank in Jos on Tuesday accused a bank employee of diverting millions of naira deposited under an investment scheme, while the bank said the money was collected through a private arrangement and never paid into its accounts.

The customers said they had invested in a scheme known as Mudarabah from 2022, expecting returns at agreed intervals.

They alleged that Habiba Abdulrahman, the employee who managed their accounts, transferred their money into other accounts without their consent.

One of the protesters, Hashim Faruk, said customers were encouraged to invest substantial sums on the understanding that their capital would generate monthly or annual profits.

Faruk alleged that Abdulrahman moved the funds through different bank accounts to make them difficult to trace.

He said the customers reported the matter to the bank's management, which promised to refer it to the Plateau State Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The protesters said they cooperated with investigators for about six months but had yet to recover their money.

Another customer, Zainab Mahud Abdullahi, said more than N2 million had disappeared from her account. She had intended to use the money for her orphaned daughter's wedding.

"Now people are looking at me like I ate an orphan's money," she said.

Abdullahi said she discovered the loss when she visited the bank to withdraw the money and found that her account had been emptied.

She said the bank had not provided a satisfactory explanation and that she had been forced to postpone the wedding.

Jaiz Bank's representative, Munir Barau Abdullahi, denied that the transactions were carried out through the bank.

Abdullahi said the customers had entered into a private business arrangement with a bank employee, who collected their money and paid them monthly profits.

He said the customers had not provided evidence that the money was deposited with Jaiz Bank and that the institution had no records of the transactions.

The customers, however, insist that they entrusted their money to the bank and want it to account for the missing funds.

They have called on the Central Bank of Nigeria and other relevant authorities to investigate the allegations and help recover their money.

Alia makes 10 new appointments, orders immediate resumption

From JOHNSON NONGU, Makurdi

BENUE State Governor Hyacinth Alia has appointed 10 new aides to his administration, directing them to assume their duties immediately and demanding integrity and dedication in their service.

The appointments were announced on Wednesday by the governor's Chief Press Secretary, Tersoo Kula.

They cover portfolios including youth mobilisation, community relations, politics, revenue, sanitation, power and event management.

Kelvin Atsem was appointed Principal Special Assistant on Youth Mobilisation, while Ulaha Paschal Aondolumun will serve as Special Assistant on Community Relations. Terhemen Ndiisaa was named Principal Special Assistant on Politics.

Other appointees are Galim Terhide, Special Assistant on Revenue; Ankpo Tarvershima, Special Assistant on Sanitation; and Job Tseagh, Principal Special Assistant on Power.

Lubem Mbabov, Terwase Aondoakaa and Charles Tema were appointed Principal Special Assistants on Community Engagement, while Dr Doom Dorcas Akpoughol was named Senior Special Assistant on Event Management.

Alia directed the appointees to familiarise themselves with his administration's policy direction and ensure their work aligns with its development agenda.

"You must immediately get acquainted with the blueprint of my administration and work according to the vision and principles contained in the working document," he said.

He urged them to place the collective interests of the state above personal considerations and said integrity must guide their official responsibilities.

"I demand integrity in the discharge of your official responsibilities," the governor said.

Alia expressed confidence that the appointees would bring their experience to bear on their assignments and urged them to remain diligent in serving the people.

Over 15,000 receive free treatment in Plateau medical outreach

From DUMAH RANDONG

MORE than 15,000 residents have received free medical treatment through the Plateau State Government's ongoing medical outreach, according to the state Commissioner for Health, Nicholas Baamlong.

Baamlong gave the figure during a visit by Deputy Governor Ngo Josephine Piyo to the Riyom Trauma Centre on Tuesday, three weeks after the exercise began.

He said the outreach was providing consultations and major surgical procedures to residents who could not otherwise afford the cost of treatment.

"This is just the beginning," Baamlong said. "Government has committed huge resources to this. We are doing major surgeries that people could not afford in years. And we will continue until we cover critical orthopaedic cases."

Piyo, who visited wards and interacted with patients and medical personnel, said she was impressed by the range of services, including dental care, free eyeglasses, cataract surgeries, neurosurgery, laboratory investigations and orthopaedic operations.

She urged residents to undergo regular medical checks, warning that undiagnosed high blood pressure and high blood sugar could lead to sudden deaths.

"Most of these deaths are from high blood pressure and high sugar levels that were never checked. Please, go for regular checkups," she said.

The deputy governor also called on local government chairmen and traditional rulers to mobilise residents to take advantage of the outreach.

Piyo said the turnout showed that the intervention was timely, adding that Governor Caleb Mutfwang had directed that healthcare be made accessible to residents who could not afford hospital bills.

The outreach is being conducted across the state's three senatorial districts, with doctors, nurses, dentists and surgeons providing services at no cost.



Policy discontinuity: How Nigeriawastes resources, undermines development

IN NIGERIA, every administration comes into office with a policy or programme it wants to be remembered for long after leaving power. Usually, it is an initiative intended to write the name of the head of government in the sands of time.

Over the years, the First Lady of Nigeria, who is the wife of the president, and the wives of the 36 state governors have also joined the trend. Each comes up with a pet project with which she hopes to be identified. Rather than build on what her predecessor started, the preference has always been to introduce something original.

An assessment of the various policies introduced by successive administrations in Nigeria reveals that many were well thought out, people-centred and designed to make the country better. However, even when such policies did not become short-lived because of a change of government, their greatest challenge was how incoming administrations discarded them.

Consequently, what is exchanged in the baton of leadership is often a collection of uncompleted projects and wasted resources. Let us examine some policies introduced by successive administrations.

The Green Revolution

Launched in April 1980 by the administration of President Shehu Shagari during the Second Republic, the Green Revolution was designed to transform Nigeria's agricultural sector.

Its objectives were to achieve food self-sufficiency, ensure adequate and safe food supplies for a rapidly growing population, reduce food imports and modernise traditional farming through science and technology.

Key strategies included: Distribution of high-yielding variety (miracle) seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and modern machinery, including tractors; provision of financial credit and loans to small-scale and large-scale farmers through commercial banks and the Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank; and granting incentives to commercial farmers, including income tax relief and duty-free imports of agricultural equipment.

Challenges and outcomes: The programme fell short of its ambitious objectives. It encountered several obstacles, including heavy reliance on large-scale contractors rather than grassroots smallholder farmers, policy inconsistencies, structural problems arising from the Land Use Decree, poor irrigation and soil fertility management and economic downturns.

When the Shagari administration was overthrown in 1983, the policy was abandoned rather than reviewed, strengthened and improved upon.

War Against Indiscipline (WAI)

Launched on March 28, 1984, by the military administration of General Muhammadu Buhari and Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) was designed to restore public order, discipline, civic responsibility, patriotism and moral uprightness amid widespread corruption and economic hardship.

Its implementation was divided into phases, each focusing on specific aspects of national life.

Phases and focus areas included:

. Phase I (Orderliness): Enforcing proper queuing at bus stops, public offices and banks.

- Phase II (Work Ethics): Combating lateness, absenteeism and low productivity.

- Phase III (National Pride and Unity): Promoting respect for national symbols, the national flag and the national anthem.

- Phase IV (Combating Corruption and Economic Sabotage): Targeting hoarding, price inflation and illegal dealings.

- Phase V (Environmental Sanitation): Promoting cleanliness in public spaces, including compulsory Saturday sanitation exercises.

Enforcement and legacy: Soldiers and members of the voluntary WAI Brigade patrolled public spaces to enforce compliance. Although the initiative was praised for temporarily restoring a sense of orderliness and cleanliness, critics condemned its authoritarian approach and perceived disregard for human rights.

When the regime was overthrown in 1985, WAI was discarded in its entirety, even though its civic principles could have been institutionalised through schools and national orientation agencies. Elements of its philosophy only resurfaced decades later in campaigns such as 'Change Begins With Me'.

Unfortunately, Nigeria continues to grapple with many of the same problems the initiative sought to address.

Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP)

Introduced on July 1, 1986, by the military administration of General Ibrahim Babangida, the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was conceived as a response to Nigeria's worsening economic difficulties.

Following the oil boom of the 1970s, Nigeria became heavily dependent on crude oil exports. This resulted in an overvalued naira, neglect of agriculture, excessive public spending and an acute debt crisis following the collapse of international oil prices. Designed in alignment with the prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, SAP sought to address these macroeconomic imbalances.

Core objectives included: Restructuring and diversifying the productive base away from crude oil; achieving fiscal balance and stabilising the balance of payments; liberalising trade and prices; and reducing government's direct involvement in the economy through privatisation.

Key policy measures included: Currency devaluation through the introduction of the Second-Tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM); trade liberalisation through the abolition of import licensing; privatisation and commercialisation of state-owned enterprises through the Technical Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation (TCPC); and reduction in public expenditure, including cuts in subsidies.

Major impacts: On the positive side, SAP addressed currency overvaluation and encouraged local sourcing of raw materials. However, its negative consequences included severe inflation, massive depreciation of the naira, soaring unemployment, the erosion of the middle class and a sharp decline in manufacturing capacity.

The resulting hardship triggered widespread protests, including the anti-SAP riots of 1989. Subsequent administrations distanced themselves from SAP without developing a coherent alternative, leaving its institutions weakened and its lessons largely unlearnt.

The pattern: From Better Life to Renewed Hope

The same cycle has continued since the return to democratic governance in 1999.

The Better Life Programme, Family Support Programme, Family Economic Advancement Programme, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), Seven-Point Agenda, Transformation Agenda, Change Agenda, Next Level and now Renewed Hope have all been introduced as well-intentioned initiatives.

However, many have either been abandoned or replaced with new programmes following changes in government.

First Ladies' pet projects have followed the same pattern. The result is a graveyard of abandoned policies, uncompleted federal secretariats, hospitals and roads, as well as reforms that exist largely on paper.

Billions of naira are spent launching new logos, establishing new offices and inaugurating new committees, only for billions more to be spent four or eight years later dismantling them and introducing replacements.

No nation develops by resetting its development agenda every four years. Malaysia's Vision 2020, Rwanda's Vision 2050 and even Botswana's successive National Development Plans demonstrate the importance of long-term planning and building on existing foundations.

In Nigeria, the lack of continuity breeds waste of scarce resources, distrust of government policies among citizens and investors, weak institutions that serve individuals rather than the state, and perpetual underdevelopment.

How to break the cycle

The National Assembly should enact a National Development Plan Act that makes a long-term perspective plan legally binding.

National projects should also be separated from personal projects. Pet projects initiated by First Ladies and governors' wives should be channelled through existing ministries, such as Women Affairs, Health and Education, rather than parallel non-governmental organisations that often disappear with the end of their sponsors' tenures.

There should also be a compulsory inter-governmental audit six months before handover. Incoming administrations must publicly adopt ongoing programmes above a specified financial threshold, modify them with clear explanations or justify their discontinuation. A threshold of N5 billion, for instance, could be considered.

The civil service and ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) must be strengthened to ensure that policies are domiciled in ministries rather than in the Presidency or Government House.

Furthermore, a Policy Continuity and Evaluation Unit should be established in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and replicated at state level. Such a unit would maintain a comprehensive registry of major government policies, including their objectives, funding, implementation status and impact assessments.

Citizen engagement is equally important. Government should publish policy performance reports in simple language so that citizens can understand what programmes promised, what they delivered and what remains outstanding. When citizens have access to such information, they are better positioned to demand continuity and accountability.

Until we learn to improve on what we inherit rather than demolish it simply to introduce our own initiatives, Nigeria will continue to run in circles. Continuity is not about loyalty to a predecessor; it is about loyalty to Nigeria.

Ari's 2027 assignment: Between APC victory and Plateau's unity

As Plateau State gradually moves towards another decisive electoral contest, the challenge before political leaders extends beyond winning votes to preserving the peace, unity and democratic values of the state. SEKYEN WALSHAK examines the enormous responsibility confronting Sir Joseph Ari as he assumes leadership of the APC's 2027 Central Campaign Council and the expectations that come with the assignment

NO doubt, the long-awaited 2027 general elections in Nigeria are gradually becoming a reality, with the presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for January 16, while the governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections are slated for February 6, 2027.

With barely 75 days to the general elections, the Plateau State political landscape is gradually taking shape following the constitution of a 163-member central campaign council, comprising 48 directors, with the former Director-General of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Sir Joseph Ari, appointed as Director-General.

He will be assisted by a former member of the House of Representatives representing Jos North/Bassa Federal Constituency, Hon Baba Hassan.

The council was officially inaugurated by Governor Mutfwang on November 2, 2026, to coordinate the party's activities and mobilise support for its candidates ahead of the 2027 elections.

Apparently, its responsibilities are enormous. Beyond coordinating support for the Mutfwang/Piyo second-term ambition and mobilising support for President Tinubu and Vice-President Kashim Shettima, the council is also expected to reconcile aggrieved party members, communicate government policies and achievements to the electorate and promote peaceful electioneering across the state.

With more than 115 registered support groups, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Plateau State is preparing to formally commence its campaign activities following the November 14 flag-off. The council is expected to coordinate the party's political activities across the state and mobilise support for its various candidates seeking elective positions.

For Ari, however, success should not be entirely a new assignment. As a former DG of the ITF, he has earned recognition through years of service, hard work, transparency and entirely new assignment. As a dedication, helping to place Plateau State on the national map. His record in public service is one reason many Plateau people will be watching closely to see how he handles this new responsibility.

The expectations are high, and rightly so. But this time around, the responsibility before him goes beyond political mobilisation and securing victory for his party. It is also



Tinubu



Shettima



Mutfwang



Piyo



Ari

about demonstrating that political leadership and campaign management can be exercised without sacrificing the peace and unity of the state.

The expectations, the challenges

The council has promised to deliver on its mandate through strategic grassroots mobilisation, teamwork and effective communication.

Ari has also maintained that the campaign under his leadership will be anchored on facts, issues and peace, devoid of bitterness, acrimony and mudslinging. He said this would be in line with Governor Mutfwang's 'Time Is Now' philosophy, which prioritises unity, mutual respect and development, when he officially accepted the mandate.

"The assignment before us is enormous, but we are prepared. This campaign will be factual, issue-based, and people-centred. We will go to every ward and every polling unit to sell our message of continuity, peace, and progress," Ari stated.

Ari noted that the emerging momentum and enthusiasm indicate that Plateau people are willing to sustain the current development trajectory under President Tinubu at the centre and Governor Mutfwang in the state.

While these expressions of support may be encouraging for the APC, they must not be mistaken for a reason to undermine the democratic space or create the impression that political participation should be limited to one party.

With 17 political parties expected to field candidates in Plateau State's February 6, 2027 governorship election, the political contest is expected to be intense. It is worthy of note that the 17 governorship candidates in the state are as contained in the final official list issued by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The growing debate around political dominance and the idea of a one-party system makes the responsibility before the campaign council even more significant.

Plateau is a state with a history of political differences, competing interests and challenges that require collective responsibility. Thus, elections should provide opportunities for citizens to make choices, assess leadership and determine who deserves their mandate. They should not become a reason to deepen divisions or threaten the peaceful coexistence of communities.

Whether the APC wins or loses in some constituencies, or whether its candidates emerge victorious or their opponents take the day, the state must remain bigger than any political party or individual ambition.

At the end of every election, there must be winners and losers. That is the reality of democracy. What must not happen is for the contest to produce a divided state, damaged relationships, violence and citizens who see one another as enemies because of their political choices.

Beyond electoral victory

With the way Plateau politics has evolved and concerns among some citizens about participating in the electoral process, many will be watching closely to see what Ari delivers. Some may even be asking whether he is truly the man capable of managing the enormous responsibility placed on his shoulders.

To whom much is given, much is expected. Ari must understand that his responsibility is not limited to delivering electoral victory for the APC and its candidates. He owes Plateau a campaign that promotes fairness, tolerance, mutual respect and unity, even among citizens who have chosen to support different political parties and candidates.

He must, therefore, ensure that the campaign council does not become an instrument of political division but a platform for constructive engagement, peaceful mobilisation and issue-based competition.

The right to campaign, associate and support a candidate of one's choice must be respected, regardless of political affiliation.

Ari has an opportunity to distinguish himself, not merely as a successful campaign DG who delivers electoral victory for his party, but as a political leader who helps preserve the unity of Plateau State despite the competing interests of 17 political parties.

The ultimate measure of his success should not only be the number of votes secured by the APC but also whether Plateau emerges from the election with its peace, relationships and democratic values intact.

The inauguration of the council may have set the stage for political mobilisation across the state. But the real test of Ari's leadership will be how he manages the political differences, expectations and tensions that come with the 2027 elections.

Plateau must not become the price of political victory.

With the way Plateau politics has evolved and concerns among some citizens about participating in the electoral process, many will be watching closely to see what Ari delivers. Some may even be asking whether he is truly the man capable of managing the enormous responsibility placed on his shoulders. To whom much is given, much is expected. Ari must understand that his responsibility is not limited to delivering electoral victory for the APC and its candidates. He owes Plateau a campaign that promotes fairness, tolerance, mutual respect and unity, even among citizens who have chosen to support different political parties and candidates.

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TRUTH EVERY A NATION
FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

Plateau's new advisers: The test of democratic leadership

Public appointments are ultimately judged not by the ceremonies that accompany them but by the difference they make in the lives of citizens. DAN MANJANG argues that Governor Mutfwang's appointment of special advisers and honorary special advisers offers Plateau State an opportunity to strengthen governance, deepen public confidence and accelerate development, provided the appointees place public service above political considerations



A cross section of the newly appointed advisers

THE appointments come at a defining moment in Nigeria's democratic journey, as shifting political alignments, competing interests and preparations for the 2027 general elections continue to reshape the national political landscape. Against this backdrop, the swearing-in of special advisers and the inauguration of honorary special advisers to Governor Mutfwang on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, deserve attention beyond the boundaries of Plateau State.

The exercise provides an opportunity to reflect on the relationship between political leadership, public service and democratic responsibility.

At a time when citizens increasingly demand accountability, security, economic relief and visible development, appointments to public office must be understood as instruments of service rather than rewards for political loyalty. The ultimate test of these appointments will not be the prestige attached to the positions but the tangible benefits they deliver to the people.

The Mutfwang administration deserves commendation for recognising the importance of broadening its governance structure to accommodate additional experience, professional expertise and strategic counsel. In a complex political environment, no governor can successfully address the challenges of governance through personal initiative alone.

Effective leadership requires a competent team capable of generating ideas, anticipating emerging problems, evaluating policies and developing practical solutions.

The inclusion of honorary special advisers can also provide opportunities to mobilise professional networks, attract development partnerships and facilitate constructive engagement with stakeholders beyond government. Nevertheless, the value of these appointments will depend on the quality of the contributions made and the extent to which they advance the collective interests of Plateau State.

Beyond political considerations

The timing of the appointments is particularly significant. Nigeria is approaching another consequential electoral cycle, with the political atmosphere increasingly characterised by realignments, strategic calculations and heightened expectations.

In such circumstances, Plateau State needs leadership that can distinguish between the temporary attractions of partisan politics and the enduring obligations of democratic governance.

Political considerations may inevitably influence appointments, but they must never become the overriding justification for public office. The new appointees must understand that their primary responsibility is to the people of Plateau State, whose mandate and confidence ultimately confer legitimacy on democratic institutions.

Their service should strengthen governance rather than deepen political divisions, promote inclusion rather than encourage exclusion, and advance development rather than merely consolidate political advantage.

Equally significant is Governor Mutfwang's emphasis on peace and security as fundamental priorities of his administration. Plateau State has endured painful experiences of communal violence, attacks on vulnerable communities, displacement and the destruction of livelihoods.

These challenges demand more than routine government statements or occasional security interventions. They require sustained investment in intelligence gathering, community-based security, inter-agency collaboration, conflict prevention and effective justice delivery.

The governor's reference to the reinvigoration of Operation Rainbow, the training of approximately 1,500 personnel and the introduction of technology into the state's security architecture signals an acknowledgement of the need for a more coordinated response.

The new advisers should help ensure that these initiatives are regularly assessed, strengthened where necessary and measured against their practical impact on the safety of citizens. Peace must not remain a political slogan. It must become a lived experience in every community.

Beyond security, the administration's stated commitment to healthcare, education, agriculture, energy, water supply, sanitation, transportation and road infrastructure highlights the broad developmental responsibilities confronting Plateau State.

Yet, the existence of projects and the announcement of policies are not sufficient measures of success. Citizens must experience tangible improvements in public services, economic opportunities and household welfare.

Roads should connect communities to markets. Investments in agriculture should improve farmers' productivity and incomes. Healthcare facilities should provide accessible and reliable services, while educational institutions should equip young people with relevant knowledge and skills.

The advisers must help translate policy intentions into measurable outcomes through research, implementation monitoring, transparent reporting and constructive evaluation. Every public investment should answer a fundamental question: what concrete benefit does it deliver to the people?

Accountability, public trust

Another essential consideration is the need to strengthen public trust in government. Democratic legitimacy is sustained not only through elections but also through the everyday relationship between citizens and the institutions that govern them.

When people feel ignored, excluded or inadequately served, their confidence in democratic processes inevitably weakens.

Governor Mutfwang's call for advisers to remain accessible and attentive to the concerns of rural communities, women, young people, farmers, entrepreneurs and vulnerable populations is therefore commendable.

However, this commitment must be reflected in practical mechanisms for consultation and feedback. The new appointees should encourage regular engagement with communities, professional associations, civil society organisations, traditional institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

They must also recognise that honest advice sometimes requires telling political leaders uncomfortable truths. An adviser who merely echoes the preferences of a principal contributes little to effective governance. The value of an adviser lies partly in the ability to offer independent judgement, identify shortcomings and recommend solutions that serve the public interest, even when those recommendations are politically inconvenient.

The distinction between special advisers and honorary special advisers also deserves careful consideration. While their formal responsibilities and conditions of service may differ, both categories should be guided by the principles of integrity, competence, accountability and commitment to the public good.

Honorary appointments, in particular, should provide avenues for mobilising expertise and goodwill without creating unnecessary bureaucratic burdens. Those appointed should be encouraged to contribute through credible policy proposals, strategic partnerships, investment facilitation, professional networks and other initiatives that complement the work of established government institutions.

At the same time, clear expectations and appropriate mechanisms for assessing their contributions are necessary to ensure that these appointments produce genuine value. Public office is not an ornament, and honorary status should not become a substitute for meaningful service.

Performance must outweigh patronage

Ultimately, the success of these appointments will depend on the political will to place performance above patronage and the public interest above personal ambition. Governor Mutfwang has articulated an important vision of a Plateau State that is peaceful, united, inclusive and prosperous.

The challenge now is to ensure that the advisers become active contributors to that vision.

They must work collaboratively, respect institutional procedures, avoid unnecessary rivalries and remain focused on delivering results. The governor, for his part, must provide clear direction, encourage candid counsel and hold his appointees to appropriate standards of performance.

As the 2027 elections draw closer, the administration must resist the temptation to allow electoral calculations to overshadow its developmental responsibilities. The strongest political argument any government can make is a demonstrable record of improved security, functioning institutions, expanded opportunities and better living conditions for its citizens.

The swearing-in of the new advisers should, therefore, be regarded as both an opportunity and a solemn responsibility. Plateau State occupies an important place in Nigeria's quest for national unity, peaceful coexistence and democratic consolidation. Its experience demonstrates why responsible leadership, inclusive governance and effective conflict management matter to the stability of the federation.

These appointments will be meaningful if they help transform the administration's aspirations into practical achievements that citizens can see, feel and sustain. The message to the appointees is clear: the honour of serving comes with the obligation to deliver. Governor Mutfwang must ensure that the enlarged governance structure strengthens performance rather than merely expands the circle of political responsibility.

For the people of Plateau State, the expectation remains legitimate and urgent: a government that listens, protects, builds and serves. At this critical juncture in Nigeria's democracy, the time has come to demonstrate that public appointments can serve as instruments of democratic renewal and development.

For Plateau State, the real measure of these appointments will not be who took the oath of office, but what changed for the better after they did.

Manjang, former Plateau State Commissioner of Information and Communication, is an Honorary Special Adviser to the Plateau State Governor

FG commits to tackling misinformation threatening elections – Minister



NIGERIA remains committed to strengthening international cooperation in order to combat misinformation and fake news threatening the country's electoral process.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris, said this on Tuesday in Abuja.

This was when the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Peter Vowles, paid him a courtesy visit to discuss the UK-Nigeria partnership and opportunities for collaboration.

The minister said that misinformation and fake news remained among the major challenges confronting Nigeria, particularly as the country prepares for future elections.

He said that the threats posed by misinformation, fake news and Artificial Intelligence (AI) required concerted efforts by Nigeria and its international partners to safeguard the electoral process.

Idris said that Nigeria was working with the United Kingdom (UK) and other countries to strengthen measures against information-related challenges capable of undermining electoral credibility.

"We are working hard in conjunction with them as we do with other countries and with other partners to make sure that we have a smooth process for electoral process," he said.

The minister described the engagement with the British envoy as a continuation of existing diplomatic relations and cooperation between both countries.

He said that the visit provided an opportunity for the new high commissioner to familiarise himself with Nigeria's information management strategies and challenges.

Idris noted that Vowles had been in Nigeria for approximately eight weeks and was seeking to understand the country's information landscape, particularly the role of information in the electoral process.

The minister stressed that effective information management was essential to ensuring credible elections and preventing misinformation from influencing citizens' decisions.

He also reaffirmed Nigeria's willingness to collaborate with international partners in addressing emerging challenges associated with digital communication and AI.

Earlier, Vowles said the elections in Nigeria remained the country's sovereign responsibility, adding that discussions with the minister focused on the electoral landscape and government communication.

He said, "Obviously, the elections in Nigeria are sovereign issues for Nigeria."

The British envoy explained that his visit was intended to understand how the Nigerian government communicated with citizens and presented information about national developments.

According to him, the discussions also examined challenges confronting both Nigeria and the UK, particularly misinformation and fake news in the evolving digital environment.

"One of the challenges both our countries face sometimes is misinformation and particularly how challenging that is in a world with AI," Vowles said.

He noted that the UK also faced similar difficulties in addressing misinformation and fake news, making the issue a potential area for stronger bilateral cooperation.

The high commissioner said both countries could benefit from developing shared approaches to tackling information-related challenges and improving communication with their citizens.

He described the visit as an opportunity to discuss the UK-Nigeria partnership, future cooperation and ways to improve information management.

"It's a great opportunity to pay a courtesy call on the Honourable Minister of Information," he said. (NAN)

Terrorism trials: Nigeria records 2,512 convictions, targets collaborators



NIGERIA has secured 2,512 convictions in 11 phases of terrorism trials, with 791 convictions recorded in the latest phase, the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) says.

The Coordinator of NCTC, Maj.-Gen. AdamuLaka, disclosed this at a media conference on the outcome of the 11th phase of terrorism trials on Tuesday in Abuja.

Laka said the latest phase, conducted at the Federal High Court, Abuja, between Oct. 15 and 24, handled 1,069 cases across 10 courts.

He said the outcomes include 791 convictions, seven acquittals, 41 discharges, four cases struck out and three withdrawn.

According to him, 211 cases were adjourned, 11 remained pending, while one case was recorded under another category.

Laka said the first 10 phases had produced 1,721 convictions, bringing the cumulative figure to 2,512 following the latest exercise.

He described the outcome as a demonstration of the Federal Government's commitment to ensuring accountability for terrorism-related offences and strengthening the administration of criminal justice.

The NCTC coordinator said a significant outcome was the conviction and death sentence imposed on Suleiman Abu for membership of Boko Haram and participation in attacks on military facilities and civilians.

He said the attacks resulted in deaths and serious injuries, adding that the judgment demonstrated that perpetrators of terrorism would be held accountable when their guilt was established beyond reasonable doubt.

Laka, however, stressed the importance of judicial independence, constitutional rights and due process in the determination and enforcement of court decisions.

He disclosed that 201 terrorism financing cases were also handled during the latest phase, stressing that disrupting the financial networks supporting terrorism remained central to the country's counter-terrorism strategy.

According to him, terrorism financing networks provide resources for weapons, recruitment, movement and operational activities of terrorist groups.

He said the federal government would strengthen cooperation among investigative, prosecutorial, financial intelligence and other relevant institutions to identify and dismantle such networks.

Lakaemphasised that the objective of the trials was not to secure convictions at all costs, but to ensure that every case was determined fairly and in accordance with the law.

He said acquittals, discharges and other judicial outcomes were equally important components of a credible justice system.

The coordinator also called for sustained support for victims and survivors of terrorism, including rehabilitation, psychological assistance, access to justice and restoration of affected communities.

He said witnesses and victims required adequate protection against intimidation, threats and reprisals to enable them participate safely in investigations and prosecutions.

Laka attributed the outcomes to institutional cooperation, effective case preparation, evidence management and the timely production of defendants and witnesses.

He commended the dederal high court, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, prosecuting counsel, the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, defence counsel and security agencies for their contributions.

He also acknowledged the support of President Bola Tinubu and the National Security Adviser, MalamNuhuRibadu, for the country's counter-terrorism efforts.

Laka reaffirmed the government's resolve to sustain the fight against terrorism through security operations, prosecution, prevention and inter-agency cooperation.

He said the ultimate objective remained the protection of lives, restoration of affected communities and safeguarding of citizens' fundamental rights.

Speaking on the prosecution of collaborators, the Director of Legal Services, Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), MrZakariMijinyawa, said the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022, provided for a broad range of offences beyond direct participation in terrorist attacks.

Mijinyawa said the provisions covered preparatory offences, providing support to terrorism, financing, facilitating terrorist activities and other forms of collaboration.

He said individuals and organisations could face prosecution for knowingly supporting terrorists, even where the support did not directly result in an attack.

He cited the prohibition of support to terrorism, which attracted a minimum 20-year prison sentence, and the offence of renting property to terrorists.

Mijinyawa also said companies found to have received terrorist financing could face a fine of N200 million, irrespective of whether the funds were eventually used to commit a terrorist offence.

He urged Nigerians, particularly media practitioners and other stakeholders, to familiarise themselves with the relevant provisions of the law to better understand the country's counter-terrorism prosecution strategy.

On the rights of defendants, the Director of Public Prosecution, Federal Ministry of Justice, MrRotimiOyedepo, said the government would not prosecute anyone without sufficient evidence establishing a case to answer.

Oyedepo said the prosecution process involved collaboration among investigative agencies, arresting authorities, prosecutors, security institutions and the judiciary.

He said about 1,047 charges were filed during the latest phase, describing the exercise as evidence of the capacity of relevant institutions to handle complex terrorism-related cases.

He explained that cases found not to have sufficient evidence were subjected to legal review, with appropriate recommendations made to investigating agencies.

According to him, persons not indicted after investigations are recommended for release, rehabilitation and safe reintegration into society.

Oyedepo said such persons might require psychological support and community-based rehabilitation to overcome trauma and avoid being exposed to further security risks.

He also said defendants were not taken to court without legal representation, explaining that the prosecution transmitted relevant information to the legal aid council to facilitate legal support.

He added that private legal practitioners were also allowed to represent defendants, while international organisations, non-governmental organisations and diplomatic missions were invited to observe the proceedings.

Oyedepo said the judiciary independently assessed the evidence presented by the prosecution and determined whether it met the required legal threshold.

He stressed that the process was guided by the constitutional rights of defendants and the principle of fair hearing.

On the possibility of compensation for persons wrongly accused or whose rights were violated, Oyedepo said the constitution provided legal remedies, including damages and apologies ordered by competent courts.

He said the government would ensure that genuine cases of wrongful prosecution or violation of rights received appropriate attention in accordance with the law.

Also speaking, the Technical Assistant to the Director-General of the legal aid council of Nigeria, Mr Hassan Dauda, said defendants were given opportunities to interact with legal representatives before being brought to trial.

auda said legal teams visited detention facilities in Kainji and Maiduguri to interview defendants and assess their cases in a conducive environment.

He said the arrangement was part of coordinated efforts by government institutions to ensure that defendants enjoyed their constitutional right to legal representation, particularly in capital cases.

According to him, defendants who wish to engage private lawyers were also allowed to do so through the appropriate procedures. (***NAN***)

MUTFWANG, YILWATDA ATTEND 2026 GOSA REUNION SERVICE

Governor Mutfwang of Plateau State; National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda; and other prominent personalities on Sunday attended the 2026 reunion service of the Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA) and Gindiri College Old Students Association (GICOSA) at Ulster Church, Gindiri Schools Compound, Mangu Local Government Area



The National President of GOSA, Arc. Samuel Jatau (right), welcoming the governor (left) and APC National Chairman, Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda, to the reunion service



GOSA National President, Arc. Samuel Jatau, and his wife (right), with GICOSA President, Prof. Isuwa Jurmang



From left: Former Minister of Sports, Damishi Sango; Senator Diket Plang; Governor Mutfwang; Prof. Yilwatda and his wife, Martina Yilwatda; Rt. Hon. Naanlong Daniel; and Rufus Bature



From right: Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Education, Pankshin, Prof. Noel Wannang; Yari Kumchi; Chief David Barji; and House Majority Leader, Hon. Joseph Gokum



The governor (left) exchanging greetings with Rev. Prof. Pandang Yamsat and Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Go'ar



Cross-section of commissioners and other political appointees of the Plateau State Government



Cross-section of members of GOSA, GICOSA and other alumni associations



Mutfwang (left) in a discussion with APC National Chairman, Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Gindiri schools: GOSA reunion rekindles memories, sparks fresh push for academic revival

For generations, Gindiri's schools have served as institutions of learning, character formation and leadership, producing men and women who have distinguished themselves in different fields across Nigeria. However, as their former students gathered to celebrate decades of friendship, shared experiences and achievements, the reunion also brought into sharp focus the urgent need to preserve the academic legacy of their alma mater. SEKYEN WALSHAK reports on the 34th annual convention of the Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA), where nostalgia, calls for unity and renewed commitments to institutional revival converged around one overriding concern: restoring the declining academic standards of Gindiri's schools

IN the quiet community of Gindiri, Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State, an enduring legacy has been built over generations, producing men and women whose influence stretches across Nigeria and whose contributions continue to shape communities, institutions and society.

Behind this legacy is more than a school. It is a family formed by people born to different parents but united by a shared academic experience, common values and memories that have endured long after they left the classroom.

With nostalgic feelings, former students returned through the unity gates of their alma mater, reconnecting with old friends, teachers and memories, as well as a bond that has continued to bring generations together.

It was this spirit of belonging that defined the 34th annual convention, dinner and awards night of the 2026 Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA), held in Jos on Saturday and Sunday under the theme, 'Building Bridges: Connecting the Past with the Present'.

But beyond the reunion, celebrations and recognition of outstanding members was a stronger message: the need to rescue the academic standards of the institutions that provided generations of GOSA members with their educational foundation.

The concern over the schools' future also echoed the message of the keynote speaker, Prof. PlangsatDayil, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Jos and a proud alumna, who urged members to move beyond nostalgia and translate their shared history into responsibility.

Delivering the keynote address, Dayil recalled that Gindiri Boys' Secondary School was established in 1950, while Gindiri Girls' High School followed in 1958. She pointed out that the institutions were founded on Christian values, education, character formation and responsible living.

Dayil noted that the association's motto, 'For Light and Truth', should be reflected in how members live, lead, manage resources and relate with one another.

According to her, GOSA's heritage was built on faith, discipline, sacrifice, friendship and service, values that should not be reduced to ceremonial gatherings and annual celebrations.

She said that GOSA members must build bridges across generations by investing in mentorship, scholarships, improved laboratories, stocked libraries, functional technology and safe accommodation for current students.

She noted that the achievements and experiences of alumni could inspire younger students and help them see possibilities beyond their present circumstances.

"When a young girl or boy meets an engineer, lawyer, professor, entrepreneur, public servant, farmer or community leader who once sat in the same classroom, new possibilities suddenly seem attainable," Dayil said.

She also challenged older alumni to listen to younger members and current students rather than merely impose their experiences and expectations on them.



Old students of BSS



Cross section of worshippers

She urged GOSA members to ensure that their interventions were guided by evidence and accountability, noting that they needed to understand the actual challenges facing students, teachers and the wider school community.

"One day, we too will become the past," she reminded the gathering, stressing that future generations might never know the names of those who contributed to their success but would benefit from the bridges they built.

Dayil further called for greater inclusion within the association, warning that divisions based on graduation years, professional status, ethnicity, gender and personal interests could undermine the unity that brought members together.

She described a bridge built from only one side as incomplete, urging older and younger generations to work together to preserve the association's values and secure the future of the schools.

A governor's concern over academic decline

Governor Caleb Mutfwang, himself a proud alumnus of Gindiri, challenged members to demonstrate greater commitment to the survival and renewal of the schools, warning that the privileges and opportunities they had enjoyed must translate into meaningful contributions to the future of younger generations.

The governor expressed concern over the declining academic performance of the schools, particularly their recent West African Examinations Council (WAEC) results, describing the situation as unacceptable.

He urged the GOSA leadership and Board of Trustees to undertake a comprehensive review of the schools' administration, leadership and academic operations to identify the challenges responsible for the decline and implement appropriate corrective measures.

Mutfwang maintained that the association could not remain indifferent while the academic standards of its alma mater continued to deteriorate.

He called for collective support for the Gindiri Renewal Project, stressing that the sacrifices of missionaries, teachers, administrators and founding generations who established and nurtured the institutions must not be allowed to go in vain.

For the governor, the true measure of GOSA's achievements should not be the positions its members occupy or the recognition they receive, but the quality of institutions, opportunities and values they leave behind for the next generation.

The need to preserve that spirit of unity was also stressed by former Bauchi State Governor, Sani Muazu, who called on Nigerians to rise above tribalism, religious intolerance and other divisions standing in the way of national development.

Muazu commended GOSA for demonstrating that people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds could coexist peacefully, cooperate and pursue common goals.

He urged Nigerians to recognise their shared humanity and place collective national interests above religious and ethnic sentiments, noting that genuine unity and mutual understanding were necessary for addressing the country's challenges.

For GOSA, however, unity must go beyond peaceful coexistence to include compassion, generosity and practical service.

The Chairman of the Central Planning Committee, Prof. Josiah Mutihir, emphasised the need to strengthen the relationship between older and younger members of the association, particularly as younger alumni prepare to take up leadership responsibilities.

"We have noticed that it appears as if we are running on different platforms. The older ones and the younger ones, particularly the group of people they call Gen Z," the university don said.



Dignitaries at the service

He added that the association must deliberately ensure that younger members understand the values and principles that have sustained GOSA over the years.

"Sooner or later, we may not be there anymore. They are the ones to continue. So, what are the things that are dear to GOSA? We want a situation whereby they know those things," he said.

GOSA plans endowment fund, renewal project

The association's National President, Arc. Samuel Jatau, who is the Secretary to the Governrment of the State, SGS, noted that GOSA was not established merely as a social platform for alumni to display their achievements, influence or social standing, but as a vehicle for selfless service and meaningful contributions to society, particularly towards the less privileged and their alma mater.

He observed that many who entered Gindiri as young boys and girls had grown into accomplished men and women, some now with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He said their achievements should inspire them to give back to the institution that laid the foundation for their success.

Jatau disclosed that the Gindiri Renewal Project was receiving attention, with necessary steps being taken to restore the schools to their former academic standing.

He added that GOSA was working towards establishing an endowment fund to support the renewal initiative, particularly the restoration of sound academic standards at Boys' Secondary School (BSS) and Girls' High School (GHS), Gindiri.

He pointed out that GOSA planned to engage the church authorities on the challenges facing the schools but believed that the governor's intervention could help draw attention to the situation and encourage corrective action.

Jatau also sought the governor's support for the Gindiri Renewal Project and the proposed endowment fund, explaining that sustaining the institutions would require a stronger financial base.

The commitment was further highlighted on Sunday during the 42nd annual reunion service of the Gindiri compound schools, which was attended by the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and alumnus, Prof. NentaweYilwatda.

The gathering brought together old students, church leaders, school authorities and other stakeholders to reflect on the legacy of the institutions and the need to secure their future.

Yilwatda assured the gathering of his commitment to improving the learning environment, announcing that a solar-powered energy system would be completed before the end of the year. He also pledged support for improved water supply and disclosed plans to establish an endowment fund in collaboration with Governor Mutfwang.

Yilwatda's personal investment in the schools, particularly his role in renovating and transforming some classrooms, has also contributed to the efforts to restore the institutions.

He commended the founding fathers for laying a foundation of character, conviction and values, describing Gindiri as a formative community whose influence had extended beyond the classroom.

The Chaplain of the Ulster Church Chaplaincy, Rev. DawudaJakawa, said the reunion was an opportunity to reflect on the past, appreciate the present and look towards the future with hope.

"Today is more than a reunion; it is an opportunity to reflect on the past, appreciate the present, and look forward to the future with hope and thanksgiving," he said.

From reunion promises to lasting transformation

However, Jakawa also outlined areas requiring urgent attention, appealing for the completion of the perimeter fence, landscaping and beautification of the school environment, provision of a Hummer bus, improved staff welfare and construction of a new pastorium.

These requests point to the wider challenges facing the institutions, where improving academic performance must go hand in hand with providing the facilities, security and working conditions needed to attract and retain committed teachers.

Beyond speeches, reunions, pledges and renovation projects, the real test will be whether these commitments translate into better teaching, improved student performance, adequate facilities and an environment where teachers and learners can thrive.

For an association whose members have crossed different bridges to positions of influence across the country, the challenge now is to build one back to the institution that gave them their beginning.

The reunion may have rekindled old bonds and brought the past and present together, but the future of Gindiri's schools will depend on what their old students, government and the church are willing to do next.

Beyond Manna: Why the Church must rediscover the Bread of Life

By Rev. JOHN OKWII

BELOVED brothers and sisters in Christ, consider this important question: If God granted everything you have been praying for but you failed to receive eternal life, what exactly would you have gained? What is the value of acquiring wealth, property and earthly influence while remaining spiritually bankrupt? What is the benefit of escaping one danger while remaining enslaved to corruption, hatred, ignorance and injustice?

The encounter between Jesus and the people who followed Him after the feeding of the five thousand provides an important answer. Having witnessed the miracle of five loaves and two fish feeding thousands, the people searched for Jesus and crossed the sea to find Him. However, Jesus understood their motivation.

In John 6:26, He told them: "You seek me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled." They were interested in the bread but had failed to understand the significance of the person who provided it.

Jesus, therefore, redirected their attention in John 6:27: "Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life."

This exposes a major challenge facing Christianity when material provision becomes more important than spiritual transformation. We have people praying for wealth without embracing integrity, seeking powerful positions without learning responsible leadership and praying against enemies without practising forgiveness, justice and reconciliation.

We ask for miracles but sometimes neglect the transformation of our minds and character. We ask God to change our circumstances while resisting His demand that we change our lives.

There is nothing wrong with praying for daily bread. Jesus Himself taught His disciples to make that request. The problem arises when Christianity is reduced to the continuous pursuit of material benefits while the gift of eternal life is neglected. God provides bread to sustain physical existence, but through Jesus Christ, he offers something greater: eternal life.

When the Israelites escaped slavery in Egypt, they entered a wilderness where survival presented enormous challenges. They had gained freedom but had not reached the Promised Land. Faced with hunger, they complained, and God responded by providing manna from heaven.

Manna was a demonstration of God's faithfulness, compassion and sustaining power. However, it was intended for a particular historical circumstance. It had to be gathered regularly, could not provide permanent physical security and could not prevent death. Although the Israelites received this miraculous provision, many eventually died in the wilderness.

Jesus therefore reminded his listeners in John 6:49, "Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead." He was not dismissing the miracle performed during Moses' leadership. Rather, he was explaining that although manna was important, it was not the ultimate provision God had prepared for humanity.

The Israelites needed more than physical food. They needed redemption, spiritual maturity and a lasting relationship with God. Similarly, a church that continually prays for material provision but neglects knowledge, discipline, productive work, responsibility and spiritual growth risks producing religiously dependent people rather than mature disciples.

Jesus takes this teaching further when he declares in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life." Unlike manna, which was something God provided, Jesus presents himself as God's ultimate gift to humanity. In John 6:51, he declares, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever."

The distinction is fundamental. Manna sustained physical life temporarily, but Christ offers eternal life. He does not merely promise to give us something that sustains existence. He offers himself as the foundation of our salvation.

Eating the Bread of Life means believing in Christ, accepting his sacrifice, living according to his teachings and remaining in fellowship with him. It means allowing his character to influence our decisions, relationships and conduct rather than merely admiring him from a distance.

A person can attend church every Sunday, carry a Bible and sing Christian songs without allowing the teachings of Jesus to govern his or her life. Christianity is not simply about obtaining things from Jesus. It is about receiving him, following him and allowing his life to transform ours.

Danger of Manna-centred Christianity, the cost of ignorance

Let me make an important clarification. There is nothing wrong with praying for employment, healing, financial breakthroughs, protection or success. God is concerned about our material needs, and Jesus taught his disciples to pray for daily bread.

The danger begins when material provision becomes the centre of our theology, preaching and understanding of God's purpose. When Christians measure God's presence primarily by the material benefits they receive, they risk misunderstanding the Gospel.

We cannot pray for prosperity while neglecting integrity, celebrate wealth acquired through corruption or seek positions of authority without accepting the responsibility that comes with leadership. Similarly, we cannot continually pray against enemies while refusing to practise reconciliation and love our neighbours.

Prayer must also be accompanied by responsible action. A student who prays for academic success must study, a farmer who seeks a good harvest must embrace productive agricultural practices, and someone seeking healing should not reject appropriate medical attention. Faith is not an excuse for irresponsibility.

The Church must, therefore, move beyond prayer without transformation, knowledge, obedience and accountability. Jesus did not call people merely to become consumers of miracles. He called them to become disciples.

This brings us to another serious problem confronting Christianity in Nigeria and Africa: ignorance. Hosea 4:6 declares, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

Ignorance can manifest in different ways. Spiritual death occurs when humanity becomes alienated from God through sin, while intellectual death develops when people surrender their capacity to think, investigate, question and learn. Christians who accept every religious claim without examination become vulnerable to manipulation and deception.

We must reject the false assumption that education and spirituality are enemies. African Christianity needs prayerful people who can also think, study, understand history, appreciate science and engage responsibly with economics, agriculture, technology and public administration.

There is also moral death, which occurs when corruption, exploitation, dishonesty and violence become normalised. A church may be crowded but morally weak, just as a society may have impressive religious institutions while continuing to suffer injustice.

Social and institutional death follow when people abandon their responsibilities towards one another and institutions become instruments of personal enrichment rather than public service. A church loses its purpose when leaders prioritise personal wealth above the Gospel, while government institutions lose credibility when public resources are treated as private property.

Jesus offers more than the preservation of biological existence. He offers a life that transforms our relationship with God, ourselves and society. We must therefore stop measuring life exclusively by our possessions, positions and years on earth and begin asking whether we are genuinely alive in Christ.

The Bread of Life in a country experiencing suffering, insecurity

What does this message mean for Christians living in Nigeria and other African countries? How can we preach eternal life when innocent people are being murdered,



communities are displaced, farmers cannot safely access their fields and young people struggle to find opportunities?

The Gospel must never become an escape from the realities of human suffering. Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, confronted hypocrisy, defended the vulnerable and wept at the grave of Lazarus. His ministry demonstrated that concern for eternal life must go hand in hand with compassion for people experiencing earthly difficulties.

When terrorism, kidnapping and violence destroy communities, the church must do more than tell survivors to pray and move on. We must pray, but we must also support displaced families, provide assistance to vulnerable people, comfort grieving families and promote peaceful coexistence.

We must refuse to justify violence in the name of religion, ethnicity or political ambition. We must encourage responsible reporting of threats and cooperation with lawful security institutions. If Christ is the Bread of Life, the church must become a community that protects, nourishes and serves humanity.

The same message must challenge bad leadership and governance. The church cannot remain silent about corruption, the misuse of public resources, exploitation of poor people and the manipulation of citizens through ethnic and religious divisions. Public office is a responsibility, not an opportunity for personal enrichment.

Christians must demonstrate responsible citizenship by rejecting bribery, demanding transparency, supporting accountable institutions and participating constructively in society. We cannot pray for a better country while participating in the very practices that undermine its development.

Similarly, unemployment and poverty require more than repeated prayer meetings. We must encourage education, vocational training, entrepreneurship, agricultural development, innovation and productive work. Churches should become centres where young people acquire skills, develop their abilities and receive support to become economically productive.

A Church that preaches the Bread of Life must also demonstrate practical concern for hungry people, widows, orphans and vulnerable families.

Religious manipulation must equally be confronted through sound biblical teaching and accountability. Not every prophecy is genuine, not every financial appeal represents divine instruction and not every successful ministry necessarily reflects faithfulness to the Gospel. Christians must return to Scripture and examine religious claims in the light of Christ's teachings and character.

However, we must also understand that Jesus does not promise that believers will never experience physical death. John 11:25–26 declares, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

The apostles died, Christian martyrs died, and faithful pastors, missionaries and believers have experienced physical death. The promise of Christ is not permanent biological existence on earth but victory over death through resurrection.

Our hope is, therefore, founded on the risen Christ. We may experience suffering, bereavement and persecution, but none of these can cancel God's promise of eternal life. As Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:51–57, death will ultimately be defeated through the resurrection.

Christianity does not deny suffering or death. It declares that neither has the final authority over those who belong to Christ.

Our response, call to action

What would the church look like if it genuinely understood the teaching of Jesus in John 6? It would become a community that produces mature disciples rather than people who depend exclusively on the next miracle.

Such a Church would encourage prayer alongside personal responsibility, celebrate miracles without replacing Christ-centred discipleship, promote biblical and intellectual maturity and teach that prosperity must be accompanied by integrity.

It would challenge tribal hostility, religious intolerance and discrimination while encouraging servant leadership, transparency and accountability among pastors and other church leaders. Above all, it would prepare believers not merely to succeed in this world but to live faithfully before God.

The Church must become a place where people discover Christ, develop their gifts, acquire knowledge, support one another and contribute positively to society. This is the kind of fellowship reflected in Acts 2:42–47 and Acts 4:32–35.

Every Christian must examine his or her life. Are we following Jesus because of who he is or merely because of what we expect him to give us? Has our faith made us more knowledgeable, responsible, truthful and compassionate? Are we asking God to change our circumstances while refusing to change our behaviour?

Does our church produce mature disciples or merely people who continually depend on miracles? If we were to face physical death today, would our confidence rest in our possessions, achievements and religious activities or in Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life?

These questions are intended to awaken us to the true meaning of Christianity.

Beloved, there is nothing wrong with asking God for bread, employment, healing, protection and deliverance from insecurity. But we must not stop there. We must move from asking for bread to knowing the Bread of Life, from seeking miracles to becoming disciples, from ignorance to knowledge, from corruption to integrity, from hatred to love and from selfishness to service.

The Israelites received manna, but they eventually died. Jesus offers something greater because he offers himself as the source of eternal life. Our earthly possessions may disappear, political systems may disappoint us, economic circumstances may change and our bodies may become weak, but the life Christ gives cannot be destroyed by the grave.

Rev. Prof. John Brown Okwii, the Serving Pastor, Assemblies of God Church, Hwolshe, opposite Model Academy, along Yakubu Gowon Way, Jos, writes via johnbrownokwii@gmail.com

Set 5 takes fake news campaign to Township Secondary School, Terminus Market

By JENNIFER YARIMA



Students and team at township secondary school, Jos

FAKE news spreads faster than fire, costs less than data and can be more dangerous than a gun. In an election season when lies dress up in agbada to masquerade as truth, saying no to fake news is no longer merely a matter of digital literacy; it is a question of survival.

In an age when a single click can send a rumour to thousands of people within seconds, fake news has become one of the most dangerous threats to peace, unity and personal safety.

From doctored images to misleading voice notes that trigger false alarms, the consequences have been severe, resulting in broken relationships, panicked communities and, in some cases, violence.

Against this background, the Media and Community Development Sector Project Team, Set 5, of the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development (Centre LSD), in collaboration with the Mountain of Hope Foundation Leadership School, embarked on an advocacy and sensitisation campaign at Township Secondary School and Terminus Market, all in Jos.

The outreach was a practical community service project required of participants of the Leadership School and was designed to translate lessons in leadership into tangible benefits for the community.

The campaign deliberately targeted young people, who are among the most active users of social media and, consequently, particularly vulnerable to both consuming and spreading unverified information.

According to the team, secondary school students were selected because of their extensive engagement with digital platforms. From WhatsApp and TikTok to Facebook and X, many young people create, comment on and share content daily without fully understanding the principles that guide the safe and responsible use of the digital space.

The team stressed that what people share online can build or destroy an individual's life, a community and even a nation.

Fake news, the dangers to election campaigns

Beyond its general dangers, the team highlighted the more devastating consequences of fake news during political campaigns and election periods.

It observed that during campaigns, fake news often dresses up in agbada to appear credible, sound urgent and manipulate public emotions. Such information is deliberately weaponised to provoke anger and score cheap political points, without regard for the damage it inflicts on society.

During election periods, fake news can cause incalculable harm. It fuels ethnic and religious divisions by spreading fabricated stories intended to turn one group against another or portray a candidate or community as an enemy. This can heighten political tension, particularly in a sensitive state such as Plateau.

Fake news can also destroy reputations and tear families apart. Doctored videos, fabricated audio recordings and cloned chat messages are sometimes used to blackmail and defame innocent candidates and their families.

It can further discourage voter participation and incite violence. When people are fed false claims that elections have already been rigged or that violence is imminent, some may stay away from polling stations, while others may prepare for confrontation.

Ultimately, fake news threatens peace and democracy. When citizens make electoral decisions based on falsehoods or develop hatred towards their neighbours because of fabricated stories, society bears the consequences long after the elections.

Speaking on behalf of the group, DasheZwalnan and NkechiAbok delivered a strong and practical message to the students: do not create fake news, believe it blindly or spread it.

They explained that fake news-related information falls into two major categories: misinformation, which is false information shared without the intention to cause harm and disinformation, which is deliberately fabricated or spread to deceive and inflict harm. Both, they stressed, are dangerous.

"Fake news spreads like wildfire. One share from you can have a ripple effect that goes beyond your imagination. Before you share that broadcast message, that picture, or that voice note, you must pause," Dashe Gabriel stated.

NkechiAbok added: "You must not create fake information, you must not believe it blindly and you must not spread it. Be responsible for what leaves your phone."

To reinforce the message, the team taught the students a simple three-step safety rule: stop, check and verify.

The students were advised to stop and resist the urge to share information immediately; check the source to determine whether it is credible; and verify the information through trusted news outlets, official school authorities or fact-checking platforms before forwarding it.

The facilitators also highlighted the far-reaching dangers of fake news, including the spread of fear and panic during crises, the destruction of reputations, the fuelling of ethnic and religious conflicts, the promotion of cyberbullying and possible legal consequences under the Cybercrimes Act.

They cited instances in which unverified reports of kidnappings and communal clashes circulated on social media, causing unnecessary tension among parents and students in different locations.

Community sensitisation, responsibility of leadership

Beyond the school premises, the team extended its advocacy to the wider public by distributing informational fliers at Metro Bus Station in Terminus Market, Jos.

The exercise was aimed at sensitising traders, commuters and other members of the public to the importance of verifying information before sharing it.

Setting the tone for the campaign, the Coordinator of the Centre LSD Plateau State Leadership School, Jugu Kwon, explained the philosophy behind the school's community development project.

According to him, the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development was established to address Nigeria's leadership deficit by developing strategic leadership for sustainable development.

He disclosed that the Centre believed that genuine leadership could not be taught in the classroom alone but must also be demonstrated through practical service to the community.

"Our mandate at Centre LSD is to raise a new generation of leaders who understand that development is not the sole responsibility of government. That is why community development is a compulsory part of our leadership training," Kwon explained.

"We were established because we realised that Nigeria's greatest challenge is leadership. And you cannot build leaders without giving them the opportunity to identify a problem in their community and provide a solution."

He added that the Centre deliberately encouraged participants to move beyond academic discussions and certificates to address practical challenges affecting their communities.

"We tell them, leadership is not in grammar. Go to the people, feel their pulse, solve their problem. That is why they were not just in Township Secondary School, but were also at Terminus Market sharing fliers. That is what leadership does, it goes to where the people are and creates impact."

Reacting to the outreach, the school's Vice-Principal, Administration, Mrs Victoria Ishaku, commended the team for what she described as a timely intervention.

She said the sensitisation campaign had been an eye-opener and appealed for the partnership to be sustained to ensure that future students continued to benefit from such initiatives in the digital age.

"We appreciate Centre LSD and Mountain of Hope Foundation Leadership School. This is what our students need to enable them utilise social media responsibly. We want this partnership to continue," she said.

In a chat with some students after the session, senior students Ruth Peter and Anike Precious said the campaign had changed their attitudes towards sharing information.

Ruth said she had learnt to stop spreading information capable of harming society and would no longer post unverified content.

Anike, on her part, said: "The new knowledge I gained is to say no to fake news. I will stop, think and verify before I post to avoid sharing harmful information."

The session ended with a collective pledge by the students to say no to fake news and yes to verified and responsible information sharing.



Media Sector project team set 5 of center LSD Jos

THE Nigeria Standard

TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

Editorial

NLC, TUC, stop the needless bickering

THE disagreement between the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) over the Federal Government's N70,000 monthly transport allowance for public servants raises serious questions about the priorities of the country's organised labour movement. At a time when millions of Nigerians are struggling with the consequences of a difficult economic environment, labour leaders should be concentrating on how to secure meaningful relief for the people rather than allowing differences over government negotiations to divide them.

THE removal of the fuel subsidy in 2023 marked a turning point in the economic lives of Nigerians. Since then, households have had to contend with rising expenditure on virtually every necessity, including food, transportation, accommodation and healthcare. Workers on fixed salaries have found it increasingly difficult to meet their obligations, while millions outside the formal employment sector are equally struggling to survive. Even the N70,000 minimum wage introduced in 2024 has not adequately protected workers against the persistent loss of purchasing power.

AGAINST this background, we consider the disagreement over the six-month transport allowance, commencing in November 2026, a distraction from the more pressing issues confronting Nigerian workers. Whether the government's offer is adequate or not should be the subject of constructive discussions between the unions. The TUC is entitled to question the terms of an agreement, just as the NLC can defend the outcome of its negotiations. What is unacceptable is allowing these differences to degenerate into public confrontations and divisions among affiliated unions.

THE growing alignment of some affiliated unions with either of the two labour centres is another development that should concern every Nigerian worker. Organised labour derives much of its bargaining strength from the ability to speak with a common voice. When its leadership becomes preoccupied with disagreements over representation and negotiating authority, the government is left facing a movement whose attention and energies are divided. This can only weaken the unions' capacity to obtain better conditions for their members.

MOREOVER, the unions must look beyond the immediate concerns of public servants and appreciate the wider economic circumstances of the country. The hardship is not confined to government employees. Farmers, traders, artisans, private-sector workers, pensioners, entrepreneurs and unemployed Nigerians are all contending with the same harsh economic realities. An intervention that improves the purchasing power of workers also has wider economic implications because their earnings support businesses, families and communities. Labour must, therefore, recognise that the welfare of its members cannot be completely separated from the wellbeing of the larger society.

WE are equally concerned that the latest confrontation could strengthen the existing public perception that some labour leaders place personal ambitions, leadership positions and institutional influence above the interests of those they represent. Such perceptions are damaging to the labour movement, particularly when workers are looking up to their leaders for protection and direction. The credibility of organised labour depends on the extent to which its leadership can rise above personal considerations and deliver practical improvements in the lives of its members.

THE timing of this disagreement is also unfortunate because important questions concerning workers' remuneration and outstanding agreements remain unresolved. With the Federal Government maintaining that the next statutory review of the current minimum wage is due in June 2027, the unions should be developing a coordinated position ahead of that exercise. They must pursue improved salaries, better working conditions, affordable transportation, healthcare support and other measures that respond to the actual cost of living. A temporary allowance may provide some assistance, but it cannot replace a lasting improvement in workers' earnings and living standards.

THE Federal Government must also demonstrate sincerity in its dealings with organised labour. It should not exploit disagreements between the two labour centres to frustrate legitimate demands or delay the implementation of agreements. Both unions have constituencies whose interests deserve consideration, and government negotiations should be guided by transparency, fairness and respect for established labour processes.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD believes that the present disagreement offers the leaderships of both organisations an opportunity to reconsider their approach and place the welfare of Nigerian workers above their institutional differences. We urge the NLC and TUC to reopen constructive discussions, harmonise their demands where possible and develop a common strategy for engaging the government. Their energies would be better spent negotiating improved conditions for workers than contesting which organisation should exercise greater authority within the labour movement.

ULTIMATELY, the purpose of unionism is to give workers a collective voice and protect their dignity, welfare and rights. It demands commitment to a cause greater than the ambitions of individual leaders. The NLC and TUC must demonstrate this understanding by closing ranks and pursuing the interests of workers and the wider population. At a time when Nigerians are making enormous sacrifices to cope with economic hardship, their labour leaders should be equally prepared to make sacrifices of their own. The country needs a labour movement united by purpose and guided by the welfare of the people it exists to serve.

Editor: HENRIETTA GONZUK



Nigeria must end the culture of political violence

Dear Editor,

NIGERIA'S democracy cannot thrive where political campaigns become a source of fear, violence and destruction. The recent reports of political violence in Katsina State should not be dismissed as mere disorder. Rather, they should serve as a wakeup call to political leaders, security agencies and relevant authorities to strengthen measures that will guarantee peaceful political participation across the country.

For how long will Nigeria continue to witness political violence before establishing and enforcing effective safety measures to protect citizens during political rallies and campaigns? NigerianNews Updates

In a democratic society, political competition should be based on ideas, policies, debates and the freedom of citizens to choose their leaders. Violence, intimidation and the destruction of property have no place in a system that recognises the right of every eligible citizen to vote and be voted for.

An educated and politically conscious society understands that political disagreements do not have to result in hostility. Citizens should be free to support their preferred candidates, attend political rallies, express their opinions and participate in campaigns without fearing attacks because of their political affiliations.

While political debates and campaigns are essential to democracy, ensuring the safety of participants is equally important. Political parties, therefore, have a responsibility to educate their supporters on peaceful conduct, respect for opposing views and the need to protect public and private property during political activities.

Security agencies and relevant authorities must also move beyond routine assurances of safety. They should develop and enforce practical security arrangements before, during and after political rallies. Such measures should include proper crowd management, risk assessment, early identification of potential threats and appropriate sanctions for individuals who engage in political violence.

It is not enough to condemn political violence after lives have been lost or properties destroyed. Prevention must become a priority.

Every election season, Nigerians express concern over political violence, often taking to social media to condemn attacks and demand justice. However, the question remains: how long will citizens continue to raise their voices against this menace without seeing lasting solutions?

Addressing political violence requires more than public condemnation. It demands sustained action at the grassroots level, where political mobilisation often begins. Community leaders, traditional institutions, youth organisations, political party representatives and civil society groups must work together to discourage violence and promote peaceful political engagement.

Young people, in particular, must understand that political loyalty should never become a reason to endanger their lives or the lives of others. No political ambition is worth the destruction of lives, the loss of property or the breakdown of peaceful relationships within communities.

Political leaders must also be held accountable for the conduct of their supporters. Those who encourage, finance or deliberately exploit violence for political advantage should face the consequences of their actions in accordance with the law. At the same time, the authorities must ensure that investigations and prosecutions are impartial and free from political interference.

Democracy becomes meaningful when citizens can disagree without becoming enemies. A supporter of one political party should be able to engage with a supporter of another party without fear of physical assault, threats or destruction of property. Political differences should encourage constructive debate, not hatred and violence.

The situation in Katsina State, alongside other incidents of political violence across Nigeria, should remind us that democratic freedom cannot be separated from public safety. Where citizens are afraid to attend rallies, express political opinions or campaign for their preferred candidates, the democratic process is weakened. NigerianNews Updates

Nigeria must wake up to the dangers of political violence. The responsibility to protect democracy does not rest on the government alone; it requires collective commitment from political parties, security agencies, community leaders and citizens.

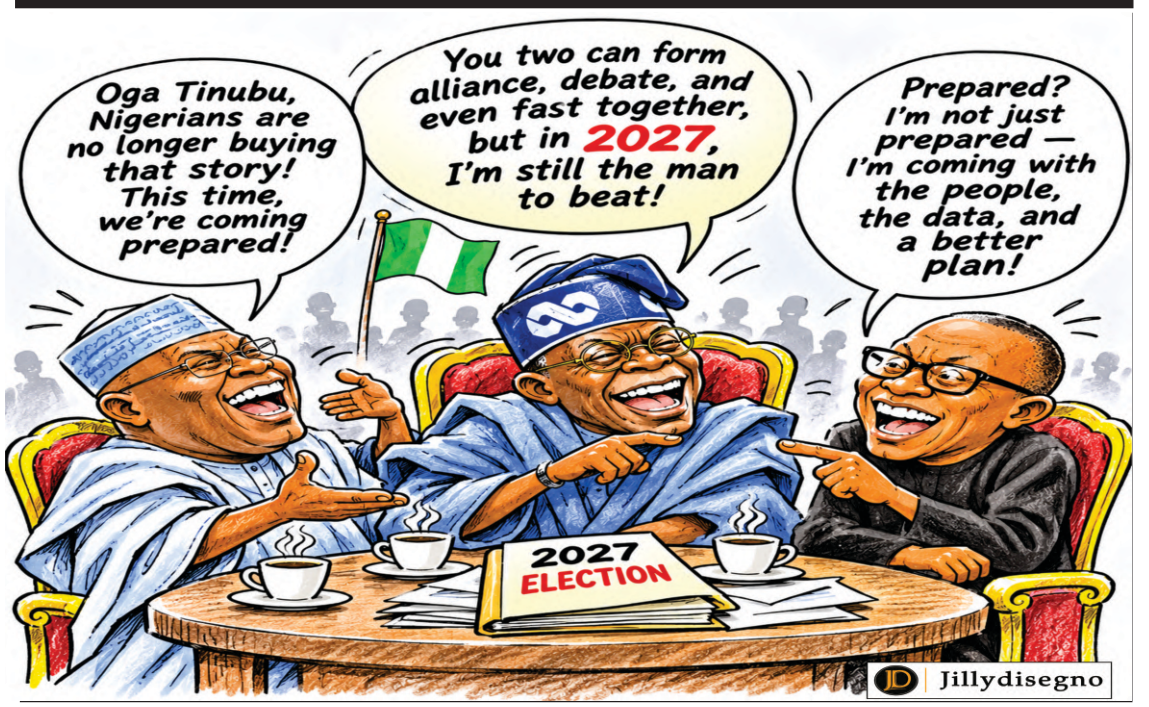
The time has come to replace political hostility with dialogue, intimidation with tolerance, and violence with peaceful competition. Authorities must take concrete steps to protect political activities, while political parties must demonstrate that winning elections should never come at the expense of human life and public peace.

If these measures are taken seriously and implemented consistently, Nigeria can build a political environment where every citizen enjoys the freedom to campaign, participate and vote without fear. NigerianNews Updates

Political freedom is a democratic right, but protecting lives and property is a collective responsibility. Nigeria must ensure that political differences never become a licence for violence.

Idris Rufai, idrisrufai774@gmail.com

THE NIGERIA
STANDARD CARTOON



Fresh foreign loans: Nigerians divided over Tinubu's $20.52bn borrowing plan

President Bola Tinubu's request for the National Assembly's approval to secure fresh external loans totalling $20.52 billion and €1.045 billion has generated mixed reactions among Nigerians, with some supporting the move as a necessary step towards national development, while others are concerned about the country's rising debt profile. Respondents share their views on the president's request and its possible implications for Nigeria's economy and future generations

Compiled by LOIS DADU'UT & HOSEA NYAMLONG

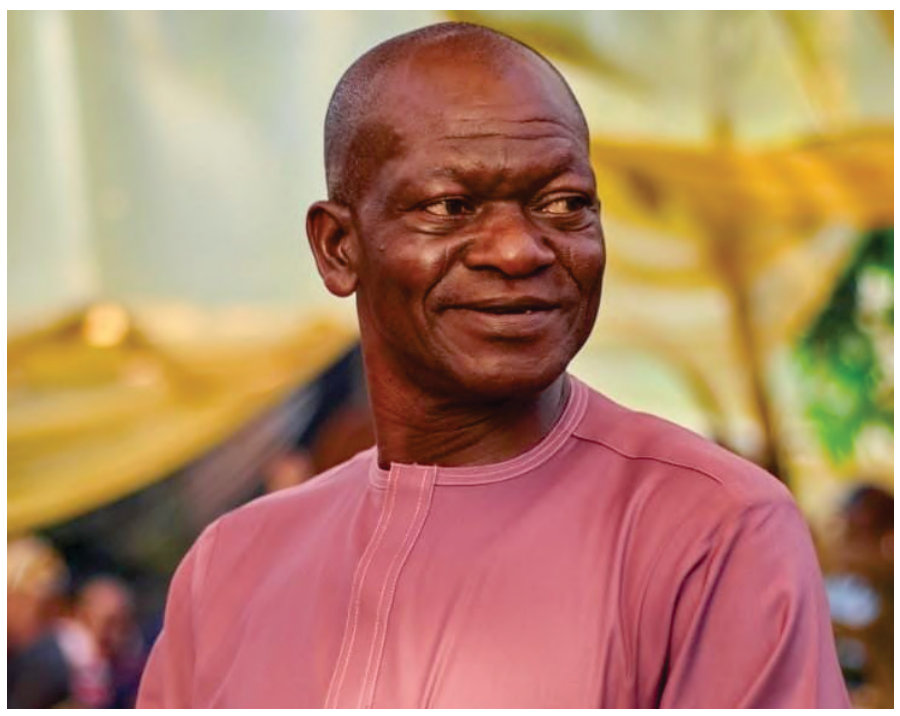


REGINA ADELOKUN, Odo-OnaKekere, Ibadan, Oyo State

SINCERELY, I do not think this additional loan is necessary at this time, considering that the benefits of previous loans are yet to be felt in the lives of ordinary Nigerians. We are still struggling with bad roads, rising transportation costs, high prices of essential commodities and inadequate healthcare services, among other challenges.

The question is: what tangible impact have the previous loans made on the lives of ordinary citizens, and what guarantees do we have that this new borrowing will be used for its intended purpose? One is also tempted to ask whether this fresh loan request has any connection with the forthcoming 2027 general elections.

These are genuine concerns, and I believe our leaders and elders owe Nigerians some clear explanations. After all, it is our children and future generations who may eventually bear the burden of repaying these debts.



JITE KOPDUNGHA, Living Faith Church, Rantya, Jos South LGA

I BELIEVE it is no longer news that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has asked the National Assembly to approve fresh external loans amounting to $20.52 billion and €1.045 billion under the Federal Government's 2026–2027 Supplementary External Borrowing Plan to finance critical sectors such as infrastructure, power, transportation, healthcare, agriculture, education and security. It is unfortunate that Nigeria, which once supported other nations financially, has become heavily dependent on borrowing, largely due to several economic and governance challenges.

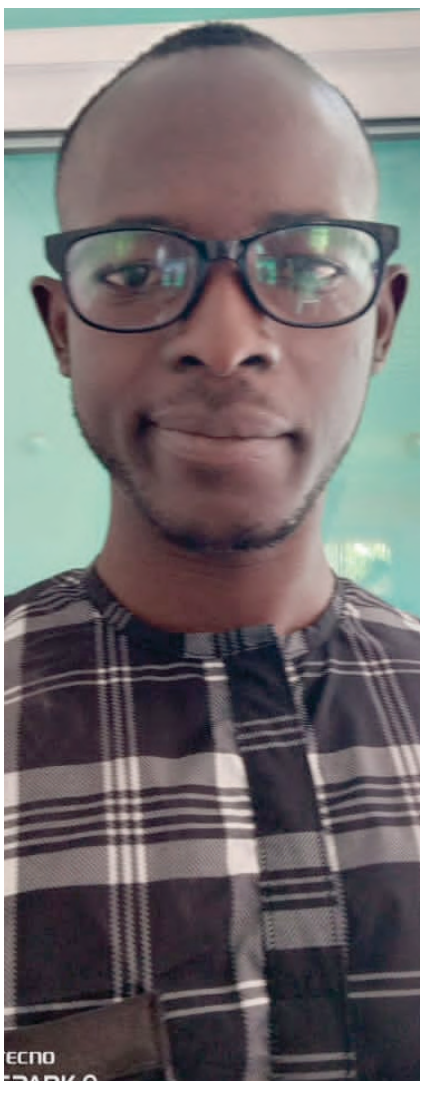
While borrowing for critical infrastructure is not necessarily a bad idea, its success will depend on sincerity of purpose, transparency and prudent management. In my opinion, the country may proceed with the loans, provided the funds are strictly invested in the targeted revenue-generating projects capable of stimulating economic growth, creating employment, improving citizens' living conditions and generating enough revenue to support repayment.



KICHIME GOJIM, Zaramaganda, Jos South LGA

IN my opinion, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's request for additional foreign loans amounting to $20.52 billion and €1.045 billion should be treated with caution, particularly given Nigeria's rising debt profile and the economic hardship currently facing citizens. Although borrowing can promote economic growth, create employment opportunities and improve living conditions when properly invested in critical sectors such as infrastructure, power, agriculture, healthcare, education and transportation, the government must demonstrate transparency, accountability and prudent management of the funds.

I believe the National Assembly should thoroughly scrutinise the proposal and approve only what is necessary and economically justified, with a credible repayment plan in place. At the same time, the government must focus on improving revenue generation, reducing waste and ensuring that every borrowed naira translates into meaningful development and a better standard of living for ordinary Nigerians.



DAVID ADUKA, Grace and Hope American Academy, Jos

PRESIDENT Tinubu's request for $20.52 billion and €1.045 billion in fresh external loans under the 2026–2027 Supplementary Borrowing Plan presents a difficult situation that requires careful consideration. Ideally, if the loans are obtained on favourable, long-term repayment terms and strictly invested in critical capital projects such as infrastructure, power, transportation, healthcare, agriculture and education, they could help address Nigeria's infrastructure deficit, stimulate economic growth, create jobs, improve productivity and enhance the living conditions of citizens.

However, the reality is that Nigeria already has a high debt profile and debt-servicing-to-revenue ratio. More importantly, the government has continued to borrow without Nigerians seeing commensurate improvements in critical sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, education and agriculture. Instead, citizens continue to grapple with untold economic hardship.



JOSHUA AKPA, Gondola Street, Jos North LGA

MY opinion on the president's latest request for approval to secure additional loans is one of shock and disappointment, particularly considering the level of intelligence and competence Nigerians expected from him. According to a report by The Guardian, which I came across during my research, this administration has borrowed more within 24 months than Nigeria did in its previous 55 years, yet there appears to be little visible evidence of the impact of these borrowings.

More importantly, while the government talks about borrowing to promote economic growth, develop infrastructure, improve healthcare and education, and create jobs, it must not overlook security, which is a critical foundation for national development. Nigeria is facing challenges in several sectors, and I do not believe accumulating more foreign debts is the best solution. Instead, the government should look inward, strengthen its revenue-generating capacity and explore sustainable ways of mobilising domestic resources to address the country's pressing challenges.

Inside Jos Vegetable Market: How rising costs are squeezing farmers, traders, transporters

Every bag of carrots, cabbage or green beans passing through Jos's Building Materials vegetable market represents more than an agricultural commodity; it embodies the hard work, financial risks and survival truggles of farmers, transporters, retailers and countless others whose livelihoods depend on the trade. In this report, NANCY MAJEKODUNMI of our Business Desk explores how rising fuel prices, transportation difficulties, limited capital, insecurity and inadequate infrastructure are squeezing profits across the market's extensive supply chain, even as its produce continues to reach consumers and businesses across Nigeria and neighbouring countries

On Tuesdays and Saturdays, the vegetable section of the Building Materials Market in Bukuru, Jos South Local Government Area, Plateau State, comes alive with intense commercial activity.

Farmers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters, consumers and young men pushing wheelbarrows jostle for space as fresh vegetables change hands in a market that connects rural farms to households and businesses across Nigeria and beyond.

The crowd is often so thick that navigating the narrow pathways becomes difficult. Bags of carrots, heaps of cabbage and bundles of green beans fill the available spaces as buyers negotiate prices, traders calculate their earnings and transporters struggle to manoeuvre their vehicles through the congestion.

Beneath this familiar bustle, however, lies a complex business network that sustains thousands of livelihoods. From farmers cultivating vegetables in rural communities to retailers selling them in neighbourhood markets, the Building Materials vegetable market represents a significant link in Plateau State's agricultural economy.

While the market continues to attract buyers from different parts of the country, rising fuel prices, expensive transportation, limited capital, inadequate parking facilities and security concerns are placing increasing pressure on those who depend on it for their daily income.

According to the Secretary of the Vegetable Traders Association, Mohammed Fodio, the market has existed for more than 60 years, dating back to the period when Europeans were present in the area. He explained that it was previously located within Jos town, with the railway playing an important role in transporting goods.

Today, the vegetable section is part of a larger commercial centre comprising five major sections dealing in timber, steel, vegetables, potatoes and clothing. Each section has its own union, while a general union coordinates activities across the market.

Cabbage, carrots and green beans are among the vegetables that attract considerable demand. Fodio said the market's ability to maintain a steady supply throughout the year depends on traders' willingness to travel to other states when local production declines.

"When we have less supply, we go to other states where the season is still on to purchase and bring the vegetables back so that the market can continue moving," he explained.

According to him, traders sometimes travel to Katsina, Gombe and Adamawa to obtain produce when supplies from Plateau State run short.

The market operates mainly on Tuesdays and Saturdays, with Saturday particularly important for buyers supplying businesses in Lagos. Its reach also extends beyond Nigeria. Fodio said that buyers from Chad, Niger and Cameroon visit the market to purchase vegetables. Other buyers obtain Plateau produce through traders and other outlets operating in Lagos.

He added that Plateau vegetables are valued by traders for their ability to remain fresh for relatively longer periods than produce from some other locations.

This extensive distribution network makes the market an important hub for agricultural commerce, but it also exposes farmers and traders to the costs and risks associated with transporting perishable goods over long distances.

For farmers, the business offers opportunities to earn a living, build homes and support their families. However, rising production and transportation costs are increasingly eating into their earnings.

Mary Joshua, a carrot farmer from Jebu Miago, Bassa Local Governement Area of Plateau State, lamented that the high cost of fuel had significantly increased the amount she spends transporting her produce to the market.

"I used to transport my goods from the village to this market for N800 per bag, but now it is N2,000 or more per bag," she explained.

The increase means that farmers must spend more to bring the same quantity of produce to market, putting additional pressure on their profit margins.

Joshua also complained about the difficulty of obtaining fertiliser, adding that, in her experience, the distribution of subsidised fertiliser by the government had not been sufficiently transparent.

She expressed hope that the situation would improve, enabling farmers to produce and sell their crops under better conditions.

Her experience reflects a broader challenge in agricultural business: farmers must contend with the cost of farm inputs and transportation before determining how much they will earn from their harvest.

Despite these difficulties, some farmers remain convinced that vegetable farming can provide a sustainable source of income.

Dung Chuwang, a farmer from Foron, Barakin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, disclosed that he inherited the business from his father and had been able to build his house from its proceeds.

"I built my house from this business. I inherited this business from my father, and I am happy with what I earn daily from it," he said.

Chuwang described agriculture as a gold mine that had yet to be fully harnessed, provided that all the necessary conditions for success were in place.

His experience demonstrates the financial possibilities of commercial farming, although individual earnings depend on production costs, market prices, the quality of produce and the availability of buyers.

Fodio cited cabbage as an example of the scale of transactions possible in the market, saying a bag was selling for about N90,000 at the time of the interview and that some farmers could harvest as many as 300 bags.

Such figures illustrate the volume of business involved, but they do not necessarily represent profit, as farmers must deduct production, harvesting, handling and transportation expenses

Rising transport costs, insecurity, calls for govt intervention

Transportation is another major component of the vegetable business, linking farms to the market and connecting Jos to destinations across the country. However, transporters say rising fuel prices have made their work more expensive, leaving some with little profit after meeting vehicle maintenance costs.

Friday Karya, a transporter who conveys goods to the market, said he and other operators usually leave home as early as 4.30 a.m. or 5 a.m. on market days to arrive in time to offload their goods and secure parking spaces.





Despite these early departures, he said the lack of adequate parking facilities creates additional difficulties. Transporters sometimes have to drive their vehicles to locations far from the market after offloading their goods to make room for other trucks.

He also complained about alleged extortion by police officers along the road, particularly on the Rantya Road from Miango, saying such experiences frustrate their businesses and increase operating costs.

Security at alternative parking locations is another source of concern. Karya said vehicles had reportedly been stolen from the school premises where some transporters park after leaving the market. The situation has forced some operators to choose between participating in market activities and remaining behind to guard their vehicles.

Another transporter, David Yakubu, corroborated the challenges raised by Karya.

The security concerns were underscored during the visit when an attempt was reportedly made to steal a vehicle, although the alleged thief was apprehended.

The incident highlights the need for improved security arrangements and designated parking spaces for commercial vehicles serving the market.

For a business that depends on the timely movement of perishable produce, delays and insecurity can have consequences beyond inconvenience. They can disrupt deliveries, increase expenses and expose transporters and traders to financial losses.

According to Fodio, hiring large trucks to transport produce to destinations such as Benin and Onitsha could cost between N2 million and N3 million, depending on the arrangement.

Transporters may also charge per bag, with a bag of carrots attracting between N10,000 and N15,000 for transportation under some arrangements. A large truck, he said, could carry approximately 250 bags.

To ease the burden on farmers and traders, Fodio appealed to the government to support the union with trucks that could be acquired through affordable instalment payments.

"For instance, we can pay in instalments. The union will give them to farmers to get their produce from the farms to the market and also to those going far distances," he said.

He believes such an arrangement could help reduce transportation costs and ease the financial burden on farmers and traders.

Fodio also appealed for a review of truck movement restrictions affecting the transportation of perishable goods. He proposed that trucks carrying agricultural produce be allowed to move from the market towards Mararaban Jema'a from 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

According to him, prolonged delays expose vegetables to heat and increase the risk of spoilage before they reach their destinations.

His concerns highlight the importance of transport policies that take account of the distinctive needs of agricultural commerce. Unlike non-perishable goods, vegetables can deteriorate quickly when exposed to unfavourable conditions or kept for extended periods without adequate handling and storage.

Allowing produce-laden trucks to move within an appropriate, clearly defined period could help improve distribution efficiency, provided that traffic management and road safety considerations are adequately addressed.

Petty traders, consumers, a shrinking profit margin

While farmers and transporters grapple with production and distribution costs, retailers face a different challenge: raising enough capital to purchase produce at competitive prices.

Grace Samuel, a retailer from Angwan Doki, disclosed that she visits the market every Tuesday to buy cabbage directly from farmers before reselling it in her neighbourhood or sometimes at the market.

A widow struggling to provide for her children, Samuel said her business provides an important source of household income.

However, she explained that farmers often prefer selling to buyers who purchase large quantities, putting small-scale retailers at a disadvantage.

"Because I have little capital, I sometimes buy N20,000 or N30,000 worth of goods. Some days are not good, and I make only about N2,000 in profit. At other times, I can make N7,000 or more," she explained.

Her experience illustrates the uncertainty that characterises small-scale trading. Daily earnings fluctuate according to sales, purchase prices, customer demand and the quantity of goods that can be sold without spoilage.

For retailers like her operating with limited capital, even a modest increase in purchase prices can reduce the quantity they can afford to buy and limit their potential earnings.

The market also provides employment for young men who use wheelbarrows to cart bags of vegetables for traders and buyers. Although one of the wheelbarrow operators declined to disclose his name, he said the work helps him meet his financial obligations.

This shows how the vegetable trade supports people beyond those directly involved in farming and selling produce. Loaders, wheelbarrow operators, drivers and other service providers all depend on the daily movement of goods for their livelihoods.

At the other end of the supply chain are consumers, whose purchasing decisions are increasingly shaped by rising prices.

Mrs Rinret, popularly known as Mama Zere, who lives in Rayfield, Jos South Local Government Area, said she prefers the Building Materials vegetable market because of its proximity to her home, the freshness of its produce and its relatively affordable prices.

She explained that she usually purchases vegetables in bulk but can no longer afford to buy as much as she would like.

"I usually buy things in bags, but I can't afford that now because of the prices. So you can see what I have here," she said.

This reflects the pressure facing households as the cost of food and transportation rises. Although the market remains attractive to consumers seeking fresh produce at competitive prices, affordability has become a major consideration.

When consumers reduce the quantities they purchase, retailers may experience slower sales, affecting how much produce they can buy from farmers during subsequent market visits.

Therefore, spikes in fuel and transportation costs can ripple through the agricultural supply chain, affecting producers, distributors, retailers and consumers alike.

Beyond providing employment and distributing food, the market generates revenue through charges on vehicles and goods entering and leaving the premises.

Fodio said Jos South Local Government Council collects revenue from vehicles and trucks bringing produce into and taking goods out of the market.

According to him, trucks incur charges associated with loading, offloading and parking, with the combined fees for a truck amounting to at least N7,000 in some cases.

He also pointed out that the Ministry of Commerce had recently introduced an additional revenue charge, although discussions were ongoing regarding its implementation and payment.

He disclosed that the association promotes inclusiveness by bringing people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds into its leadership structure to sustain peaceful commercial activities.

He also noted that the association maintains branches and networks in several Nigerian cities, including Lagos, Warri, Enugu, Onitsha, Ibadan, Maiduguri, Abuja and Kano.

Lagos alone, he said, has more than 500 members, some of whom regularly travel to Jos to purchase produce.

Congestion, poor sanitation, urgent need for better infrastructure

Despite its commercial importance, the market continues to face congestion and waste management challenges that threaten to undermine its efficiency.

According to Fodio, the union had approached the Plateau Environmental Sanitation Agency over accumulated refuse in parts of the market.

Following an inspection, the agency reportedly outlined the requirements for clearing the waste, including the provision of diesel. The union estimated the cost of the exercise at about N2 million, an amount it considers too high for traders to shoulder without assistance.

It has therefore appealed to the government to support the clean-up exercise and provide additional space to reduce congestion.

The lack of adequate space affects not only traders but also transporters attempting to load and offload their goods efficiently. When vehicles cannot move freely and produce is left waiting for collection, the resulting delays can increase operating costs and expose perishable goods to the risk of deterioration.

Improved sanitation, better parking arrangements and a more organised market layout could help reduce delays, improve working conditions and protect the quality of perishable produce.

The market's challenges also raise broader questions about the infrastructure required to sustain agricultural commerce. A centre that serves farmers, traders and consumers from different parts of Nigeria and neighbouring countries needs facilities commensurate with the scale of its operations.

Designated parking areas, improved drainage and waste disposal, better traffic management and appropriate security arrangements would help create a more efficient trading environment. Support for affordable transportation could also strengthen the links between rural producers and distant markets.

The Jos Building Materials vegetable market demonstrates how agricultural commerce extends far beyond the farm. It connects rural producers to urban consumers, supports interstate trade, generates public revenue and provides livelihoods for thousands of people.

Yet, the challenges raised by farmers, transporters, retailers and consumers show that a busy market does not necessarily translate into easy business.

High fuel prices, expensive farm inputs, inadequate capital, transportation difficulties, insecurity, movement restrictions and poor waste management continue to place pressure on the people who keep the market operating.

Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts involving government agencies, market leadership, farmers, transporters and other stakeholders. Policies and investments must reflect the realities of a trade in which delays, high operating costs and inadequate facilities can quickly erode already limited earnings.

As traders continue to converge in Jos every Tuesday and Saturday, the crowded pathways of the Building



CHANGE OF NAME

The Nigeria Standard
TRUTH EXALTS A NATION
FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

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NEWS

Oganenigwu leaders inspect road project, hail Ododo

From
AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

LEADERS of Oganenigwu community in Dekina Local Government Area have inspected the ongoing construction of he Iyale–Odolu–Efu–Oganenigwu Road and commended Governor Ahmed Ododo for the project.

The inspection took place on Wednesday, with a delegation of community leaders and other prominent indigenes led by Hassan Ocholi, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

The community described the road as a long-standing demand that had remained unmet for more than 200 years.

Speaking during the inspection, Wale Olaleye, Managing Director of Swaley Nigeria Limited, the contractor handling the project, commended the governor for making funds available for the work.

Olaleye said the company was committed to delivering quality work and expected to complete the road by the end of November 2026.

A community woman leader, Monica Felix Agojeju, also praised Ododo for the construction, describing it as the fulfilment of a dream held by generations of residents.

She said the road would ease transportation and improve access to the community.

Community leaders said its completion would also make it easier to move agricultural produce, support commercial activities and improve connections among communities in Dekina Local Government Area.

Dark side of side hustle: How Nigerian girls are trading their eggs for iPhones, quick money (I)

The pursuit of social status, the pressure to keep up with online lifestyles and the desperation for quick money are exposing young Nigerian girls to potentially devastating reproductive health risks. In this special report, SAMSON ILIYA examines the growing concern over the alleged commercial harvesting of human eggs from students, the medical dangers involved, the religious and moral questions it raises and the urgent need for parents, health authorities, religious leaders and educational institutions to intervene before the consequences become irreversible



FOR years, a 'side hustle' on Nigerian campuses meant selling thrift clothes on WhatsApp, operating a point-of-sale (POS) business or braiding hair in the hostel.

Today, however, the practice appears to have taken a disturbing, darker, turn.

A dangerous trend is reportedly spreading across polytechnics, universities and even secondary schools, where young girls are allegedly visiting backstreet hospitals and unregulated fertility clinics to sell their eggs for between ₦80,000 and ₦200,000.

They call it a hustle. Their chilling justification is that, instead of allowing an egg to go to waste every month during menstruation, they might as well sell it.

What should be a carefully regulated medical procedure has, in these cases, allegedly become a transactional market driven by the desire for iPhones, human hair and money for clubbing.

A recent DW Hausa investigation that attracted attention in Jos exposed aspects of this underground market. If the situation is not addressed urgently, the consequences could include serious reproductive health complications, lasting psychological distress and regret among vulnerable young women.

Myth of wasted eggs, the medical dangers

Clinics reportedly tell girls that menstruation causes eggs to go to waste. However, according to medical experts, this is a misconception.

Speaking to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, a gynaecologist, Dr Felix Faden, Chief Executive Officer of New Health Clinic and Maternity, explained the biology of egg production and the implications of harvesting eggs for donation.

"Any baby girl at birth has about 1–2 million eggs in her ovaries. She does not produce new eggs throughout her lifespan. The number keeps diminishing so that, at menopause, from about age 45 onwards, the eggs have diminished to fewer than 1,000. It means that the eggs in a woman at any given time are as old as she is. The quality diminishes with age," he said.

He explained that, under normal circumstances, one egg matures and is released during a menstrual cycle.

"When the eggs are to be harvested, the person is given some drugs to stimulate the maturation of multiple eggs from each ovary, at times up to ten instead of the normal one per month. What they don't know is that, whereas they think that they are selling only one egg, multiple eggs are being harvested from them without their knowing," he warned.

He further explained that the popular belief that eggs are lost through menstruation is inaccurate.

"The notion that eggs are lost during menstruation is not quite correct. As an egg is maturing naturally, it produces a hormone that makes the inner lining of her womb grow. If the released egg is not fertilised, the lining breaks down as menstruation. It means that in each menstrual cycle, only one egg is lost," Faden added.

In medically supervised egg retrieval, fertility drugs are used to stimulate the ovaries to mature several eggs during one cycle. The eggs are then collected through a procedure involving a needle inserted through the vaginal wall under ultrasound guidance.

However, concerns arise when unqualified practitioners administer hormones improperly, carry out procedures without adequate monitoring or use unsafe techniques. Such practices can expose patients to serious complications, particularly when appropriate pain relief, anaesthesia, sterile equipment and follow-up care are lacking.

Why young girls are doing it, the price they pay

Understanding the pressures driving young girls into the practice requires more than blaming them for their choices. Economic hardship, social media influence, misinformation and peer pressure all appear to play significant roles.

The first is economic desperation combined with the pressure to maintain an extravagant lifestyle. On TikTok, a girl may see her peers displaying an iPhone 15 worth about ₦700,000 or human hair costing ₦200,000.

For a student receiving ₦30,000 from home, the gap between her means and the lifestyle she sees online can be enormous.

A parent, Davou Ezekiel, told **THE NIGERIA STANDARD:** "The main issue is financial pressure mixed with social media pressure. Many young girls in secondary school and university today are living lifestyles beyond their means—iPhones, expensive human hair, designer clothes. They see it on TikTok and feel they must belong."

The second factor is misinformation about painful menstruation. Some unqualified practitioners reportedly tell girls that having their eggs removed will reduce menstrual cramps.

This claim requires medical scrutiny and should not be accepted without evidence. Hormonal stimulation and egg retrieval can themselves cause discomfort and complications, making professional assessment essential.

Third is peer recruitment. The practice is alleged to have developed into a network in which a girl who has undergone the procedure receives ₦20,000 for bringing two friends. Such incentives can turn vulnerable students into recruiters, spreading misinformation and exposing more girls to potential harm.

Dachung Patience, a mother who spoke to our correspondent, emphasised the importance of contentment and parental guidance.

"I believe there is time for everything. As a parent, I teach my children contentment and advise them to stay away from peer pressure. What would a student want to do with an iPhone 15 and human hair in school? The main reason she is there is to read," she said.

The financial reward may appear attractive. But the potential medical consequences can be far more serious than the immediate benefits. Dr Faden warned against repeated egg harvesting, particularly when performed without proper medical supervision.

"Harvesting of egg(s) every month is dangerous in the sense that each time the person has to be put under general anaesthesia, which is a dangerous procedure in itself. Each time eggs are harvested, there is injury to the ovaries which will lead to scarification that may eventually prevent natural ovulation. The risk of introducing infection into the person's pelvis is high and can lead to infertility," he explained.

According to medical experts, potential complications associated with ovarian stimulation and egg retrieval include Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS), a condition in which the ovaries become enlarged and fluid may accumulate in the abdomen.

Severe cases can lead to kidney problems and other life-threatening complications. Infection, pelvic inflammatory disease, bleeding and injuries to nearby organs are also possible complications of invasive procedures, especially when they are performed under unsafe conditions.

Faden stressed that girls are often not adequately informed about the potential consequences of the procedure.

"They are not told about the painful hormonal injections, bleeding, infection, emotional trauma, and what it means tomorrow when you discover your child exists somewhere. The truth is, egg donation does not automatically make you infertile if done properly by professionals. But when it is done in a backstreet clinic, by quacks, repeatedly, and on underage girls—the risk of future infertility is very, very high," he said.

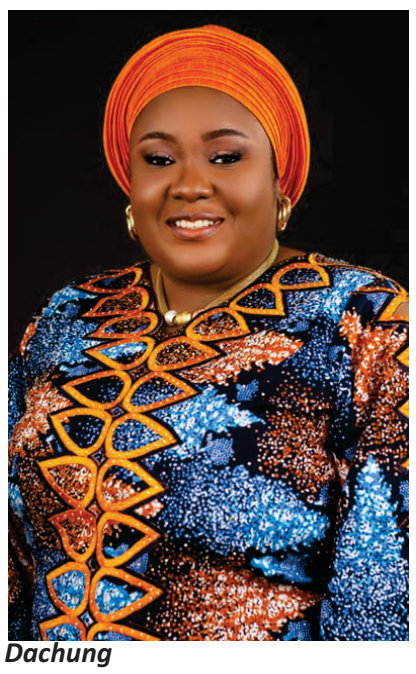
The prospect of exchanging a potentially consequential medical procedure for a short-lived luxury is particularly alarming. A young woman who accepts ₦150,000 at the age of 19 to buy an iPhone may later face reproductive health challenges when she wishes to have children.

Although infertility cannot be predicted from the decision to donate eggs alone, unsafe procedures and poorly managed complications can have serious consequences.

Faith, parenting, the responsibility to act

Religious leaders have also raised moral concerns about the commercialisation of human reproductive material, urging young people to resist the pressure to acquire material possessions at the expense of their health, dignity and deeply held beliefs.


Faden


Dachung

When the guardian becomes the threat

A young man who takes an unconscious woman to a police station to save her from possible danger allegedly ends up behind bars, branded a suspected criminal and physically assaulted. This troubling experience, narrated by ALFRED NANMAN, exposes a disturbing contradiction in Nigeria's security system, where those seeking protection sometimes encounter intimidation from the very institutions entrusted with their safety



THE ordinary Nigerian increasingly feels vulnerable in a country where those expected to provide protection are sometimes accused of becoming sources of oppression. Many civilians find it difficult to report crimes or seek assistance from security agencies because of fear, intimidation and previous negative experiences. Although the popular saying is that the police are your friends, the experiences of some citizens suggest otherwise.

This situation appears to affect ordinary citizens more severely than the wealthy and influential, who often have the resources and connections to defend themselves against perceived injustice.

Under Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Nigeria Police Force is constitutionally established. Its responsibilities include maintaining public safety and order, preventing and detecting crime, and protecting lives and property.

Yet, citizens sometimes complain that when they report criminal incidents, police officers tell them that they have no fuel to respond. Rather than prevent crime and apprehend offenders, some officers are accused of collecting bribes at checkpoints, allowing suspected criminals to escape and neglecting their duties. At some checkpoints, motorists allege that officers are more interested in collecting N100 or N200 than conducting proper security checks.

Consequently, some civilians feel neither protected nor assisted in emergencies, while allegations persist that people seeking urgent police intervention are asked to provide money for fuel before officers can respond.

The situation raises serious questions about the protection of fundamental human rights. Section 34 of the Constitution guarantees the right to dignity of the human person, including protection against torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. No citizen should be slapped, assaulted, humiliated or unlawfully detained because of poverty, social status or inability to defend themselves.

There are also growing concerns that the administration of justice is influenced by personal connections and social standing, allowing some offenders to escape accountability while innocent citizens face intimidation and wrongful accusations.

The night helping someone became a crime

In an interview with our correspondent, a young commercial tricycle operator in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State recounted an experience that fundamentally changed his perception of security personnel.

When our correspondent picked him up, the young man became visibly uncomfortable as they approached a police checkpoint. He eventually described the police as evil. Asked why he felt that way, his hands began to shake, not because of the cold but because of the painful memory of an encounter he would rather forget.

He requested anonymity, explaining that he feared the police might identify and harass him again if his real name became public. For the purpose of this report, he will be identified as Musa.

"I only wanted to help," he said, repeatedly looking over his shoulder.

Musa is 27, a commercial tricycle operator and father of two. He has operated along routes connecting Jos North and Jos South for four years. He said he had never had a police record or been involved in a fight with anyone until one particular night changed how he viewed men in uniform.

It was about 6 p.m. when a woman flagged down his tricycle near Secretariat Junction and requested an exclusive ride.

"She was well dressed, a fine lady, but she was smelling alcohol," Musa recalled.

Halfway to her destination in Rayfield, she became silent. By the time they arrived, she could neither stand nor speak properly. She appeared completely intoxicated and weak.

"I was scared," Musa said. "If I leave her by the roadside, something bad can happen to her. If anybody sees me with her in that condition, they may accuse me of drugging her. I am a Keke man, and nobody will believe me."

He decided to do what he believed was the responsible thing to do. Having been taught from childhood to report suspicious situations to the police, he drove directly to a nearby police station.

That decision almost cost him his freedom.

"As I entered and told the policeman on duty that I had brought a lady who was drunk and could not move, he just looked at me and said, 'So you want to use her for ritual? You brought her here so that if people saw you, you would say you were at the police station,'" he alleged.

According to Musa, the officer assumed that the woman was dead because she appeared lifeless at the time.

He claimed that before he could properly explain the circumstances, he was slapped.

"He slapped me and called me a ritualist. He pushed me into the cell and said I would remain there until the lady woke up and spoke."

"I spent four hours in the police cell for doing good," he recalled.

Inside the cell, Musa alleged that he met six other men, some of whom he claimed had been detained for days without being charged or asked to make statements.

He said he attempted to explain what had happened to the officer at the counter but was locked up instead. With no immediate means of defending himself, he turned to prayer, asking God to vindicate him.

"I was just praying to God. God, you know I was trying to help. Help me now."

According to him, for four hours, the woman remained at the police station in an unconscious state while Musa sat on the cold floor of the cell.

Around midnight, she regained consciousness and asked where she was. When the police informed her that Musa had brought her to the station, she explained what had happened.

"I hired him. I was drunk. I went for a party with friends, and they added something to my drink without my knowledge. I don't know him. He did not touch me," she reportedly told the officers.

It was only after the woman's explanation that Musa was released.

There was no apology or expression of regret. Instead, he recalled being told, "Oya, go. You are lucky the lady said you are innocent."

One of the officers reportedly added: "All these boys wey wan make money by force, no worry, we go catch all of una one day. Yeye people."

Musa claimed that he returned home with a swollen cheek and a painful lesson about the relationship between citizens and security personnel: the uniform that should inspire confidence had become something he feared.

A culture of intimidation

The problem, however, is not limited to the Nigeria Police Force. It reflects a broader concern about the conduct of some personnel across different security and regulatory agencies.

Nigerians have shared several accounts of alleged misconduct involving uniformed personnel.

There is the account of a soldier who allegedly forced a driver to perform frog jumps after his vehicle hit a checkpoint barrier because of brake failure at a military checkpoint in BarakinLadi.

There is also the allegation involving a Civil Defence officer who reportedly scattered the goods of a woman at Kugiya Market in Bukuru, Jos South LGA. The woman, a widow, was said to have been selling her goods by the roadside in a manner the officer considered improper.

Another incident concerns a Federal Road Safety Corps officer who allegedly struggled with a driver over the steering wheel while the vehicle was in motion, resulting in the vehicle hitting a man waiting to travel. There are also complaints about road safety personnel using expired tyres while arresting motorists for allegedly using expired tyres.

Similarly, some police officers have been accused of allegedly stopping young people, searching their mobile phones without lawful justification and labelling them internet fraudsters simply because they own expensive phones or drive relatively good cars.

To be continued

Dele Giwa: 40 years after the parcel bomb that shook journalism, Nigeria (I)

By SHU'AIBU LEMAN

ON October 19, 1986, Nigeria lost one of its most courageous journalists. Dele Giwa, the founding Editor-in-Chief of Newswatch magazine, was killed by a letter bomb delivered to his home in Ikeja, Lagos.

Four decades later, his murder remains one of the darkest chapters in the history of Nigerian journalism and an enduring symbol of the dangers confronting those who dare to question authority and demand accountability.

For me particularly, this anniversary is more than an occasion to remember a fallen colleague. It is a moment for sober reflection on the price of truth, the vulnerability of journalists and the unfinished struggle for press freedom in our country.

As a former National Secretary of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and a journalist who has spent much of his professional life reflecting on the challenges of the profession, I cannot contemplate Dele Giwa's death without asking a fundamental question: Forty years after this tragedy, what has Nigeria learnt about the need to protect journalists and defend the public's right to know?

Dele Giwa was only 39 when his life was so brutally cut short. He was not killed in a crossfire, during a riot or while covering a dangerous assignment. He was murdered in the privacy of his home when a parcel delivered to him exploded.

The circumstances surrounding his death shocked the nation and sent a chilling message to journalists who believed that the press had a responsibility to hold those in power accountable. His murder was not merely the loss of an individual. It was an assault on press freedom and the right of Nigerians to receive information without intimidation.

For those of us who entered journalism with a sense of mission, Dele Giwa represented the conviction that journalism must do more than report events. It must interrogate power, expose wrongdoing, challenge injustice and ensure that public officials understand that the authority they exercise comes with an obligation to account to the people.

When Dele Giwa, alongside Ray Ekpu, Dan Agbese and Yakubu Mohammed, established Newswatch in 1984, they helped redefine the possibilities of Nigerian journalism. The magazine brought a new sense of purpose to investigative reporting, rigorous research, editorial independence and in-depth analysis. It demonstrated that the Nigerian press could challenge official narratives and investigate matters of public interest without abandoning its responsibility to accuracy and fairness. Newswatch was more than a magazine. It was a statement of professional courage and a declaration that Nigerians deserved to know the truth about those who governed them.

At a time when military rule restricted democratic freedoms and placed enormous pressure on independent voices, its founders insisted that public office must not become a shield against scrutiny. Their work inspired a generation of journalists who came to understand that the profession was not simply a means of earning a living but a calling that demanded integrity, courage and an unwavering commitment to the public good.

The unaswered questions

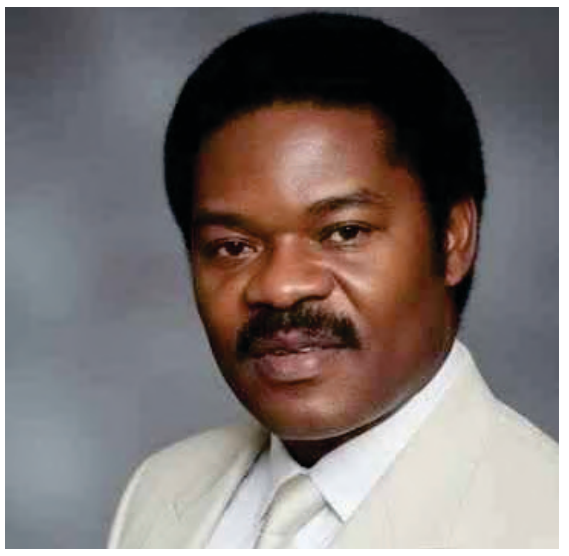
The relationship between the military establishment and Newswatch became increasingly tense as the magazine continued to challenge official narratives. In the days preceding his death, Giwa was questioned by officials of the State Security Service.

On October 19, 1986, a parcel arrived at his residence, and the explosion that followed brought his life to a brutal end. The circumstances of his murder have generated questions, controversy and public concern for four decades, yet no conclusive criminal conviction has established responsibility for the killing.

That failure should trouble every Nigerian who believes in justice, democracy and the rule of law. We cannot continue to consign this murder to the archives of unresolved national tragedies or allow the passage of time to diminish the importance of the questions it raises. A nation cannot credibly claim to value press freedom while leaving the murder of one of its most prominent journalists without a satisfactory judicial resolution.

Forty years after his death, one question continues to haunt our national conscience: Who killed Dele Giwa? Successive investigations, public discussions and inquiries have failed to bring the matter to a satisfactory judicial conclusion. The Oputa Panel revisited aspects of the case. Yet the country has not achieved the kind of definitive accountability that could offer closure to his family and reassure the public that no individual or institution stands above the law. The continued absence of a conclusive resolution is not merely a matter of historical interest. It raises serious questions about the effectiveness of our institutions and their willingness to pursue justice in cases involving attacks on journalists.

If relevant records and evidence remain available,



Giwa

a credible review of the case deserves serious consideration. Modern investigative and forensic methods may offer opportunities to examine evidence that could not be adequately analysed four decades ago, while surviving witness accounts, official records and other materials should be assessed by competent and independent authorities.

It is against this background that I call on the Federal Government to use the 40th anniversary of Dele Giwa's murder as an opportunity to reopen investigations into the circumstances surrounding his death. Such an initiative must be independent, credible and guided by evidence, due process and a genuine commitment to justice. It should not be driven by political expediency or the desire to assign blame without proof, but by the determination to establish the truth wherever the evidence leads. The relevant authorities should examine whether surviving records, witness accounts and modern forensic techniques could help answer questions that have remained unresolved for decades.

Forty years is a long time to wait for answers. But the passage of time should not become an excuse for abandoning the search for justice. The murder of a journalist must never be treated as a crime whose significance diminishes simply because the years have passed.

Lessons from international experience

International experience offers useful lessons for Nigeria. We are not the only country to have confronted the murder of a journalist under circumstances that raised serious questions about accountability.

In Malta, for instance, the assassination of investigative journalist Daphne CaruanaGalizia in October 2017 led to extensive investigations and multiple convictions. Three men were convicted of carrying out the killing, while two others were convicted of supplying the bomb.

However, businessman YorgenFenech, who was accused of commissioning the murder, was acquitted, and the prosecution subsequently appealed against the verdict. The case demonstrates that, even where convictions have been secured, establishing the full extent of responsibility for a journalist's assassination can be a complex and protracted process.

In Türkiye, the murder of Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink in Istanbul in January 2007 likewise resulted in years of investigations, retrials and convictions. In February 2025, a court imposed life sentences on eight defendants in a retrial connected to the murder conspiracy.

Yet questions about the full extent of responsibility have persisted. These cases demonstrate both the possibility of securing accountability through sustained investigations and the importance of pursuing unresolved questions through credible evidence and due process.

These experiences offer an important lesson for Nigeria. The passage of time should not, in itself, extinguish the pursuit of justice for a murdered journalist. Where credible evidence survives, it should be preserved, reviewed and tested through independent and lawful procedures. Investigations must follow the evidence wherever it leads, without shielding individuals from scrutiny because of their political influence, institutional position or former office.

Equally, accountability must be established through due process rather than public speculation or political accusation. The objective is not to secure convictions at any cost, but to establish the truth and ensure that those proved responsible answer for their actions.

Dele Giwa's murder deserves the same seriousness of purpose. Four decades without a conclusive judicial resolution should strengthen, rather than weaken, our determination to establish what happened. Nigeria should examine whether surviving evidence, official records, witness accounts and modern investigative techniques could help advance the case.

The experience of other countries demonstrates that prolonged delays need not justify abandoning the search for answers. For Dele Giwa's family, the Nigerian public and generations of journalists who have inherited the risks associated with investigative reporting, justice remains an obligation that cannot be discharged through remembrance alone.

Beyond campaigns, social media: Changing roles of youth in Nigerian politics (III)

By GASHION KUTYIL & KESHIA JANG

THE Not Too Young To Run movement represents another important stage in the history of youth politic al participation in Nigeria. Young Nigerians and civil society organisations campaigned for constitutional reforms to lower the age requirements for certain elective offices.

Dakup views the movement as evidence of young people's ability to organise around a common political objective. Banripga similarly considers the reform an indication of the growing importance of young people as a political constituency.

However, both accounts point to the distinction between legal eligibility and practical access. Meeting the constitutional age requirement does not automatically remove the financial, organisational and political barriers that aspiring young candidates face.

Dakup argues that the reform alone cannot resolve these challenges. Its impact also depends on implementation and the broader political environment in which young people seek to participate.

Social media, #EndSARS, the changing face of political participation

If one development has transformed youth political participation most visibly in recent years, it is social media.

Banripga sees digital platforms as major instruments of political engagement. Before their emergence, young people had fewer direct channels through which to engage public officials and influence political discussions. Today, political conversations can begin online and quickly spread across communities.

Young people can publish opinions, organise campaigns, mobilise supporters and draw attention to public concerns without necessarily having access to traditional media institutions.

This has widened the space for political expression and changed the relationship between politicians and younger citizens. Political actors increasingly face a generation capable of publicly questioning policies, challenging narratives and organising around specific demands.

For Banripga, the #EndSARS protests represent an important turning point in youth political participation. He describes the protests as an example of young Nigerians coming together around issues that directly affected them.

"The youth actually came together and demanded for policies and demanded for goals and programmes that actually aligned with their own interests," he said.

The movement demonstrated the ability of young people to mobilise beyond traditional political party structures and illustrated how digital platforms could facilitate physical mobilisation.

Its significance, in Banripga's view, lies in the fact that young people were not merely responding to political messages created by established politicians. They were articulating their own demands and placing them at the centre of national political conversations.

In that sense, the protests reflected his broader argument that young people have moved from passive participation towards more active political engagement.

Dakup, however, emphasises the need to connect online political activity with participation on the ground.

"Social media does not win elections. There are no votes on social media but public opinions," he said.

For him, the challenge is to convert digital awareness into practical civic participation. This includes voter education, voter registration, voting, political party membership, community meetings, public advocacy and engagement with political institutions.

He also notes that voter education has improved in recent years through the activities of electoral institutions and other organisations. Social media can generate awareness, he argues, but meaningful political participation requires citizens to remain engaged beyond the online environment.

Vina Adams, a journalist, gender advocate and human rights activist, offers another perspective on the changing nature of youth participation in Plateau State.

Adams believes young people's involvement is more visible today than in previous generations, particularly through social media, advocacy, civil society, voter education and political discussions.

However, Adams identifies a significant gap between visibility and access to power.

"Young people are more active on social media, in advocacy, civil society, voter education and political discussions. However, many are still not directly involved in decision-making or leadership," Adams said.

This distinction is central to Adams's analysis. Young people can be highly visible in political conversations without necessarily having access to the institutions and spaces where important decisions are made.

They can mobilise voters without being proportionately represented in political decision-making structures, and campaign for candidates without having significant influence over policies after elections.

For Adams, this gap remains one of the major challenges of youth political participation.

Youth involvement has also contributed to wider social development. Through advocacy, journalism, community work and activism, young people have drawn attention to issues such as human rights, gender equality, unemployment, education and insecurity.

Their experiences across different generations demonstrate that youth political participation takes many forms, from grassroots mobilisation and community development to electoral contests, digital activism and public advocacy.

However, the extent to which this participation translates into decision-making power remains an important question in Nigeria's democratic development.

Concluded



Protecting journalists, strengthening Nigeria's electoral democracy

By PANLE VWAR

AS Nigeria approaches the 2027 general elections, there is an urgent need to prioritise the welfare and sfety of media practioners. Journalists play a vital role in informing the public, promoting accountability and helping citizens make informed decisions.

However, their ability to perform these duties effectively depends largely on their working conditions, personal security and the support they receive from society. Without adequate welfare provisions and a safe working environment, the media's capacity to provide accurate, timely and balanced election coverage can be undermined.

Election reporting is particularly demanding. Journalists travel across communities, attend political rallies, visit polling units and sometimes work in areas where security remains uncertain.

Rising transport costs and other work-related expenses further increase the burden on media practitioners, many of whom must operate under considerable financial and logistical constraints. Without adequate support, delivering comprehensive and reliable reports becomes increasingly difficult.

Imagine navigating the vast terrain of Wase Local Government Area in southern Plateau State, travelling along difficult roads in Jos East, or reaching remote communities in Shendam, Bassa and Bokkos. Consider, too, the additional risks associated with reporting from areas affected by security challenges, both within and outside Plateau State.

Such journeys can be daunting, particularly when journalists lack reliable transportation, logistical support or adequate security arrangements. Nevertheless, with proper planning, effective coordination and appropriate orientation, on-the-spot assessments of electoral activities remain achievable, even in difficult terrain.

These realities raise important questions about the commitment of government, political candidates, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), religious bodies and traditional institutions to supporting the media. Do these stakeholders fully recognise that journalists are partners in democracy whose welfare deserves serious attention?

Unfortunately, there is sometimes a tendency to assume that providing journalists with meal tickets or refreshments at events is sufficient. While such gestures are appreciated, media welfare extends far beyond food and refreshments. Journalists need safe working environments, transport and logistical support, access to accurate information, and the freedom to report without intimidation or undue influence.

A journalist who struggles to pay for transportation to a polling unit may arrive late or miss important developments. Another who fears for personal safety may find it difficult to report events from a troubled community. These situations demonstrate how the welfare of journalists is directly connected to the quality and reliability of information available to the public.

A credible media also serves as a reference point for verifying claims, documenting events and holding public officials accountable. Its reports enable citizens to compare campaign promises with actual performance and assess the conduct of political actors. Before, during and after elections, accurate records of events can help counter misinformation, clarify disputed claims and preserve public trust in the electoral process.

However, responsibility for credible election coverage does not rest solely on those expected to support journalists. Media practitioners must also uphold professionalism, objectivity, accuracy, patriotism and fairness. Political affiliations, personal benefits and pressure from influential individuals must never determine what journalists report or how they report it.

Support for journalists must not become a means of purchasing their loyalty or influencing their judgement. Rather, it should create the conditions necessary for them to discharge their professional responsibilities independently and in the public interest. The distinction is important because the credibility of election reporting depends not only on the resources available to journalists but also on their commitment to ethical standards.

Professional bodies, including the Nigerian Guild of Editors and the Nigeria Union of Journalists, must strengthen their advocacy for better working conditions, safety training and ethical reporting. Media organisations, for their part, should adequately prepare their staff for the demands of election coverage by providing relevant training, appropriate equipment and clear safety procedures.

These measures would help journalists navigate the physical, financial and professional challenges associated with election reporting. They would also reinforce public confidence in the media as a reliable source of information during a period when citizens need accurate accounts of political activities and electoral developments.

> ***Media organisations and professional associations must equally ensure that journalists are equipped to meet the demands of the electoral period. Adequate preparation, adherence to professional ethics and effective coordination can help minimise avoidable risks while improving the quality of election coverage.***

The time to plan is now. As preparations intensify for the 2027 general elections, stakeholders must move beyond token gestures and develop practical measures to protect journalists and enable them to perform their duties effectively. Such measures should include improved logistical arrangements, access to reliable information, appropriate safety provisions and respect for media independence.

Government institutions, political candidates, INEC, religious bodies and traditional institutions all have roles to play in creating an environment in which journalists can work safely and independently. Their support should be guided by a recognition that credible reporting serves the wider public interest rather than the interests of any individual, political party or institution.

Media organisations and professional associations must equally ensure that journalists are equipped to meet the demands of the electoral period. Adequate preparation, adherence to professional ethics and effective coordination can help minimise avoidable risks while improving the quality of election coverage.

Ultimately, prioritising media welfare is not a favour to journalists. It is an investment in the public's right to know and the credibility of Nigeria's democracy.

The media, government and the public must become genuine partners in progress, working together to ensure that election reports accurately reflect events as they happen, wherever they happen.

Beyond oil wealth: Building a Nigeria that works for everyone

By DANJUMA NAFUNJI

THERE is something profoundly problematic about a nation sitting on an ocean of wealth while its people thirst on parched ground.

Nigeria is richly endowed with oil, gas, fertile land, solid minerals, forests, rivers and, above all, immense human capacity for enterprise. Yet, for millions of Nigerians, putting food on the table remains a daily struggle. The contradiction is painful. A country blessed with abundance should not have poverty as its most familiar companion.

This raises a fundamental question: Can Nigeria build a system that deliberately harnesses its wealth to nourish, protect and uplift the common citizen? The answer ought to be yes, not because national wealth should be distributed recklessly, but because the ultimate purpose of economic prosperity must be the improvement of human life.

For decades, Nigeria's natural resources have generated substantial revenue, yet their benefits have failed to reach ordinary Nigerians in any meaningful measure. Wealth that should have strengthened schools, hospitals, roads, agriculture, employment and social protection has too often been diminished by corruption, waste, poor planning and misplaced priorities. The problem is not that Nigeria lacks riches. It is that the country has struggled to translate those riches into shared prosperity.

A better system must begin with transparency. Nigeria should establish a legally protected Natural Resource Transformation Fund, financed by a fixed proportion of revenues from oil, gas and mining. Its priorities should include agricultural infrastructure, essential public services and savings for future generations. Every naira entering the fund should be publicly accounted for, independently audited and protected against political misuse.

Food security must be treated as a national investment rather than an emergency response. Revenue from natural resources should finance irrigation, rural roads, storage facilities, electricity and agricultural extension services. Smallholder farmers should receive transparent digital support for seeds, fertiliser, equipment and soil testing.

Schools, hospitals and other public institutions should purchase food from local farmers through competitive contracts. This would create dependable markets, reduce agricultural waste and make farming more profitable. Nigeria should also maintain a professionally managed national food reserve, with stock levels, purchase prices, warehouse locations and release decisions publicly disclosed and independently audited. Such a reserve would help stabilise prices during periods of shortage without becoming another channel for political patronage.

Mineral wealth must also generate employment and development in host communities. Mining licences should be published, beneficial owners identified and environmental bonds secured before extraction begins. Host communities should receive a guaranteed share of royalties through independently audited development trusts.

Artisanal miners should be organised into co-operatives, with access to lawful markets, safety training and affordable equipment. This would help reduce dangerous informal mining while increasing government revenue.

Resource wealth should further underpin a national jobs compact. Government grants and tax incentives should target agro-processing, renewable energy, construction, recycling and digital services. However, such assistance must be tied to verifiable employment opportunities, apprenticeships and payroll records. Young Nigerians should also receive training vouchers to acquire practical skills in areas such as welding, solar installation, machinery repair, irrigation and healthcare.

Public services must be protected from fluctuations in commodity prices. Every child should have access to a minimum education grant, while every community should receive basic healthcare support. Funds must follow pupils and patients through auditable systems, with local committees monitoring teachers, medicines and construction projects.

None of these measures can succeed without accountability. Major contracts should disclose their costs, contractors, completion dates and beneficial owners. Abandoned projects must be reported through public platforms, while independent engineers should certify completed projects before final payments are made. Officials who divert public funds should face swift prosecution and the recovery of stolen assets.

However, accountability must go beyond government institutions. Citizens must have direct and lawful means of demanding results. Nigeria should establish independent citizen oversight councils at federal, state and local levels, with representatives from farmers' groups, labour unions, professional bodies, women's organisations, youth associations and host communities. These councils should have access to budgets, contracts and audit reports, as well as the authority to refer suspected abuses to anti-corruption agencies and the courts.

Public participation must also go beyond occasional consultations. Communities should help determine spending priorities, monitor projects through open digital dashboards and receive quarterly explanations of how revenue from natural resources is being utilised. Whistle-blowers must be protected, journalists must remain free to investigate, and public officials must be prepared to answer questions at open hearings.

A system that serves the common good cannot depend solely on benevolent leaders or well-written laws. It must empower ordinary Nigerians with the information, institutions and legal authority needed to safeguard public wealth. Transparency opens the door, while citizen oversight ensures that it is not quietly closed.

Ultimately, feeding the common good should not mean distributing food indefinitely. It should mean creating the conditions in which people can feed themselves. Charity may rescue a person for a day, but economic empowerment can transform a generation.

Nigeria is richly endowed. The real question is whether its wealth will continue to enrich a privileged few or become the foundation upon which ordinary Nigerians can stand, prosper and dream. A nation blessed with abundance must never make poverty the inheritance of its people.

MUTFWANG INAUGURATES PLATEAU APC 2027 CAMPAIGN COUNCIL

Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State on Monday inaugurated the All Progressives Congress (APC) State Campaign Council for the 2027 general elections at Victoria Gowon Hall, New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos



The Director-General of the Campaign Council, Sir Joseph Ari; Deputy Director-General, Ibrahim Hassan; Southern Zone Coordinator, Napoleon Bali; Central Zone Coordinator, Emmanuel Go'ar; and Northern Zone Coordinator, Joseph Magaji, alongside other members of the council, during their inauguration



The governor inaugurating members of the campaign council



Senator Hezekiah Dimka (left); Chairman of Mikang Local Government Council, Dr Bernard Alkali (middle); and Komsol Longgap



From right: Deputy Governor, Ngo Josephine Piyo; Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, Dr Bernard Doro; Secretary to the Government of the State, Arc. Samuel Jatau; and Special Adviser on Political Affairs, Istifanus Mwansat



From left: Innocent Tirsel; Miskoom Alex; Pastor Yiljap Abraham and others



From right: Senator Diket Plang; Hon. Dachung Bagos; Senator Istifanus Gyang; and Hon. Suleiman Kwande



Governor Mutfwang (left) in a warm handshake with the Plateau State APC Chairman, Rufus Bature

Photos: DANLADI DUK



From left: Chief of Staff, Government House, Jeremiah Satmark; APC State Women Leader, Longret Tokden; and Sir Joseph Ari

Alumni trade fair creates platform for small businesses, entrepreneurship in Jos

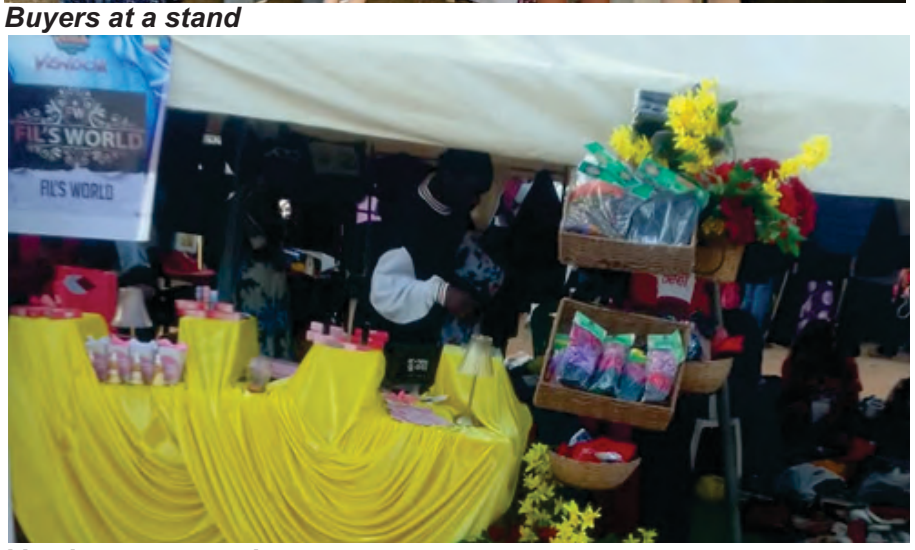
By NANCY MAJEKODUNMI



Buyers at a stand



Buyers at the fair



Vendors at a stand



Vendor displaying her wears

THE Amusement Park in Jos was a beehive of activity on Sunday, November 1, 2023, as traders, customers and families converged on the premises for a trade fair organised by the School Old Girls Association (SLOGA) and the Vom Old Boys Association (VOBA).

The fair, which attracted entrepreneurs and vendors dealing in different products, provided an opportunity for small businesses to showcase their products, make sales, establish new business contacts and interact with prospective customers.

Beyond its commercial objectives, the event also offered a platform for alumni of both associations to reconnect while opening its doors to members of the general public.

Speaking on the motivation behind the initiative, Chairperson of SLOGA, Jos Chapter, Mrs Grace Dallong-Opadotnn, said the fair was designed to encourage entrepreneurship, promote interaction among members of the two associations and create opportunities for vendors to increase their sales.

"This fair is to encourage entrepreneurs and vendors and to encourage interaction amongst ourselves, especially between VOBA and SLOGA, and then the general public. It is an opportunity for people to come together, meet new people, have fun and buy things at reasonable prices," she said.

Dallong-Opadotnn explained that the initiative was not new, noting that the trade fair was in its third edition, although the organisers decided to collaborate with VOBA for this year's event. She said the previous editions, particularly last year's, had been successful, encouraging the organisers to sustain the initiative.

According to her, the fair was open to entrepreneurs beyond the two alumni associations, provided they applied to the organising committee, secured a stall and fulfilled the necessary requirements.

She disclosed that several vendors who participated in the previous edition and recorded encouraging sales had returned for this year's event.

"We have more than 10 to 15 people who are not members of our associations but participated last year, made good sales and have returned this year," she noted.

She added that the organisers produced branded T-shirts for all participating vendors, irrespective of their association, as a way of identifying them and promoting a sense of belonging.

On publicity, the SLOGA chairperson said the organisers adopted a different approach this year, relying largely on social media platforms instead of the radio jingles and interviews used during the previous edition.

According to her, the planning committee created online content, shared promotional videos across social media platforms and encouraged vendors to produce content to attract customers.

She commended the planning committee for its dedication, saying members sacrificed their time and energy to ensure the success of the event.

Dallong-Opadotnn stressed that the satisfaction of vendors and customers remained central to the sustainability of the fair.

"For me, satisfaction is key. If you are able to satisfy your vendors and give them what they expect, I am sure they will always return. We are not just here to sell wares. We are also here to have fun and interact. It is not just about business; it is about bringing people together," she said.

She noted that the fair had continued to provide economic opportunities for participating businesses, particularly at a time when many entrepreneurs were struggling with the prevailing economic situation.

"This business fair offers an opportunity for people to actually sell and make profits. If you look around, there is hardly any store here where people are not buying or purchasing things. Times are hard, and our ability to help people sell their products so they can meet their needs is part of the impact we are making," she added.

Business opportunities beyond reunion

Also speaking, one of the coordinators of the organising committee, Lotimayes Dang Onyemachi, said the benefits of the fair extended beyond immediate sales, as vendors also had opportunities to establish business relationships with prospective customers.

"Beyond the sales, they make contacts. People come, see the quality of what you sell and may decide to patronise you even beyond the fair," she said.

She added that the organisers encouraged vendors to offer quality products at affordable prices to attract customers and sustain patronage.

For customers, however, the fair offered varying experiences in terms of affordability, product quality and spending.

Patience Maina, one of the customers, said she attended the event to support family members and friends participating in the fair and was pleased with the experience.

She described the prices of most products as reasonable, although she identified a particular tea product she was interested in but could not afford.

"It's the same things I see in the market every day that they sell here, except for a tea I saw, but it was costly," she said.

Similarly, Delphine Arandong explained that she had not planned to spend much but was impressed by the turnout and variety of products on display.

She expressed satisfaction with the earrings she purchased, describing them as beautiful and reasonably priced.

"The earrings are fair at ₦2,000, and I can see so many beautiful things here, but I did not plan to spend much," she said.

However, Jang Gyang, a member of VOBA who attended to support the participating businesses, expressed a different opinion about the pricing of some products.

He observed that some items were overpriced, arguing that a trade fair should offer customers discounted prices compared with what they would ordinarily pay in regular markets.

"Some items in this trade fair have overrated prices, but I don't have a choice because I need to support my people," he said.

The fair featured a wide range of products, including clothing, footwear, jewellery, hair products, food items, popcorn, snacks, cooking oil and household accessories.

Vendors count costs, seek more patronage

For the vendors, participation came with both opportunities and financial commitments.

Anduwa Elizabeth, who operates Muti Knitting and Crochet Items, said she spent about ₦850,000 on preparations, transportation and securing her stall ahead of the event.

She explained that she offered discounts to customers during the fair but intended to maintain her regular prices for subsequent orders.

"I give discounts on my items at this fair, but anybody who collects my contact and wants to place an order afterwards will get the normal price," she said.

Elizabeth expressed gratitude for the patronage received so far and hoped for more customers before the event ended at 9 p.m.

Another vendor, Becky Buenyen of Deep Springs Ventures, who deals in pure vegetable oil, said the product was sourced from the Sokoto border area and was of good quality.

She disclosed that vendors affiliated with VOBA and SLOGA paid different stall fees, explaining that she paid ₦40,000 as the wife of a VOBA member, while members of the two associations paid ₦30,000.

Buenyen observed that food-related businesses appeared to attract more customers.

"I noticed that people are patronising food vendors more than those of us selling other things," she said.

She, however, highlighted the opportunity to establish new business contacts as one of the major benefits of participating in the fair.

For Nnena Nnabi of Jelly's Hairling, attracting customers required making her prices competitive and introducing promotional offers.

"I have discounts on my hair products, and if you buy one hair, you will get a promotional hair to go with it," she said.

She explained that she offered customers a buy-one-get-one-free deal on selected wigs to encourage patronage.

However, she expressed concern that customer patronage appeared to be influenced largely by existing personal relationships and connections.

According to her, many visitors collected her business contact details without making immediate purchases, resulting in relatively low sales.

Despite this, she remained hopeful that the proceeds from the fair would eventually help offset the expenses incurred in participating.

The experiences of the vendors highlight both the opportunities and challenges associated with participating in trade fairs. While some recorded encouraging patronage and made useful business contacts, others struggled to convert customer interest into actual purchases.

Nevertheless, the SLOGA-VOBA trade fair demonstrates how alumni associations can extend their traditional reunion activities beyond social interaction by creating platforms that support entrepreneurship, encourage small businesses and connect local vendors with a wider market.

As small businesses continue to navigate rising operating costs and changing consumer spending patterns, initiatives that provide affordable access to markets, promote products and expand business networks could play an important role in supporting their growth.

The Nigeria Standard
TRUTH EXALTS A NATION
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EVE'S WORLD
With: MARIE-THERESE NANLONG
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Beyond workers' welfare: NULGE trains 200 Plateau women in vocational skills

By
MARIE-THERESE NANLONG



NULGE Women Day 2026

FOR many years, the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) has featured prominently in public conversations largely around workers' welfare, industrial disputes and strikes. However, in Plateau State, the union is seeking to expand its identity by investing in women's economic empowerment.

For 200 women drawn from the 17 local government areas of the state and the Plateau State Local Government Service Commission, this commitment was demonstrated through a three-day vocational skills acquisition programme designed to equip them with opportunities beyond their monthly salaries.

The training, held from October 27 to 29, was organised by the Plateau State chapter of NULGE as part of its 2026 Women's Day celebration and Merit Award ceremony. It offered participants practical skills in different vocational areas, including liquid soap and detergent production.

Held at the union's multipurpose hall at its state secretariat in Zawan, Jos South Local Government Area, the programme was tagged 'Give to Gain'.

For the beneficiaries, the initiative was more than another union activity. It provided an opportunity to acquire skills that could create additional sources of income, improve their financial independence and potentially be transferred to other women in their communities.

Empowering Women Beyond Monthly Salaries

Plateau State NULGE President, Comrade Yohanna Arandong, explained that the programme was conceived to help women develop income-generating abilities beyond their regular salaries.

He explained that beneficiaries were carefully selected from the 17 local government councils and the Local Government Service Commission to ensure equity and inclusiveness.

Arandong added that the skills acquired would help the women cushion the effects of prevailing economic challenges.

Earlier, the Chairperson of the Plateau State NULGE Women's Committee, Comrade Patience Daniang, said the three-day programme was organised to reduce poverty and promote self-reliance among women across the state.

The initiative also received support from the Plateau State Head of Civil Service, Stephen Gadong, who commended the union for taking steps to empower its members through vocational training.

Represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology, Lamba Bot, Gadong said the programme would enable women to become financially independent, self-reliant and productive contributors to the state's economy.

He noted that the initiative aligned with the Plateau State Government's commitment to women's empowerment, entrepreneurship and inclusive development.

Similarly, the Chairman of the Plateau State Local Government Service Commission, Simon Tangni, assured the union of continued partnership in sustaining workforce development.

Represented by the Commission's Information Officer, Aminchi Joshua, Tangni urged the beneficiaries to extend the knowledge acquired to other women in their respective communities.

His appeal reflected one of the programme's major expectations: that the benefits of the training should extend beyond the 200 participants.



Participants at the training

> ***Although the union remains associated in public memory with labour struggles and industrial actions, the Plateau initiative highlights another dimension of organised labour: its potential to support workers beyond the workplace. By equipping 200 women with vocational skills, NULGE has taken a step towards making economic empowerment an integral part of its engagement with members.***

Stakeholders back skills development initiative

The Chairman of the Plateau State House of Assembly Commission and Special Adviser to the Governor on Workers' Welfare, Titus Alams, also described the programme as timely, noting the important role women play in shaping society and driving development.

The National Chairperson of the NULGE Women Committee, Comrade Adaeze Okoronkwo, commended the Plateau chapter for prioritising women's empowerment and called on stakeholders to support initiatives that advance the welfare of women.

For some beneficiaries, the opportunity was particularly significant. They expressed gratitude to the union, describing the training as timely and life-changing.

They pledged to put the knowledge acquired to profitable use and pass on the skills to other women in their respective local government areas.

The programme concluded with the presentation of certificates to participants and merit awards to individuals recognised for their contributions to the growth of NULGE.

Although the union remains associated in public memory with labour struggles and industrial actions, the Plateau initiative highlights another dimension of organised labour: its potential to support workers beyond the workplace.

By equipping 200 women with vocational skills, NULGE has taken a step towards making economic empowerment an integral part of its engagement with members.

The lasting value of the initiative, however, will depend on how effectively the beneficiaries translate their newly acquired skills into sustainable sources of income and extend the opportunities to other women.

The Nigeria Standard

Tapgun @ 85: The making of a purposeful leader, statesman

Some leaders leave behind monuments of concrete and steel, while others build enduring legacies in the lives of the people they serve. At 85, Sir Fidelis NaanmiapTapgun represents the latter, having distinguished himself through public service, administrative experience, political tolerance and an abiding commitment to human development. In this tribute, SOKNAN SHEDUL reflects on the life and legacy of a former governor whose brief but eventful tenure in Plateau State continues to resonate across generations

THERE is a timeless nobility in a life entirely devoted to the common good. Across the evolving tapestry of Nigeria's democratic history, true leadership is measured neither by the longevity of a political title nor by the volume of partisan applause. Rather, it belongs to those rare individuals who regard power as a sacred trust and the machinery of government as an instrument for human development.

As we celebrate the 85th birthday of Sir Fidelis NaanmiapTapgun, KSM, we honour more than a remarkable span of years. We pay tribute to a living monument of patriotism, an accomplished administrator and the last civilian governor of the undivided old Plateau State.

His life stands as a testament to an enduring political truth: the highest calling of statecraft is not self-celebration but an unwavering, generational commitment to humanity.

At 85, Tapgun continues to demonstrate remarkable agility, a robust spirit and a commanding presence. His tenure as governor, from January 1992 to November 1993, although lasting less than two years, remains a reference point for people-centred governance.

Before his historic emergence as governor on the platform of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Tapgun's leadership philosophy had been shaped by higher education and decades of disciplined public service. A 1974 political science graduate of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, he did not merely study the theories of power; he spent nearly three decades navigating the demanding structures of the civil service, gaining an understanding of how government policies translate into human welfare.

Rising to the position of Permanent Secretary, his years of administrative experience shaped his political personality. He emerged not as a flamboyant or reactionary demagogue but as a methodical and empathetic administrator whose leadership style was rooted in dialogue, procedural discipline and institutional stability.

This administrative experience and understanding of political science became invaluable when he had to navigate one of the most peculiar political experiments in Nigeria's history: General Ibrahim Babangida's Third Republic transition programme.

Operating within a hybrid political arrangement in which democratically elected state governors attempted to govern under the overriding authority of a military presidency, the political environment was particularly challenging. It was a fragile democratic arrangement operating under military control, yet Tapgun managed to protect the interests and welfare of the people of Plateau State through considerable diplomatic skill.



Tapgun

A short tenure, an enduring legacy

What makes his record remarkable is the speed with which he translated his vision into tangible achievements despite the restrictive political environment. Within a relatively short period of active governance, Tapgun implemented interventions whose impact compared favourably with the achievements of administrations that served much longer terms.

He expanded access to education by establishing more than 30 secondary schools, providing free textbooks and fully absorbing the costs of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) examinations for candidates across Plateau State.

In the health sector, he abolished consultation and maternity fees for women in public hospitals. He also pursued regional utility projects, including foundational work on the Keffi water project.

Among the physical landmarks associated with his administration was the construction of the iconic Terminus Roundabout in Jos, adorned with the famous 'Mama Tapgun' statue.

He also maintained relative ethno-religious harmony across the old Plateau State. His vision extended to human capital development, with particular attention to youth activities and sports, which he regarded as instruments of unity, empowerment and social integration during a turbulent period in the nation's history.

This writer can personally testify firsthand to how Tapgun's humility was reflected in his daily conduct in government.

During his tenure as governor, a radical journalist friend of mine kept the young administration on its toes through persistent and imaginative media campaigns, driven largely by the intensity of organised political rivalry.

The journalist's constant criticism infuriated some of the young and fiercely loyal members of the administration, who wanted to silence him and subject him to what they considered political justice.

But Governor Tapgun, true to his gentle disposition, rejected every suggestion of tyranny. Rather than deploy the machinery of government against his critic, he insisted on dialogue and understanding.

Knowing my close personal relationship with the journalist, the governor and members of his inner circle asked me to arrange a face-to-face meeting with him. We eventually appeared before the governor, anticipating a tense encounter.

However, Tapgun defused the situation with a single, memorable statement: "Feel free to report and correct what we do good or bad, but confirm from us when you imagine things about us."

With that remarkable display of open-mindedness, an adversarial relationship was transformed into mutual understanding. It was a practical demonstration of tolerance and respect for press freedom, offering a lesson that contemporary political leaders would do well to embrace.

No assessment of leadership is complete without acknowledging the issues that have generated controversy. Critics have frequently questioned the privatisation and sale of the state-owned Brewery Agro Research Company (BARC) Farms.

Although subsequent administrations spent decades attempting to recover the asset, a fair assessment of the decision should also consider the economic reasoning behind it. The decision, as viewed from the perspective of its proponents, was a deliberate attempt to remove a capital-intensive enterprise from the state's balance sheet, transfer its management to private interests and stimulate commercial efficiency while easing the burden on public finances.

Furthermore, his later years as a prominent member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Board of Trustees occasionally saw his outspoken and uncompromising positions make him a polarising elder statesman during periods of intense internal party disagreements.

From governor to national kingmaker

Yet, Tapgun's post-gubernatorial career further established his reputation as a national political figure and revealed another remarkable dimension of his public life: his transition from an elected leader to an influential political strategist and kingmaker.

His organisational abilities received national recognition when he was appointed Director-General of the Obasanjo/Atiku Presidential Campaign Organisation between 2002 and 2003. In that capacity, he played a significant role in coordinating the campaign that secured the re-election of the presidency.

He subsequently served Nigeria with distinction on the international stage as the country's High Commissioner to Kenya before joining the Federal Executive Council as Minister of Industry.

Despite these national responsibilities, his attachment to Plateau State remained unwavering. On returning to his home state, Tapgun deployed his political influence, experience and grassroots goodwill to oversee the historic election of Governor Jonah David Jang, further cementing his reputation as an influential architect of political leadership and succession.

Decades after leaving active governance, beneficiaries of his foundational free education policies still affectionately identify themselves as 'Tapgun's children'.

Perhaps the most profound testament to his character is his choice of lifestyle. In a political culture where public office holders and other members of the elite routinely relocate to high-brow, gated neighbourhoods as symbols of status, Sir Fidelis consciously chose to remain in his original neighbourhood and old community.

Living there with dignity and simplicity, he remains deeply connected to his Catholic faith and community values. By continuing to live alongside the people he once governed, he has challenged the traditional barriers of elite isolation and demonstrated that public service should not create an unnecessary distance between leaders and the people.

At 85, Tapgun remains a respected figure, largely untouched by the controversies and scandals that have tarnished the reputations of some of his contemporaries. His political journey offers an important lesson in balancing authority with humility and public responsibility with humanity.

He has demonstrated that greatness does not necessarily lie in the preservation of personal power or the pursuit of ostentatious lifestyles but in the deliberate improvement of other people's lives.

There is also something admirable about his decision to live simply and remain connected to his community. While some of his contemporaries have spent their post-political years preoccupied with property investments in Abuja's exclusive neighbourhoods or the pressures of maintaining an elite lifestyle, Tapgun appears to have embraced a different philosophy: peace of mind, community affection and the satisfaction of living according to his values.

85 years of purpose, humility

It is perhaps no coincidence that, at 85, Tapgun continues to look remarkably fit, energetic and composed. His physical appearance and agility are impressive, giving the impression of someone who could still embark on a demanding political campaign trail.

Having successfully transitioned from an elected governor to an influential national political figure, he has little left to prove at the ballot box. Yet, considering his present physical condition, he could still give many contemporary political aspirants a serious challenge in a fitness test.

Clearly, a life anchored in simplicity, humility and faith offers rewards that go beyond material possessions and political achievements.

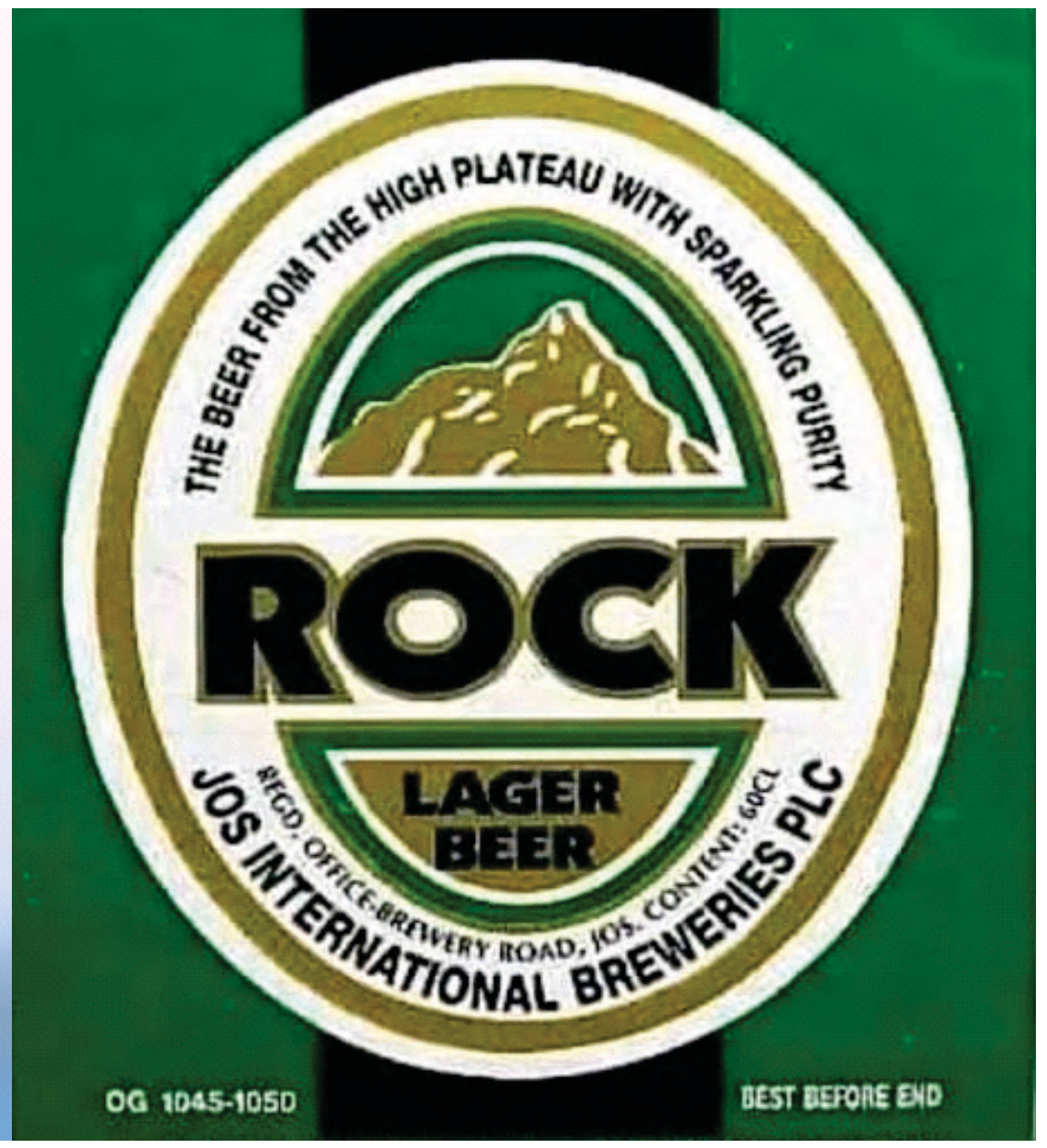
As we mark this remarkable milestone, we join millions of well-wishers across Nigeria in celebrating an exceptional personality whose life has been devoted to public service and the advancement of humanity.

May the years ahead bring him continued good health, happiness and the peaceful fulfilment that comes from a life of purpose. Thank you for demonstrating that leadership is, above all, a commitment to humanity.

Happy 85th birthday, Your Excellency!

Shedul, media specialist and National Coordinator, Congress of Minorities of Northern Nigeria (CMNN),





Jos trade fair without ROCK: Case for reviving Jos International Breweries

JOS International Breweries (JIB) was once a household name, cherished by indigenes and visitors to Plateau State alike, particularly consumers of its popular products.

Established in 1975 by the administration of Governor Joseph Dechi Gomwalk, Jos International Breweries is located at No. 1 Brewery Road, off Old Airport Road, Jos. The brewery commenced production in 1979, introducing popular brands such as the famous ROCK beer, followed by CLASS beer and Malt Royale.

At its peak, these products enjoyed considerable patronage across the country, meeting consumers' expectations while contributing to employment, revenue generation and economic development in Plateau State.

The brewery reportedly provided employment for between 6,000 and 7,000 people, including non-indigenes, and served as an attraction for visitors to the state.

Today, however, JIB has become a shadow of its former self. Despite several attempts by successive administrations to rehabilitate and strengthen the brewery, efforts to restore production have yet to yield the desired results.

Whatever economic activities its premises and facilities currently accommodate cannot adequately replace the productive and economic contributions the brewery once made to the people of Plateau State.

JIB, which once stood tall through the nationwide demand for its products and helped project Plateau State beyond its borders, is now facing the threat of extinction. Its decline represents not only

By CHRISTIAN BISKA

the loss of a once-thriving industrial enterprise but also a missed opportunity for employment generation, investment and economic growth.

For many people on the Plateau, ROCK remains a familiar name associated with the state's industrial heritage. Available accounts and the memories of former consumers suggest that it was among the most popular beer brands on the Plateau.

The ongoing Jos National Trade Fair, organised by the Plateau State Chamber of Commerce and Industry in conjunction with the state Ministry of Agriculture, provides another opportunity to reflect on this lost industrial heritage.



Hosted at the Jos Polo Field, the trade fair attracts visitors, business operators and residents, many of whom also use the venue as a relaxation spot after work in the evenings.

However, the absence of any visible beverage or bottling products associated with JIB, whether through exhibition stands or canopies serving visitors, raises questions about the continued neglect of an enterprise that once played a significant role in the state's economy.

The sight of a major trade fair taking place in Jos without the presence of ROCK or any other products from JIB is a reminder of how much the state has lost through the brewery's decline. It also raises a fundamental question: if a product that once enjoyed widespread patronage cannot feature at a major commercial event in its home state, what hope remains for the revival of the industry behind it?

> ***Reviving JIB would go beyond bringing back ROCK, CLASS and Malt Royale. It would create opportunities for employment, stimulate local commerce, increase government revenue and contribute to the industrial development of Plateau State. The brewery could also serve as a centre for industrial learning and educational visits by students from within and outside the state.***

It is, therefore, time for the Plateau State Government and the Plateau Investment and Property Company (PIPC) to explore a strategic partnership with credible private-sector investors to rehabilitate and revive Jos International Breweries.

Such an arrangement should involve a transparent assessment of the brewery's assets, production capacity, financial position and investment requirements, as well as a sustainable management structure.

Reviving JIB would go beyond bringing back ROCK, CLASS and Malt Royale. It would create opportunities for employment, stimulate local commerce, increase government revenue and contribute to the industrial development of Plateau State. The brewery could also serve as a centre for industrial learning and educational visits by students from within and outside the state.

The decline of Jos International Breweries should not be accepted as the end of its story. Its history demonstrates what the state once achieved through industrial investment and enterprise.

With the right partnership, commitment and investment, there may still be an opportunity to restore its operations and reclaim part of the economic value it once contributed to Plateau State.

Ezechukwu, Nathaniel, Kure headline 10th anniversary athletics meet

By ANDRE BISYIT

MORE than 850 athletes are expected to compete at the Athletic Heat 10th Anniversary Meet on Saturday, November 7, with Nigerian internationals Miracle Ezechukwu, Samson Nathaniel and Adams Samuel Kure among the leading attractions.

The competition will take place at the Yaba College of Technology Sports Complex and feature athletes across several track and field events.

Ezechukwu, who is expected to compete in the women's 100m, won three gold medals at the 2025 African U-18 and U-20 Championships. She recorded personal bests of 11.15 seconds in the 100m and 22.77 seconds in the 200m this year, and helped Nigeria win the 4x100m relay at the African Senior Athletics Championships in a championship-record time of 42.94 seconds.

Nathaniel is expected to feature in the men's 400m. The quarter-miler represented Nigeria at the Olympic Games and World Athletics Championships and won gold in the men's 4x400m relay at the 2023 African Games. He has a personal best of 45.23 seconds.

Kure, a Nigerian international javelin thrower, won bronze at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games with a throw of 76.01m.

According to a statement signed by Maxwell Kumoye, Chairman of the Media Committee of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria, organisers have completed the event seeding and allocation of bib numbers.

Athletes have been advised to check the Roster Athletics app for their schedules and assignments.

The senior men's 100m has attracted 320 entries, while the competition will also feature age-grade races, 400m and 800m events, hurdles and long jump.

The meet is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Athletes who cannot attend have been asked to notify the organisers so their entries can be withdrawn.



Ezechukwu,

Hakimi, Mané, Semenyo among CAF Player of the Year nominees

By DUNG CHUNG

MOROCCO'S Achraf Hakimi, Senegal's Sadio Mané and Ghana's Antoine Semenyo are among 10 players nominated for the 2026 Confederation of African Football (CAF) Men's Player of the Year award.

CAF announced the shortlist on Wednesday, with Hakimi seeking to retain the award he won last year.

Semenyo earned his nomination after scoring 17 Premier League goals for Bournemouth and Manchester City during the 2025/26 season.

He joined Manchester City in January 2026 after beginning the campaign at Bournemouth.

Mané, a former winner of the award, is also among the nominees following his performances for club and country.

The other players shortlisted are Amad Diallo of Ivory Coast, Morocco's BrahimDíaz and Ismaël Saibari, Senegal's IsmaïlaSarr and PapeGueye, South Africa's Teboho Mokoena and DR Congo's YoaneWissa.

The winner will be announced at the 2026 CAF Awards ceremony on December 7.



Mané

JJ Gabriel agrees verbal deal with Real Madrid

By OUR REPORTER

MANCHESTER United teenager JJ Gabriel has reached a verbal agreement with Real Madrid and is expected to join the Spanish club in January, according to BBC Sport.

The 16-year-old remains registered with United but has not returned to the club since walking out in September. He has since been training alone in Spain as he considers his options for senior football.

Gabriel had been expected to make his first-team debut in United's Carabao Cup tie against Brighton in September. The appearance would have made him the club's youngest-ever debutant.

Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain were also interested in the forward, but Real Madrid now expect to sign him when the transfer window opens in January.

No club-to-club negotiations have taken place, but BBC sources say Real Madrid have reached a verbal agreement with Gabriel and his representatives.

United would be entitled to compensation if he leaves, although the amount would be lower if he joins a club outside the Premier League. The teenager has also secured an EU passport, which could facilitate his move abroad.

Gabriel scored a hat-trick on his UEFA Youth League debut and was named Premier League Under-18 Player of the Season last term, despite being 14 for part of the campaign.



Gabriel

NPFL TABLE

Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Rivers United FC	9	4	5	0	13	2	11	17
2	Rangers International FC	8	5	2	1	14	9	5	17
3	Sporting Lagos FC	9	4	3	2	13	11	2	15
4	Plateau United FC	9	4	2	3	15	11	4	14
5	Barau FC	9	3	5	1	12	9	3	14
6	Nasarawa United FC	9	4	2	3	10	8	2	14
7	Kano Pillars FC	9	3	5	1	12	11	1	14
8	Doma United FC	9	4	2	3	11	11	0	14
9	Ikorodu City FC	9	3	3	3	11	9	2	12
10	Bendel Insurance FC	8	4	0	4	14	13	1	12
11	Niger Tornadoes FC	9	3	3	3	8	8	0	12
12	Katsina United FC	9	3	3	3	10	12	-2	12
13	Kwara United FC	9	3	2	4	10	10	0	11
14	Warri Wolves	9	3	2	4	6	7	-1	11
15	Shooting Stars (3SC)	9	3	2	4	10	12	-2	11
16	Abia Warriors FC	9	2	4	3	9	12	-3	10
17	Kun Khalifat FC	9	2	3	4	8	15	-7	9
18	Enyimba FC	9	2	2	5	11	14	-3	8
19	Ranchers Bees	9	2	2	5	10	13	-3	8
20	Inter Lagos	9	1	2	6	2	15	-13	2

EPL TABLE

	Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Last 5
1	Arsenal	9	8	0	1	14	5	9	24	L W W W D
2	Manchester City	9	7	0	2	20	10	10	21	W W W L L
3	Brighton	9	6	1	2	24	7	17	19	W W W L D
4	Chelsea	9	5	1	3	19	15	4	16	L W W L D
5	Liverpool	9	4	3	2	11	9	2	15	W L W W L
6	Brentford	9	3	5	1	16	9	7	14	W D L D W
7	Everton	9	3	4	2	9	9	0	13	W D L L W
8	Bournemouth	9	3	3	3	14	13	1	12	L L W W W
9	Tottenham	9	3	3	3	10	10	0	12	L D W W W
10	Aston Villa	9	3	3	3	10	13	-3	12	W D W W D
11	Hull	9	2	5	2	11	10	1	11	L D L D D
12	Leeds United	9	2	5	2	9	8	1	11	D L D D L
13	Newcastle	9	3	2	4	12	15	-3	11	W L L W L
14	Ipswich	9	3	2	4	14	18	-4	11	L W L D D
15	Fulham	9	2	3	4	9	11	-2	9	D L W W D
16	Coventry	9	3	0	6	9	16	-7	9	W W L L W
17	Manchester United	9	1	4	4	10	15	-5	7	D D D L L
18	Crystal Palace	9	2	1	6	9	21	-12	7	D W L L L
19	Nottingham	9	1	3	5	6	12	-6	6	L L L D L
20	Sunderland	9	1	2	6	7	17	-10	5	L L L D L

LALIGA TABLE

	Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Last 5
1	Barcelona	11	10	0	1	46	12	34	30	W W W L W
2	Atletico	11	9	1	1	22	8	14	28	W W W W W
3	Real Madrid	11	9	0	2	28	10	18	27	L W W W W
4	Real Betis	11	7	2	2	18	15	3	23	D W L D W
5	Real Sociedad	11	6	1	4	20	20	0	19	W W W W L
6	Sevilla	11	5	2	4	17	19	-2	17	L D L W L
7	Bilbao	10	4	3	3	14	10	4	15	D D L W W
8	Deportivo	11	3	5	3	15	14	1	14	D L D L W
9	Villarreal	11	3	3	5	15	15	0	12	W L D W L
10	Celta Vigo	11	2	6	3	10	10	0	12	W D W D L
11	Alaves	11	3	3	5	15	17	-2	12	D L L D L
12	Vallecano	10	3	3	4	15	20	-5	12	W D D L W
13	Getafe	11	3	3	5	8	16	-8	12	W L D L W
14	Espanyol	11	3	2	6	13	14	-1	11	L D L L W
15	Osasuna	11	3	2	6	11	22	-11	11	D L W L L
16	Santander	11	3	2	6	15	29	-14	11	L D L W L
17	Elche	11	2	4	5	14	18	-4	10	W D D W L
18	Levante	11	2	4	5	16	21	-5	10	D D W L L
19	Valencia	11	2	3	6	8	17	-9	9	L D D L W
20	Malaga	11	0	5	6	8	21	-13	5	L D L D L

Man U's fightback against Roma revives Carrick's fortunes

By DUNG CHUNG

MANCHESTER United's dramatic 3-2 comeback victory over AS Roma in the UEFA Champions League has offered manager Michael Carrick temporary relief, but his side's poor Premier League form continues to raise questions about his future at Old Trafford.

United came from two goals down to win Tuesday's match at Old Trafford, with Matheus Cunha scoring twice in the second half after captain Bruno Fernandes had reduced Roma's lead from the penalty spot.

The result was a welcome change for Carrick, whose team remain 17th in the Premier League with seven points from nine matches.

Roma took control early when Matias Soulé scored in the 11th minute. Donyell Malen converted a penalty six minutes later to put the visitors 2-0 ahead.

United struggled before the interval but returned with greater urgency after the break. Fernandes pulled one back in the 58th minute, converting a penalty after his first attempt was ordered to be retaken.

Cunha then levelled the score in the 83rd minute before completing the turnaround three minutes later, finishing a move set up by Shea Lacey.

The Brazilian was sent off after receiving a second yellow card in stoppage time, but United held on for



Manchester United

the victory.

The comeback recalled some of the club's most memorable European nights, although it has done little to resolve the problems that have defined their domestic campaign.

United have won just once in nine league matches, drawing four and losing four. Their latest setback was a 2-0 defeat by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on October 31, during which defender Lisandro Martínez was sent off.

That result followed a 3-0 home defeat by Bournemouth on October 25. United have also lost to Hull City and Manchester City, while inconsistent performances have kept them in the lower reaches of the table.

Defensive errors and poor organisation have drawn criticism of Carrick's management, with the team struggling to turn its attacking ability into consistent league results.

The latest standings have Arsenal top with 24 points, followed by Manchester City on 21 and Brighton on 19. United have seven points and a goal difference of minus five, leaving them close to the relegation zone.

The victory over Roma gives Carrick a result to build on, but his immediate task is to improve United's league form. Another run of poor results would put his position under greater scrutiny.

Nigeria's sports future at risk as grassroots system declines

By KIM DAHWOL

NIGERIA'S grassroots sports system is losing the support that once made it a reliable source of athletic talent. Community pitches are falling into disrepair, school competitions have declined and smaller clubs are struggling to attract investment. Sports stakeholders say the consequences could be felt in the country's future performance at international competitions.

For decades, many Nigerian athletes began their careers on neighbourhood pitches and at school competitions. These informal settings gave young people a chance to play and be noticed, often without the cost of joining a private academy. That route is becoming harder to follow.

Across the country, community fields have been abandoned or converted into markets and parking spaces. Public training facilities have also deteriorated, leaving young athletes with fewer places to practise.

Ezekiel Victor of Old Rangers FC said some young people were abandoning sports because of the financial pressures around them.

"One of the underestimated reasons for the decline in Nigerian grassroots sport is the rise in fraud; young boys tend to leave sports for fraud," he said.

David Itodo said the poor state of sports infrastructure was also discouraging young athletes.

"Corruption and lack of infrastructural growth discourages young talents and they go looking after other dreams," he said.

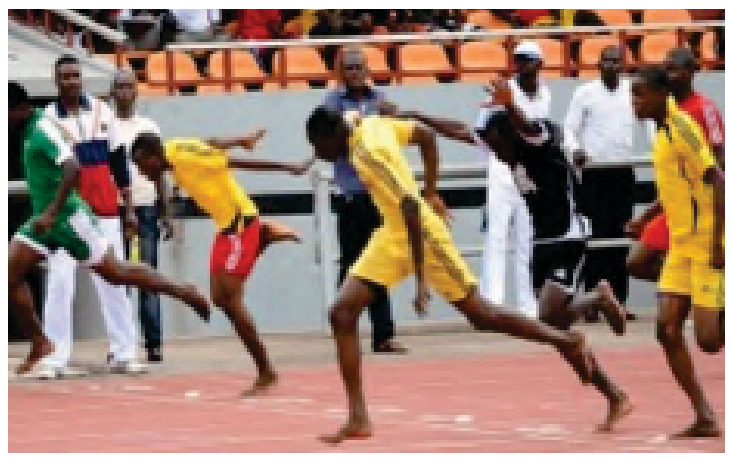
Smaller football clubs are facing a separate problem. Joel Dachomo said scouting agents were increasingly concentrating on football academies, leaving community clubs with little attention.

"A major reason is low investments in smaller football clubs; little attention is paid to the small clubs around. Scouting agents mostly go to football academies to scout for players," he said.

The shift has consequences for young people who cannot afford academy fees or private coaching. Without those options, talented players from poorer backgrounds may struggle to get noticed.

Schools have also become less important to the talent-development process. Reduced attention to physical education and neglected playing grounds have weakened the school competitions that once gave children an opportunity to take part in organised sports.

The article also points to a funding imbalance. State and national sports authorities are said to direct much of their attention towards elite international



Nigerian athletes

competitions, while community-level programmes receive less support.

Stakeholders want governments to restore community playing fields and public training facilities. They have also called for physical education and inter-school competitions to be strengthened in primary and secondary schools.

They say local clubs need direct financial support, rather than leaving talent development largely to private academies. Corporate sponsorship and local media coverage could also help smaller clubs attract the attention and resources they need.

The concern is that Nigeria may be weakening the very system through which many of its athletes first entered competitive sports. If community clubs and school programmes continue to lose support, fewer young people may have a route into organised athletics.

Nasarawa, Plateau United meet in Matchday 12 northern derby

By DASPAN DANJUMA

NASARAWA United will host Plateau United on Sunday in a northern derby that could affect both sides' positions near the top of the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) table.

Nasarawa United sit fifth after 11 matches, one point behind league leaders Rivers United, while Plateau United are sixth, a point behind their hosts. Both sides will be seeking points as the league enters Matchday 12.

Plateau United are still searching for their first away win of the season, having recorded three draws on the road. They came close against Katsina United on Matchday 10 but surrendered a two-goal lead to settle for a draw.

That result followed a home defeat to Inter Lagos on Matchday 9. Plateau United then drew with Warri Wolves, coming from behind after Emmanuel Aribogha scored in the 24th minute. Substitute Samuel Ayanridaequalised in the 60th minute.

Coach Gbenga Ogunbote's side will need to improve its defensive organisation if it is to contain Nasarawa United's attack. Ogunbote has also urged his forwards to show patience and avoid rushing their decisions in front of goal.

Nasarawa United, coached by MbwasMangut, go into the match after a run of three consecutive victories, followed



Nasarawa United

by a draw and an away defeat to Kano Pillars.

The Solid Miners have been difficult to beat at home. Their victories include a 1-0 win over former champions Enyimba, and their organiseddefence has helped keep them in contention near the top of the table.

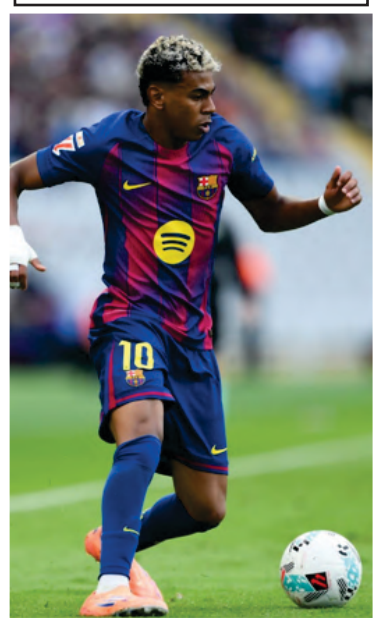
They have also been effective at exploiting transitions and defensive mistakes, an area of concern for Plateau United after their recent performances.

Past meetings at Nasarawa United's home ground also favour the hosts. In eight encounters, Nasarawa have won five, Plateau United have won two, while the other match ended in a draw.

Plateau United will be seeking to improve on that record and end their winless away run, while Nasarawa United will look to maintain their home form and stay close to the league leaders.

Barcelona beat Aston Villa 3-0 as PSG hit Villarreal for six

By AMANDA ZAKKA



Yamal

BARCELONA recorded a 3–0 victory over Aston Villa, while Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) thrashed Villarreal 6–0 in Tuesday's UEFA Champions League matches.

Lamine Yamal opened the scoring for Barcelona in the seventh minute after capitalising on a loose pass from the Villa defence. Raphinha doubled the lead in the 52nd minute with a deflected effort before scoring again in the 64th minute from a João Cancelo assist.

The win took Barcelona level with Aston Villa on nine points in the league-phase standings, with the Spanish side moving above their opponents.

PSG produced an even more emphatic result, scoring six goals without reply against Villarreal away from home.

JoãoNeves gave the French side the lead in the ninth minute, before Désiré Doué and Senny Mayulu scored in the 12th and 13th minutes respectively.

Fabián Ruiz added a fourth in the 17th minute and scored again five minutes after the restart. David Boly completed the scoring in the 78th minute.

The victory moved PSG to the top of the Champions League standings with 12 points, maintaining their perfect record in the competition.

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GUEST WRITER

NICK DAZANG

> *INEC should retrace its steps. Doing so would reassure all contestants that it has no preferred candidate and that it has "no dog in the fight".*

INEC's transparency test ahead of 2027

IN ordinary times, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is in the eye of the storm. Consequently, it is often awash with controversy.

With less than 80 days to the conduct of the 2027 General Elections, the Commission is expected to come under more intense and comprehensive scrutiny.

This is particularly so given that the Commission's Chairman, Professor Joash Amupitan, recently addressed a world press conference and stakeholders' meeting at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, where he explained INEC's preparedness for the 2027 General Elections.

Since that conference, whose overarching objective was a "call to action" on the electoral front, things have taken a frenzied turn at the Commission.

The INEC Chairman has since visited a number of the Commission's offices outside Abuja. At one such engagement, he vowed that the glitch that marred the 2023 General Elections would not be allowed to rear its ugly head in the 2027 General Elections.

The preliminary Register of Voters, as required by law, was displayed nationwide for claims and objections. Widespread publicity preceded the exercise.

If the Commission's work gathered pace in the aftermath of the world press conference, and if the preliminary Register of Voters was displayed for claims and objections, it was, alas, not uploaded to the Commission's website as required by the Electoral Act 2026.

The Act states in clear and unmistakable terms:

"Subject to the provision section 9(6) of this Act, the Commission shall, not later than 90 days to a general election, appoint a period of seven days during which a copy of the voters' register for each Local Government, Area Council or Ward shall be displayed or published for public scrutiny at every registration area and on its official website or any website established by the Commission for that purpose."

Not a few stakeholders, including the media, civil society organisations and political parties, visited the Commission's website to scrutinise an online copy of the preliminary Register of Voters.

However, their efforts were unsuccessful, as they were instead advised to check back.

There is no doubt that the Commission published the provisional Register of Voters for the claims and objections exercise, which took place from 9 to 15 October. However, that did not suffice.

Neither was the Commission in full compliance with the law, which requires that the same preliminary Register of Voters be displayed on its website.

By failing to upload the preliminary Register of Voters to its website, the Commission exposes itself to accusations of opacity and a lack of transparency, as well as allegations that it has something to hide.

Additionally, when the Commission fails to abide by laws it has freely given itself or bequeathed to itself, it speaks clearly of institutional indiscipline and sloth. Besides, how can INEC, as the chief driver of our elections, command the moral high ground or take its rightful place as the leader of the electoral process when it violates the sanctity of the laws that inform and govern elections? How can it provide the example that other stakeholders in the electoral process may follow?

The register, the question of transparency

As if this misstep were not bad enough, INEC recently effected a minor deployment and reshuffle of its directors. Such deployments and reorganisations are routine occurrences across ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). In INEC's case, such deployments and reorganisations are usually effected well before elections are conducted.

This gives the directors involved ample time to settle down and acclimatise themselves to their new roles. Consequently, such changes seldom raise eyebrows about their underlying motives.

However, when such deployments are carried out on the eve of general elections, they are bound to attract the attention of stakeholders and generate controversy. The particular deployment that continues to stir controversy is that of the Director of Electoral Operations.

The director must be deserving of her appointment. This may have informed her deployment in the first instance. However, given the critical importance of that department to the conduct of the 2027 General Elections and her marital relationship with a prominent figure in one of the Presidential Campaign Councils (PCCs), the Commission ought to have exercised circumspection and sensitivity.

It is possible that, in carrying out this deployment, the Commission was not informed of, or was unaware of, her relationship with a prominent politician who is also a spokesperson for a presidential campaign.

Now that this relationship is common knowledge, the Commission needs to act promptly. In doing so, it has a number of options.

The Commission can direct the director to recuse herself from her duties until after the elections. Her deputy, the Deputy Director of Electoral Operations, should then be directed to act in the substantive director's position, subject, of course, to considerations of merit and federal character.

Need for immediate corrective action

To proceed as things stand would do considerable damage to the Commission's core values of neutrality and impartiality. It would also constitute an egregious assault on the level playing field that INEC ought to provide for all contestants.

These shortcomings would, in turn, negatively affect the credibility and integrity of the elections.

INEC should retrace its steps. Doing so would reassure all contestants that it has no preferred candidate and that it has "no dog in the fight".

Furthermore, such corrective action would align with its mission to make the 2027 General Elections "a global benchmark for transparency, integrity and peace."

Dazang, OON, former Director of Voter Education and Publicity, INEC, writes from Abuja via nickdazang@gmail.com

> *To proceed as things stand would do considerable damage to the Commission's core values of neutrality and impartiality. It would also constitute an egregious assault on the level playing field that INEC ought to provide for all contestants. These shortcomings would, in turn, negatively affect the credibility and integrity of the elections.*

Sports Bit

Edo Queens goalkeeper Uzoma shortlisted for CAF award

By DUNG CHUNG

EDO Queens goalkeeper Christiana Uzoma has been shortlisted for the 2026 Confederation of African Football (CAF) Women's Goalkeeper of the Year award.

The 17-year-old is the only Nigerian among the 10 nominees announced by CAF on Tuesday.

Uzoma will compete with goalkeepers from Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia for the award.

She was also part of Nigeria's Falconets squad that reached the quarter-finals of the 2026 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Poland.

Three-time winner Chiamaka Nnadozie is absent from this year's shortlist.

Nigeria has also secured nominations in other women's categories. The Super Falcons are shortlisted for the Women's National Team of the Year award, while Falconets forward Seimeyeha Janet Akekoromowei and Flamingos forward Oluwakemi Adegbuyi are nominees for the Women's Young Player of the Year award.

Nigeria has no nominee in the Women's Player of the Year category.

The 2026 CAF Awards ceremony is scheduled for December 7.



Uzoma

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'Yancin Dan Adam

GASKIYA NA DAUKAKA KASA

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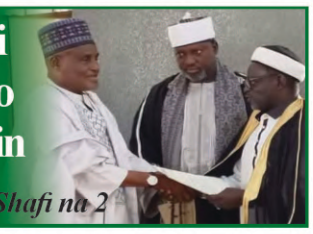
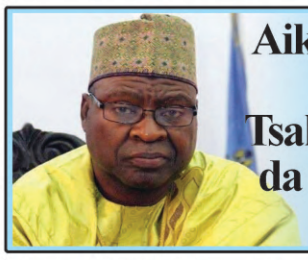
An nada Alhaji Sani Mudi Shugaban riko na Babban Masallacin Juma'a na Jos



- Shafi na 2

Aikin da ke gaban Ari a 2027: Tsakanin nasarar APC da hadin kan Plateau



- Shafi na 3

Kungiyar malaman jami'o'i ta ASUU UniAbuja ta bukaci a janye raba fili da ba bisa ka'ida ba

Kungiyar Malaman Jami'o'i (ASUU), reshen Jami'ar Abuja (UniAbuja), ta bukaci da a gaggauta dawo da wani fili da ake zargin Ministan Babban Birnin Tarayya, Nyesom Wike na rabon Jami'ar ba bisa ka'ida ba.

Shugaban ASUU reshen Jami'ar Abuja, Farfesa Sylvanus Ugoh, ya bayyana wannan bukata a wani taron manema labarai da aka gudanar a ranar Talata a Abuja.

Kamfanin Dillancin Labarai na Najeriya (NAN) ya rawaito cewa, an sanya wa taron taken: "Shiga cikin filin Jami'ar Abuja da Minista ya yi: Wasu batutuwa da ya kamata a yi tunani a kai."

Ugoh ya ce kungiyar ba za ta iya ba da garantin zaman lafiya a jami'ar ba idan har ministan ya ki soke rabon filin jami'ar da ake zargin ya bai wa abokansa da kawayensa.

"Matakin da Ministan FCT ya dauka, take hakki ne a fili kuma nuna rashin girmamawa ga doka da oda."

"A ranar 18 ga watan Agusta, Alkalin Babbar Kotun Maitama, Mai Shari'a F.E. Mesiri, ya bayar da umarnin hana ci gaba da wani aiki (interlocutory injunctions), wanda ya hada da hana Ministan FCT shiga ko mamaye filin jami'ar."

"Duk da wannan umarni na kotu, Ministan FCT ya ci gaba a ranar 26 ga watan Satumba, inda ya raba filin jami'ar ga wasu kamfanoni da daidaikun mutane," in ji shi.

Ugoh ya ce a ranar 30 ga watan Yuni, 2025, yayin kaddamar da hanyar shiga cibiyar Hukumar Yaki da Cin Hanci da Rashawa (EFCC) da ke Giri, ministan ya sanar da kwace hekta 7,000 daga cikin hekta 11,000 da aka ware wa jami'ar.

Ya ce ministan ya zargi jami'ar da kwace filaye da kuma shinge wasu hekta da dama ba tare da samun izini ko takardun da suka dace ba.

"Akwai hujjoji da dama a rubuce da ke nuna cewa an ware wannan

Juya shafi na 3

Bauchi za ta sake duba albashi, alawus ga alkalan Shari'a

Daga ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

Gwamnan Jihar Bauchi, Sanata Bala Mohammed, ya umurci jami'an gwamnati da shugabannin shari'a da su samar da tsarin albashi da alawus mai dorewa ga alkalan kotun Shari'a da kuma alkalan kotun Shari'a.

Ya bayar da umarnin ne a ranar Talata a bikin shekarar shari'a ta 2026/2027 a babban kotun jihar Bauchi, inda ya umurci Shugaban Ma'aikatan Gwamnati da kwamishinonin kudi da shari'a da su yi aiki tare da shugabannin shari'a don magance lamarin cikin gaggawa.

Gwamnan ya ce tsarin da aka gabatar ya kamata ya nuna tsarin albashin shari'a da aka amince da shi a wasu jihohi yayin da yake da araha kuma mai dorewa.

Ya kuma ba da umarnin samar da motocin hukuma ga alkalan da kuma gyaran gidajen alkalai da kotuna a fadin jihar. Ya bukaci jami'an shari'a da su bayar da adalci ba tare da tsoro ko alfarma ba.

A jawabinta, Babban Alkalin Jihar Bauchi, Mai Shari'a Rabi Talatu Umar, ta yaba da tsoma bakin gwamnan a fannin shari'a amma ta ce alkalan jihar su ne mafi karancin albashi a Arewa maso Gabas da Jihar Jigawa.

Ta yi kira da a ƙara sassa na Kotunan Babban Kotu a Ningi, Misau, Toro da Azare domin magance yawan shari'o'in da ake yi. Ta kuma yi kira da a ƙara samar da kayan aikin kotu, masaukin zama da motocin hukuma ga jami'an shari'a.

Shugaban Kungiyar Lauyoyi ta Najeriya, reshen Bauchi, Rabi'u Garba, ya yi kira da a tsaurara matakan aiwatar da dà'a na ƙwararru a tsakanin lauyoyi don ƙarfafa samar da adalci, da kuma samar da motocin bas ga rassanta ƙungiyarna Misau da Azare, don magance bukatun sufuri.



Gwamna Bala Mohammed

'Yan bindiga sun sace daliban makarantar Islamiyya 14 a Neja

Daga SAMUEL MATHIAS, Minna

Rundunar 'yan sandan Jihar Neja ta tabbatar da sace daliban makarantar Islamiyya su 14 a ƙauyen Tungan-Bako da ke Ƙaramar Hukumar Rafi ta jihar, kwanaki bayan faruwar lamarin. Rundunar ta ce jami'an tsaro na hadin gwiwa sun fara ƙoƙarin ceto daliban domin tabbatar da kuɓutar da su.

Jami'in huldà da jama'a na rundunar 'yan sandan jihar, Superintendent Wasiu Abiodun, ne ya tabbatar da faruwar lamarin a cikin wata sanarwa da ya fitar ga manema labarai a Minna ranar Laraba.

A cewar rundunar, an sace daliban ne daga gonar malaminsu, inda suke taimaka masa wajen girbin masara a lokacin da wasu da ake zargin 'yan bindiga ne suka kai farmaki gonar tare da yin awon gaba da su.

Sanarwar ta ce: "A ranar 31/10/2026 da misalin ƙarfe 12:30 na rana, wasu da ake zargin 'yan bindiga ne suka kai farmaki ƙauyen Tungan-Bako da ke Ƙaramar Hukumar Rafi, inda suka sace wasu mutanen da ke aiki a gona.

"Rahotanni sun nuna cewa wadànda aka sace dàliban makarantar Islamiyya ne su kusan 14, wadànda suke taimaka wa malaminsu wajen girbin masara a gonar kafin faruwar lamarin."

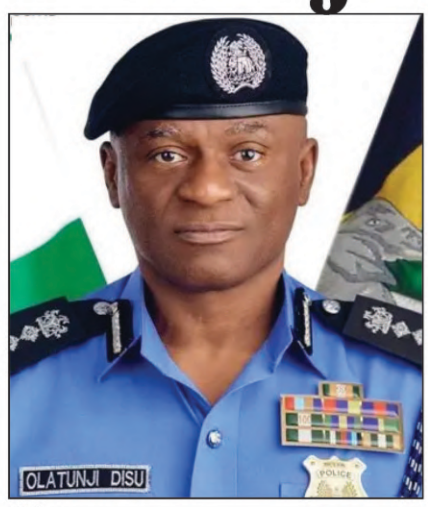
Abiodun ya ƙara da cewa jami'an tsaro na hadin gwiwa suna ci gaba da ƙoƙarin ceto wadànda aka sace, tare da tabbatar da cewa rundunar za ta sanar da jama'a duk wani sabon bayani da ya samu dangane da lamarin.

A halin da ake ciki, tun bayan faruwar lamarin an samu rahotanni masu saɓani daga wasu majiyoyi dangane da yadda sace daliban ya faru.

Wasu rahotanni sun bayyana cewa tun bayan isowar maharan, an sanar da dàliban cewa 'yan bindigar sun zo, lamarin da ya sa suka yi ƙoƙarin tserewa domin tsira da rayukansu. Sai dai rahotannin sun ce duk da haka, an yi nasarar sace 15 daga cikinsu.

Jaridar 'YANCIN DAN ADAM ta

Juya shafi na 2



Disu



MUTFWANG DA YILWATDA A TARON HADUWA NA GOSA DA GICOSA NA SHEKARAR 2026

Shugaban Kasa na ƙungiyar GOSA, Architect Samuel Jatau (dama), yana maraba da Gwamna Manasseh Mutfwang (hagu) da Shugaban jam'iyyar APC na ƙasa, Farfesa Nentawe Yilwatda, a taron haduwa na shekarar 2026 na ƙungiyoyin tsofaffin dàliban Gindiri (GOSA da GICOSA). An gudanar da taron ne a COCIN Ulster, da ke harabar makarantun Gindiri a ƙaramar hukumar Mangu, a ranar Lahadi

Hoto: DANLADI DUK

Jos North zata karfafa sashen ruwa da tsaftar muhalli – Ciyaman

By JIDAUNA DARING

Shugaban Karamar Hukumar Jos ta Arewa, John Christopher, ya bai wa mazauna yankin tabbacin cewa gwamnatinsa za ta ci gaba da ba da fifiko ga bangarorin samar da ruwa da tsafta, inda ya bayyana su a matsayin muhimman fannoni da ke bukatar kulawa ta dindindin domin kare lafiyar jama'a.

Christopher ya bayyana hakan ne yayin da ya karbi bakuncin jami'an kungiyar 'Network of Civil Society Organisations of Nigeria on Water and Sanitation' (NEWSAN), reshen Jihar Filato, wadanda suka kai masa ziyarar wayar da kai a ofishinsa da ke sakatariyar karamar hukumar a Jos kwanan nan.

"Ina yaba gudummawar da kungiyarku ta bayar ga bangaren ruwa da tsafta a Jos ta Arewa. A matsayinmu na karamar hukuma, ba za mu yi kasa a gwiwa ba wajen kokarin samar wa jama'a ruwan sha mai tsafta. Ruwa mai tsafta yana rage yawan kamuwa da cututtuka da dama da ke yaduwa ta hanyar ruwa," in ji shi.

Shugaban ya bayyana ziyarar a matsayin mai zuwa a kan lokaci, yana mai nuni da cewa kwanan nan karamar hukumar ta fuskanci barkewar cututtukan kwalara da 'diphtheria'.

Ya danganta barkewar wadannan cututtuka a wasu sassan Jos ta Arewa da rashin tsafta a cikin al'ummomin da abin ya shafa.

"Wannan ziyara ta karfafa mana gwiwa don yin karin ayyuka. Za mu yi aiki tare da kungiyarku don tabbatar da cewa an samar wa jama'a karin muhimman abubuwan bukata.

"Samar da ingantattun ayyuka ga jama'a shi ne babban burinmu," ya kara da cewa.

A baya, mai gudanar da kungiyar NEWSAN a Jihar Filato, Bitrus Sauta, ya yaba wa shugaban karamar hukumar

Juya shafi na 2

Tsadar Hayan Gida da Shago a Plateau: Shin Talaka Zai iya Samun Muhallin Zama da Sana'a Mai Sauki? - Shafi na 3

Shekaru 16 na Sarkin Wase: Tarihin zaman lafiya, hikima da gina dangantaka

Daga shafin karshe

diyarsa ta fari a shekarar 2020, Sarkin ya yi kira na musamman da a amince da ayyuka da nauyin da sarakunan gargajiya ke gudanarwa a cikin kundin tsarin mulkin kasa.

Ya bayyana cewa duk lokacin da wata matsala ta taso a cikin al'umma, mutane kan fara zuwa wajen sarakunan gargajiya domin neman mafita, amma duk da haka kundin tsarin mulkin kasar bai fayyace nauyin da ke kansu ba.

Ya ce: "Duk lokacin da wata matsala ta faru, kowa yana garzayawa wajen sarki. Amma idan aka tambaye ni a yau, mene ne aikina bisa kundin tsarin mulkin Najeriya, gaskiya ban sani ba. Alhali kuwa muna gudanar da kusan dukkan ayyukan. Idan ana son mu kara yin abubuwa fiye da haka, dole ne doka ta ba mu kariya."

Ya bukaci shugabannin siyasa da su samar da dokokin da za su karfafa cibiyoyin sarautun gargajiya, yana mai cewa wajibi ne su "kafa mana dokoki domin mu ci gaba da gudanar da ayyukan da muka shafe daruruwan shekaru muna yi".

Matsayinsa na daga cikin muhawarar da ake yi a matakin kasa kan bukatar amincewa da sarakunan gargajiya a kundin tsarin mulki da kuma fayyace ayyukan da ya kamata su rika gudanarwa, batun da ya kasance cikin muhimman abubuwan da ake tattaunawa a Majalisar Dokoki ta Kasa yayin shirye-shiryen yi wa kundin tsarin mulki kwaskwarima.

Haka kuma, Sarkin ya bayyana tarbiyyar yara ta gari a matsayin wani muhimmin ginshiki na zaman lafiyar al'umma da kuma hanyar magance rashin da'a da tarzomar matasa.

Ya yi gargadin cewa: "Daya daga cikin manyan matsalolin da al'ummarmu ke fuskanta a halin yanzu shi ne rashin tarbiyya mai kyau. Mun kauce wa nauyin da ya rataya a wuyanmu na iyaye."

A fahimtarsa, iyali shi ne tushen kowace al'umma, saboda haka ya kamata iyaye su kara daukar nauyin tarbiyyar 'ya'yansu, bunkasa dabi'unsu na gari da kuma tabbatar da samun ingantaccen ilimi.

Dattaku a wajen Wase da gadon sarauta

A cikin shekaru 16 da suka gabata, tasirin Dokta Haruna ya wuce iyakokin Masarautar Wase. Matsayinsa na sarauta ya kara sanya shi cikin wadanda ake tuntuba wajen sasanta rikice-rikice, bayar da shawarwari da kuma bayyana ra'ayin masu matsakaicin tunani kan harkokin siyasa da zamantakewa a jihar.

Ya ci gaba da kulla kyakkyawar alaka da shugabannin siyasa daga jam'iyyu daban-daban, lamarin da ya kara tabbatar da matsayinsa na sarkin gargajiya da ke karbar kowa ba tare da la'akari da jam'iyyar siyasar da yake goyon baya ba.

A shekarar 2026, rahotanni sun nuna cewa ya yi wa burin Sanata Simon Lalong na neman sake komawa Majalisar Dattawa a zaben shekarar 2027 albarkar sarauta, inda ya bayyana shi a matsayin "dan Wase na hakika wanda har yanzu ake kauna, girmamawa da kuma karbuwa a wurare da dama".

A daya bangaren kuma, ya ci gaba da kyautata alaka da Gwamna Mutfwang, wanda ya yaba da jajircewarsa wajen inganta tattaunawa, mutunta juna da fahimtar juna tsakanin kabilu daban-daban.

Sarkin ya kuma ci gaba da kasancewa cikin mahalarta tarukan zaman lafiya tsakanin mabiya addinai, tattaunawar manoma da makiyaya da kuma shirye-shiryen da NUJ da sauran kungiyoyin farar hula ke shiryawa.

Gudummawar da yake bayarwa a irin wadannan taruka ta taimaka wajen nuna muhimmancin cibiyar sarautar gargajiya a matsayin abokiyar hulda wajen neman zaman lafiya, tsaro da ci gaba.

Wani muhimmin abin lura a zamaninsa shi ne kokarinsa na kare tarihi, asali da martabar Masarautar Wase, wadda take daya daga cikin tsofaffin masarautun tarihi a Arewacin Najeriya, kuma tarihinta ya samo asali tun daga zamanin jihadin Usman Dan Fodiyo.

Ta hanyar zamanantar da harkokin gudanar da fada tare da kiyaye kyawawan al'adun gargajiya, ya yi kokarin tabbatar da ci gaba da kasancewar masarautar a matsayin wata muhimmiyar cibiya a cikin al'umma, tare da dacewa da bukatun zamani.

Saboda haka, shekaru 16 a kan karagar sarauta ba wai kawai suna nuna tsawon lokacin mulki ba ne, suna kuma ba da damar yin nazari kan irin gadon da shugabancin gargajiya ke bari a karkashin jagorancinsa.

Dokta Muhammad Haruna ya gaji Wase a lokacin da al'ummarta ke fama da tsoro, rarrabuwar kai da rashin tsaro. Masu goyon bayansa na nuni da kyautatuwar zaman tare a wasu matakai, kokarinsa na kare tsaron al'ummomin karkara, jaddada muhimmancin ilimi da kuma ayyukan karfafa cibiyar sarautar gargajiya a matsayin muhimman abubuwan da suka bambanta zamaninsa.

Ko da yake Wase ba ta kubuta gaba daya daga matsalar rashin tsaro da sauran kalubale ba, jajircewar Sarkin wajen karfafa tattaunawa ta samar da wata dama da al'ummomi daban-daban ke amfani da ita wajen fahimtar juna.

Ci gaba da hulda tsakanin Musulmi da Kiristoci, har ma a wurare kamar kasuwar Wase, na nuna muhimmancin dorewar kyakkyawar alaka da zaman tare.

Haka kuma, ya taimaka wajen bai wa Wase karfin murya a tattaunawar da ake yi a Jos da Abuja, musamman kan matsalar 'yan bindiga, korar jama'a daga muhallansu da kalubalen da al'ummomin karkara ke fuskanta.

Matakan da ya dauka sun taimaka wajen jawo hankalin gwamnati kan halin da mazauna yankin ke ciki da kuma bukatar daukar matakan magance matsalolinsu.

Wani abin da ya fi muhimmanci shi ne sakon da yake ta jaddadawa na cewa ilimi, musamman na 'ya'ya mata da yaran makiyaya, yana da matukar muhimmanci wajen kawar da talauci, jahilci da rashin tsaro.

Majalisar Kungiyar 'Yan Jarida ta Najeriya (NUJ) reshen Jihar Filato ta bayyana wasu daga cikin wadannan kyawawan halaye a lokacin daya daga cikin bukukuwan zagayowar ranar haihuwarsa, inda ta bayyana shi a matsayin "ginshikin hikima da shugabanci na kwarai, wanda zamanin sarautarsa ke ci gaba da inganta zaman lafiya, ci gaba da hadin kai".

Yayin da Sarkin ke cika shekaru 16 a kan karagar sarauta, wannan lokaci na ba da damar yin nazari kan nauyin da shugabancin gargajiya ke dauke da shi a cikin al'ummar da ke fuskantar matsalar rashin tsaro, rarrabuwar kai da kalubalen ci gaba.

Zamaninsa ya nuna muhimmancin tattaunawa, kiyaye al'adu, fahimtar juna tsakanin mabiya addinai da kuma cudanyar al'umma wajen karfafa cibiyar sarautar gargajiya.

Allah Ya kara wa Dokta Haruna tsawon rai, lafiya da sauran shekaru masu albarka na shugabanci mai cike da zaman lafiya da **sauye**-sauyen ci gaba a Masarautar Wase.

Ran sarki ya dade! Allah ya ja zamanin sarki!

Salihu shine Darakta Janar, Media & Publicity, Fityanul Islam na Najeriya

'Yan bindiga sun sace daliban makarantar Islamiyya 14 a Neja

Daga shafi na daya

kuma samu labarin cewa Mallam Aminu Bako, shugaban makarantar Madarasatul Nuru Islam da ke yankin Maikujeri a Karamar Hukumar Rafi, ya sanar da shugaban karamar hukumar mai rikon kwarya cewa an sace dalibansa 15.

Ya bayyana hakan ne a lokacin da shugaban karamar hukumar ya kai masa ziyarar ta'aziyya bayan faruwar lamarin.

Sai dai rundunar 'yan sandan ta dage cewa har yanzu ba a san inda wadanda aka sace suke ba, tana mai cewa ana kara kaimi wajen gudanar da bincike da aikin ceto domin gano su da kubutar da su.

Jos North zata karfafa sashen ruwa da tsaftar muhalli

Daga shafi na daya

da tawagarsa bisa ba su damar tattaunawa kan batutuwan da suka shafi ruwa, tsafta, da lafiyar jama'a.

Ya bayyana cewa ziyarar ba don yin kira ga inganta ayyukan Ruwa, Tsafta da Tsafta (WASH) ba ne, har ma don yaba wa kokarin da ake yi, gano wuraren da ke bukatar karin kulawa da kuma bayar da hadin gwiwa wajen gina al'ummomi masu lafiya, tsafta da juriya a Jos ta Arewa LGA.

"Manyan abubuwan da muke bai wa fifiko sun hada da ci gaba da tsaftace muhalli da rigakafin ambaliyar ruwa, gyara da kuma tabbatar da dorewar rijiyoyin burtsatse a fadin gundumomi, kara himma wajen kawo karshen yin bahaya a bude, kunna ka'idojin rigakafin cutar Ebola da lafiyar jama'a, da kuma karfafa shigar al'umma da kuma daukar nauyin WASH," in ji shi.

JARIDANCI

2027: Yan jarida sun sami horo kan Tantance Labarai, Harsunan gida da tafiya tareda al'uma

Daga PALANG KASMI, Kano



An yi kira ga 'yan jarida da su inganta yada bayanan zabuka a cikin harsunan gida, su cike gibin fassara, su yaki labaran karya, sannan su tabbatar da sanya shigar mutanen da ke cikin tsaka mai wuya a cikin gudanarwar zabukan Najeriya na shekara ta 2027.

Wannan kiran ya fito ne a lokacin gudanar da bitar horar da 'yan jarida na kwanaki uku kan 'Taimakon Fasaha, Gina Iko, Neman Jagora, da Inganta Kwarewa wajen Yaki da Labaran Karya da Labaran Yudara, Tabbatar da Gaskiyar Labari, da Kuma Koyo kan Fasahar AI'.

Horon, wanda ya tara 'yan jarida daga jihohi daban-daban na Arewacin Najeriya ciki har da Plateau, Benue, Taraba, Katsina, Yola da Kano, gami da birnin tarayyar Abuja, ya gudana ne a otal din Comfort Hub Hotels and Suites da ke Jihar Kano.

Bitar tana daya daga cikin shirin Taimakon Tarayyar Turai (EU) ga kungiyar ECOWAS kan Zaman Lafiya, Tsaro da Shugabanci (EPSG). Kungiyar FIAP ce ke gudanar da aikin tare da hadin gwiwar FactCheckAfrica a karkashin Wannan Shirin na EPSG.

Yayin da yake magana kan abubuwan da ake tsammani daga bitar, wani mai bincike tare da kungiyar FactCheckAfrica, Mustapha Lawal, ya bayyana cewa an tsara horon ne domin magance karancin kwarewa da kuma karfafa wa ma'aikatan kafen labarai gwiwar maida bayanan zabe su kasance masu inganci, masu fahimta, masu hada kowa da kowa, da kuma masu amincin a duk fadin al'ummomin da ke amfani da harsuna dabandaban kafin zaben Najeriya na 2027.

Lawal ya bayyana cewa harshe wani muhimmin bangare ne na mutuncin Najeriya kuma yana taka muhimmiyar rawa a lokacin zabuka.

A matsayinsu na masu jagorantar ra'ayin jama'a, ya ce kafen yada labarai na iya inganta zabuka ta hanyar amfani da harsunan gida, su cike gibin fassara, su magance labaran karya, sannan su tabbatar da cewa mata, mutane masu bukata ta musamman, masu zabe a karkara, al'ummomin da ke amfani da harsunan marasa rinjaye da sauran tsagaggin da aka kaye sun samu ingantattun bayanan zabe masu saukin fahimta da dacewa da al'adunsu.

Harsunan gida da labaran karya

A cikin wata gabatarwa mai taken, 'Yadda Labaran Karya da na Yudara Ke Yada Kansa a Harsunan Gida', Lawal ya ce gudanar da magana a harsunan gida hanya ce ta shigar da kowa, amma ya gargadi cewa saqonni na iya sauyawa sa'ad da suke komawa tsakanin harsuna da kafofi daban-daban.

Haka kuma ya kula cewa 'yan jarida da dakunan labarai wani lokacin suna kara baza labaran karya ba tare da sun ankara ba, yana mai rokon editoci da su kara sa ido sosai lokacin da suke tantance rahotannin da suka shafi zabe kafin wallafa su.

Wani mai tabbatar da gaskiyar labarai a Najeriya kuma Babban Mai Binciken Rushewar Bayani a Cibiyar Fasahar Bayani da Inganta Ciyar da Kasa Gaba (CITAD), Hamza Ibrahim, ya bayyana a wata gabatarwa mai taken "Mazaunin Bayanai na Harshen Gida" cewa Hausa ita ce babbar hanyar sadarwa (lingua franca) a Arewacin Najeriya amma hakan ba ya nufin ta maye gurbin sauran harsuna masu yawa da ake magana da su a fadin shiyyar.

Ya yi bayanin cewa rediyo ya kasance daya daga cikin kafofin sadarwa da aka fi amfani da su sosai, yayin da mayar da shirye-shiryen rediyo kan kafofin sada zumunta ke samar da sabbin damammaki na isa ga jama'a.

Ibrahim ya lura cewa bayanai, labarai, sharhi da tattaunawa suna kara karfafa ta kafofin sada zumunta irin su YouTube, TikTok da WhatsApp. Sai dai ya jaddada cewa mutane sun fi karkata wajen fahimtar bayanan jama'a sa'ad da aka gudanar da su ta hanyar amfani da harsuna, kalmomi da misalai da suka saba da su.

"Harshe yana tafiya da tarihin yankuna, alakoki, abubuwan dariya, izza da kuma tunanin al'umma, yayin da zabin harshe zai iya shigar da ko kuma ya ware masu sauraro a karkara, tsoffi, sabbin masu karatu da kuma al'ummomin harsunan marasa rinjaye," in ji takardar.

Gabatarwar ta kara lura da cewa labaran karya suna bunkasa a cikin wuraren da ake amfani da harsunan gida a fadin Arewacin Najeriya, suna daukar siffofi daban-daban, gami da kalaman siyasa na karya, shawarwarin kiwon lafiya na bogi da jita-jita masu alaka da rikici.

Rahoton da ya dace da da'a da mutane a tsaka mai wuya

Wani masanin da ya gabatar da jawabi, wanda kuma tsohon Shugaban Kungiyar 'Yan Jarida ta Najeriya (NUJ), Reshen Jihar Kano, Comrade Abbas Ibrahim, ya ce 'yan jaridar da ke rahotanni kan al'ummomin karkara, mata, mutanen da ke komawa gida daga hijira da sauran mutane a tsaka mai wuya dole ne su bi su da mutunci da girmamawa.

A cikin wata takarda mai taken, 'Rahoto Mai Dace da Da'a kan Al'ummomi a Tsaka Mai Wuya', Ibrahim ya jaddada buqatar samun inganci, zabin abubuwan da za a wallafa da alhaki da kuma kariya daga cutarwa domin guje wa bunkasa ra'ayoyin da ke haifar da barna. Ya kuma kwadaitar da 'yan jarida da su dauki matakai don rage hadarin fuskantar caccaga mai tsanani ga mutane da al'ummomin da ke cikin halin tsaka mai wuya.

Tsohon shugaban na NUJ ya shawarci masu halartar bitar da su gabatar da shaidu da gaskiya ba tare da karkatar da ainihin halin da al'ummomin da suke gudanar da rahoto a kansu ke ciki ba. Haka kuma ya tattauna kan fadin da kuma tsarin rahotannin zabe ga al'ummomin da ake son isa gare su.

Ya bukaci 'yan jarida da su ba da isasshen hankali ga mata a fagen siyasa, mutane masu bukata ta musamman, 'yan gudun hijira na cikin gida (IDPs), masu zabe a karkara da kuma al'ummomin marasa rinjaye, yayin da suke gudanar da binciken hadari kafin wallafa rahotanni masu muhimmanci ko ban tsoro.

"Wani lokaci, za ka samu masu yada labarai a rediyo da 'yan jarida suna amfani da kalmomin da bai kamata a yi amfani da su ba, amma dole ne mu ba mutanen da ke tsaka mai wuya damar yin magana," in ji Ibrahim.

Daga nan ya bukaci masu halartar bitar da su fuskanci kalubalen son kai, su gudanar da binciken kalaman kiyayya, su duba amincin muhalli da kuma yi wa hadarin da rahotanni za su iya haifarwa nan gaba rajista ga majiyoyin da ke cikin tsaka mai wuya.

A lokacin zamanta na tattaunawa wanda wani mai gabatarwa, Lukman Adeoti, masanin gina tsarin fasaha a Najeriya, mai tabbatar da gaskiyar labarai kuma kwararre kan ilimin fasahar AI ya jagoranta, masu halarta sun binciki dangantakar da ke tsakanin harshe, cutarwa da kuma wakilci.

Adeoti, wanda ya gabatar da wata takarda mai taken "Harshe, Cutarwa da Wakilci: Yadda Kalmomin da Aka Fassara Suka Zama Makamai a Rahotannin Zabe", ya tattauna yadda lakabi zai iya kara karfafa tunanin nuna kyama ga al'adu, lakaba wa mutane marasa rinjaye abubuwa marasa kyau da kuma murkushe gaskiyar siyasa.

Ya bukaci 'yan jarida da su rungumi alhakinsu na da'ar aiki sannan su maida hankali wajen rage cutarwa ta hanyar kare mutuncin masu zabe, kare kungiyoyin marasa rinjaye da ke fuskantar matsala da kuma zabo kalmomi da siffofi madaidaita na daban.

Gabatarwar ta kuma fito da yadda ake nuna mata a cikin kafofin yada labarai sannan ta binciki hanyoyi daban-daban da lakabin kabilanci da na addini ke kara rura wutar kiyayya a kasar.

Cike gibin harsunan gida

Daya daga cikin muhimman sakamakon da aka samu daga horon shi ne ingantaccen fahimtar kalubalen da ke fuskantar tsarin fasahar AI ta harsunan gida, gami da karancin bayanai a na'ura mai kwakwalwa, bambance-bambancen karankari ko kuskuren fahimta, makantaccen tunanin al'adu da kuma bukatar yin amfani da fasahar AI cikin alhaki.

Haka kuma an tunatar da masu halartar bitar cewa labaran karya sau da yawa suna bazama cikin sauri ta hanyar amfani da harsunan da mutane suka saba da su da kuma kafofin sadarwa masu aminci, yayin da masana ke fitar da sakamakon tabbatar da gaskiyar labarai a harshen Turanci, suna wallafawa a shafukan yanar gizo da kashin farko na mutanen da suka fuskanci labaran karyar ba sa cika samu su karanta ba.

Domin magance wadannan kalubale, an bukaci masu halarta da su gina gadoji tsakanin shingen harsuna sannan su karfafa mazaunin bayanai na harsunan gida ta hanyar inganta samun dama, aminci, goyon baya da kuma sa hannu.

Horon ya jaddada muhimmancin wadata 'yan jarida da kwarewar samar da ingantattun bayanan zabe masu shigar da kowa da kowa da kuma la'akari da al'adu, musamman yayin da Najeriya ke shirin gudanar da zabukan na shekarar 2027.

An nada Alhaji Sani Mudi Shugaban riko na Masallacin Juma'a na Jos

Daga LAWAL UMAR ABUBAKAR TILDE



Alhaji Sani Mudi (hagu) yana karban takardar nadin sa daga hannun Alkali Sheikh Gharzali Adam (dama)

Kwamitin Babban Masallacin Juma'a na Jos dake jihar Filato ya sanar da nadin Alhaji Sani Mudi a matsayin shugaban riko na babban masallacin Jos.

Babban Limamin Masallacin Jos, Alkali Sheikh Gharzali Isma'il Adam, ne ya mika masa takardar nadin a madadin shugabannin masallacin.

A wani sako da NAG na kungiyar yada labarai ta JNI reshen jihar Filato ta wallafa a shafin Facebook, ya ce "Wannan nadin na nuna amana da amincewar da aka ba Alhaji Sani Mudi na yin wannan muhimmin aiki.

"Muna taya Alhaji Sani Mudi murna bisa wannan mukami da aka yi masa, muna kuma addu'ar Allah Madaukakin Sarki Ya ba shi hikima, hakuri, da karfin gwiwar sauke nauyin da aka dora masa bisa aminci.

"Allah Ya karawa Jagorancinsa hadin kai, zaman lafiya da ci gaba ga Masallacin Jos Central da sauran al'ummar Musulmin Jihar Filato.

"Ina taya Alhaji Sani Mudi murnar zama shugaban riko na babban masallacin Jos

"Allah yayi maka jagora ya baka nasara akan sabon nauyin da ke kanka Amin."

RA'AYIN 'Yancin Dan Adam GASKIYA NA DAUKAKA KASA

NLC da TUC, ku daina rikicin da ba shi da amfani

RASHIN fahimtar juna da ke kara kamari tsakanin Kungiyar Kwadago ta Najeriya (NLC) da Kungiyar Kwadago ta TUC kan tallafin sufuri na Naira 70,000 da Gwamnatin Tarayya ta ware wa ma'aikatan gwamnati duk wata, ya haifar da tambayoyi kan abubuwan da kungiyoyin kwadagon kasar suka sanya a gaba. A daidai lokacin da miliyoyin 'yan Najeriya ke fama da matsin tattalin arziki, ya kamata shugabannin kwadago su mayar da hankali wajen ganin sun samar da tallafi da zai rage wa jama'a radadin halin da suke ciki, maimakon barin sabanin ra'ayi kan tattaunawarsu da gwamnati ya haddasa rarrabuwar kawuna a tsakaninsu.

TUN bayan cire tallafin man fetur a shekarar 2023, rayuwar tattalin arzikin 'yan Najeriya ta shiga wani sabon yanayi na tsadar rayuwa. Iyalan Najeriya na kashe karin kudi wajen sayen abinci, biyan kudin sufuri, haya da kula da lafiya. Ma'aikatan da ke dogaro da albashi na wata-wata suna fuskantar matsalar biyan bukatunsu, yayin da wadanda ba sa aiki a hukumance su ma ke kokawa da yadda za su iya gudanar da rayuwarsu. Haka kuma, mafi karancin albashin Naira 70,000 da aka bullo da shi a shekarar 2024 bai wadatar wajen magance matsalar raguwar karfin sayen kayayyaki sakamakon hauhawar farashi ba.

A KAN wannan dalili ne muke ganin cewa sabanin da ya kunno kai kan tallafin sufuri na tsawon watanni shida, wanda za a fara biya daga watan Nuwamban 2026, abin da ke dauke hankalin kungiyoyin kwadagon ne daga muhimman batutuwan da suka shafi ma'aikata. Ko tallafin ya wadatar ko bai wadatar ba, ya kamata kungiyoyin su tattauna cikin fahimtar juna domin cimma matsaya. TUC na da 'yancin bayyana rashin gamsuwarta da sharuddan yarjejeniyar, kamar yadda NLC ma ke da 'yancin kare matsayar da ta cimma a tattaunawarta da gwamnati. Abin da ba za a amince da shi ba shi ne mayar da bambancin ra'ayi zuwa husuma a bainar jama'a da rarraba kungiyoyin da ke karkashinsu.

RARRABUWAR da ake gani a tsakanin kungiyoyin da ke karkashin wadannan cibiyoyin kwadago, inda wasu ke goyon bayan NLC yayin da wasu ke tare da TUC, wani lamari ne da ya kamata ya damu duk wani ma'aikacin Najeriya. Babban karfin kungiyar kwadago wajen tattaunawa da gwamnati yana cikin hadin kai da kuma gabatar da bukatunta cikin murya daya. Idan shugabanninta suka fi mayar da hankali kan sabanin da ya shafi wakilci da ikon jagorantar tattaunawa, hakan zai raunana matsayinsu a wajen neman ingantattun sharuddan aiki da walwala ga ma'aikata.

BAYA ga haka, ya kamata kungiyoyin kwadagon su kalli halin tattalin arzikin kasa gaba daya, ba wai matsalolin ma'aikatan gwamnati kadai ba. Matsin tattalin arziki bai kebanta da ma'aikatan gwamnati ba. Manoma, 'yan kasuwa, masu sana'o'i, ma'aikatan kamfanoni masu zaman kansu, 'yan fansho, masu kananan sana'o'i da marasa aikin yi duk suna fuskantar irin wannan matsala. Duk wani mataki da zai kara karfin sayen kayayyaki ga ma'aikata yana da tasiri ga tattalin arzikin kasa, domin albashinsu na taimakawa wajen tafiyar da kasuwanci da kuma kula da iyalansu da al'ummominsu. Saboda haka, ya kamata kwadago su fahimci cewa walwalar mambobinsu ba za ta iya rabuwa da jin dadin sauran al'umma gaba daya ba.

MUNA kuma fargabar cewa wannan takaddama na iya kara karfafa ra'ayin da wasu 'yan Najeriya ke da shi cewa wasu shugabannin kwadago sun fi fifita burinsu na kashin kai, mukamansu da karfin ikon kungiyoyinsu fiye da bukatun wadanda suke wakilta. Irin wannan fahimta na iya bata sunan kungiyar kwadago, musamman a lokacin da ma'aikata ke dogaro da shugabanninsu wajen kare hakkokinsu da kuma jagorantar su. Amintuwar jama'a ga kungiyar kwadago za ta dogara ne da yadda shugabanninta za su iya fifita muradun jama'a a kan bukatunsu na kashin kai, tare da samar da sauye-sauyen da za su inganta rayuwar ma'aikata.

LOKACIN da wannan sabani ya kunno kai shi ma bai dace ba, domin har yanzu akwai muhimman batutuwan da suka shafi albashin ma'aikata da wasu yarjejeniyoyin da ba a aiwatar da su ba. Yayin da Gwamnatin Tarayya ke cewa watan Yunin 2027 ne lokacin da doka ta tanada domin sake duba mafi karancin albashin da ake biya a yanzu, ya kamata kungiyoyin kwadagon su fara tsara matsaya guda tun kafin lokacin. Ya kamata su nemi karin albashi, ingantattun sharuddan aiki, saukin kudin sufuri, tallafin kula da lafiya da sauran matakan da za su dace da hakikanin halin tsadar rayuwa. Tallafin wucin gadi na iya rage radadi na wani lokaci, amma ba zai maye gurbin ingantaccen karin albashi da walwala mai dorewa ga ma'aikata ba.

GWAMNATIN Tarayya ma ya kamata ta nuna gaskiya da kyakkyawar niyya a tattaunawarta da kungiyoyin kwadago. Bai kamata ta yi amfani da sabanin da ke tsakaninsu wajen dakile bukatunsu na hakika ko jinkirta aiwatar da yarjejeniyoyin da aka cimma ba. Kungiyoyin biyu suna da mambobi wadanda ya kamata a yi la'akari da bukatunsu, don haka tattaunawar gwamnati da su ya kamata ta kasance bisa gaskiya, adalci da mutunta ka'idojin hulda tsakanin ma'aikata da ma'aikata masu daukar su aiki.

JARIDAR 'YANCIN DAN ADAM na ganin cewa wannan sabani dama ce ga shugabannin kungiyoyin biyu su sake duba salon tafiyar da al'amuransu, tare da fifita walwalar ma'aikatan Najeriya a kan bambance-bambancen da ke tsakaninsu. Muna kira ga NLC da TUC da su koma teburin tattaunawa, su daidaita bukatunsu a inda hakan zai yiwu, sannan su samar da matsaya guda wajen tattaunawa da gwamnati. Ya kamata su karkata karfinsu wajen neman ingantattun sharuddan aiki ga ma'aikata, maimakon takaddamar kan wace kungiya ce ke da ikon jagorantar tattaunawar kwadago.

A KARSHE, manufar kungiyoyin kwadago ita ce hada kan ma'aikata domin su samu murya guda wajen kare mutuncinsu, walwalarsu da hakkokinsu. Wannan aiki na bukatar sadaukarwa ga manufa mafi girma fiye da burin shugabanni na kashin kansu. Dole ne NLC da TUC su nuna sun fahimci wannan nauyi ta hanyar hada kai da kare muradun ma'aikata da sauran al'umma. A lokacin da 'yan Najeriya ke yin manyan sadaukarwa domin jure matsin tattalin arziki, ya kamata shugabannin kwadago su ma su kasance a shirye su sadaukar da wani abu daga nasu. Abin da Najeriya ke bukata shi ne kungiyar kwadago mai hadin kai, wadda manufofinta suka ginu kan kare walwala da muradun al'ummar da take wakilta.

SIYASA

Aikin da ke gaban Ari a 2027: Tsakanin nasarar APC da hadin kan Plateau

Yayin da Jihar Plateau ke kara kusantar babban zaben shekarar 2027, kalubalen da ke gaban shugabannin siyasa ya wuce batun samun kuri'u, domin ya hada da kare zaman lafiya, hadin kai da kyawawan manufofin dimokuradiyya a jihar. SEKYEN WALSHAK ya yi nazari kan babban nauyin da ke gaban Sir Joseph Ari, yayin da ya karbi jagorancin kwamitin yakin neman zaben APC na tsakiya a shekarar 2027, da kuma irin tsammanin da ke tattare da wannan aiki

Babu shakka, babban zaben shekarar 2027 a Najeriya da aka dade ana jira yana kara kusantowa, inda Hukumar Zabe Mai Zaman Kanta ta Kasa (INEC) ta tsara gudanar da zaben shugaban kasa da na 'yan majalisar tarayya a ranar 16 ga Janairu, yayin da za a gudanar da zaben gwamnonin jihohi da na majalisun dokokin jihohi a ranar 6 ga Fabrairu, 2027.

Yayin da kwanaki 75 kacal suka rage kafin babban zaben, harkokin siyasar Jihar Plateau na kara daukar sabon salo, biyo bayan kafa kwamitin yakin neman zabe na tsakiya mai mambobi 163, wanda ya kunshi daraktoci 48.

An nada tsohon Darakta-Janar na Asusun Horar da Ma'aikata na Masana'antu (ITF), Sir Joseph Ari, a matsayin Darakta-Janar na kwamitin.

Za a samu taimakon tsohon dan Majalisar Wakilai mai wakiltar mazabar tarayya ta Jos ta Arewa/Bassa, Hon. Baba Hassan.

Gwamnan Jihar Plateau, Caleb Mutfwang, ne ya kaddamar da kwamitin a hukumance a ranar 2 ga Nuwamba, 2026, domin daidaita harkokin jam'iyyar da kuma tattara goyon bayan jama'a ga 'yan takararta gabanin babban zaben shekarar 2027.

A bayyane yake, nauyin da ke kan kwamitin yana da yawa. Baya ga tsara hanyoyin samun goyon bayan jama'a ga kudirin Gwamna Mutfwang da mataimakiyarsa, Ngo Josephine Piyo, na sake komawa wa'adi na biyu, da kuma tattara goyon baya ga Shugaba Bola Ahmed Tinubu da Mataimakin Shugaban Kasa, Kashim Shettima, ana kuma sa ran kwamitin zai sasanta 'ya'yan jam'iyyar da ke da korafe-korafe, sanar da masu zabe manufofi da nasarorin gwamnati, tare da inganta gudanar da yakin neman zabe cikin lumana a fadin jihar.

Da yake akwai kungiyoyin goyon bayan siyasa sama da 115 da suka yi rajista, jam'iyyar APC mai mulki a Jihar Plateau na shirin fara yakin neman zabenta a hukumance, bayan kaddamar da shi a ranar 14 ga Nuwamba.

Ana sa ran kwamitin zai daidaita harkokin siyasar jam'iyyar a fadin jihar tare da tattara goyon bayan jama'a ga 'yan takararta da ke neman mukaman zabe daban-daban.

Sai dai, ga Ari, samun nasara a wannan sabon aiki ba zai zama wani abu da bai taba fuskanta ba. A matsayinsa na tsohon Darakta-Janar na ITF, ya samu karbuwa sakamakon shekaru da ya shafe yana hidimar jama'a, da jajircewa, gaskiya da sadaukarwa wajen aiki, wadanda suka taimaka wajen sanya Jihar Plateau cikin taswirar kasa.

Tarihinsa a aikin gwamnati na daga cikin dalilan da za su sa al'ummar Plateau su sanya ido sosai kan yadda zai gudanar da wannan sabon nauyi.

Tsammanin jama'a yana da yawa, kuma hakan ya dace. Sai dai a wannan karon, nauyin da ke gabansa ya wuce tattara jama'a da tabbatar da nasarar jam'iyyarsa a zabe. Ya kuma shafi tabbatar da cewa ana iya gudanar da shugabanci da yakin neman zabe ba tare da sadaukar da zaman lafiya da hadin kan jihar ba.

Tsammanin jama'a da kalubalen da ke gaban kwamitin

Kwamitin ya yi alkawarin sauke nauyin da aka dora masa ta hanyar ingantaccen tsarin tattara jama'a daga tushe, hadin kai da kuma sadarwa mai inganci.

Ari ya kuma jaddada cewa yakin neman zaben da zai jagoranta zai dogara ne kan gaskiya, batutuwan da suka shafi al'umma da zaman lafiya, ba tare da kiyayya, gaba ko cin mutuncin abokan hamayya ba.

Ya ce hakan zai yi daidai da falsafar Gwamna Mutfwang ta 'Lokaci Ya Yi' (Time Is Now), wadda ta ba da muhimmanci ga hadin kai, mutunta juna da ci gaba. Ari ya bayyana hakan ne lokacin da ya amince da karbar wannan nauyi a hukumance.

A cewarsa, "Aikin da ke gabanmu yana da girma, amma mun shirya. Wannan yakin neman zabe zai kasance bisa gaskiya, batutuwan da suka shafi jama'a da bukatunsu. Za mu je kowace mazaba da kowace rumfar zabe domin isar da sakonmu na ci gaba da ayyukan alheri, zaman lafiya da cigaba."

Ari ya lura cewa yadda goyon baya da sha'awar jama'a ke kara karfi na nuna cewa al'ummar Plateau na da niyyar ci gaba da tafarkin bunkasar da ake kai a halin yanzu, karkashin Shugaba Tinubu a matakin tarayya da Gwamna Mutfwang a matakin jiha.

Duk da cewa irin wadannan kalaman goyon baya na iya karfafa gwiwar APC, bai kamata a dauke su a matsayin dalilin tauye damar dimokuradiyya ko samar da tunanin cewa shiga harkokin siyasa ya takaita ne ga jam'iyya guda ba.

Yayin da ake sa ran jam'iyyun siyasa 17 za su tsayar da 'yan takara a zaben gwamnan Jihar Plateau na ranar 6 ga Fabrairu, 2027, ana hasashen za a yi fafatawa mai zafi.

Yana da kyau a lura cewa 'yan takarar gwamna 17 da ke jihar su ne wadanda aka bayyana a cikin jerin sunayen karshe da Hukumar Zabe Mai Zaman Kanta ta Kasa (INEC) ta fitar a hukumance.



Ari

Yayin da ake kara muhawara kan karfin ikon jam'iyyun siyasa da yiwuwar komawa tsarin jam'iyya daya, nauyin da ke gaban kwamitin yakin neman zaben ya kara zama mai muhimmanci.

Plateau jiha ce mai tarihin bambancin ra'ayoyin siyasa, muradu masu karo da juna da kalubale wadanda ke bukatar daukar mataki tare.

Saboda haka, zabe ya kamata ya zama wata dama ga 'yan kasa su zabi shugabannin da suke so, tantance ayyukan wadanda ke kan mulki da kuma yanke shawarar wadanda suka cancanci amincewarsu. Bai kamata zabe ya zama sanadin kara rarraba kan al'umma ko barazana ga zaman tare tsakanin al'ummomi ba.

Ko APC ta yi nasara ko ta sha kaye a wasu mazabu, ko kuma 'yan takararta suka yi nasara ko abokan hamayyarsu suka samu galaba, dole ne jihar ta kasance sama da kowace jam'iyyar siyasa ko burin wani mutum.

A karshen kowane zabe, dole ne a samu wadanda suka yi nasara da wadanda suka sha kaye. Wannan shi ne hakikanin tsarin dimokuradiyya. Abin da bai kamata ya faru ba shi ne zaben ya haifar da rarrabuwar kawuna, lalacewar alakar jama'a, tashin hankali da kuma yadda 'yan kasa za su rika kallon juna a matsayin abokan gaba saboda bambancin zabin siyasa.

Fiye da nasarar zabe

Idan aka yi la'akari da yadda siyasar Plateau ta sauya salo da kuma damuwar da wasu 'yan kasa ke nunawa game da shiga harkokin zabe, mutane da dama za su sanya ido sosai domin ganin irin abin da Ari zai cimma. Wasu ma na iya tambayar ko da gaske ne shi ne mutumin da zai iya daukar wannan babban nauyi da aka dora masa.

Duk wanda aka ba shi babban nauyi, ana sa ran zai yi babban aiki. Don haka, Ari dole ne ya fahimci cewa aikinsa bai takaita ga samar da nasarar APC da 'yan takararta a zabe ba.

Yana da alhakin tabbatar da cewa yakin neman zaben da zai jagoranta zai inganta adalci, hakuri, mutunta juna da hadin kai, har ma tsakanin 'yan kasa masu goyon bayan jam'iyyu da 'yan takara daban-daban.

Saboda haka, dole ne ya tabbatar da cewa kwamitin yakin neman zaben bai zama wata kafa ta rarraba kan al'umma a siyasance ba, maimakon haka ya zama dandalin tattaunawa mai amfani, tattara jama'a cikin lumana da kuma fafatawa bisa batutuwan da suka shafi ci gaban al'umma.

Dole ne a mutunta hakkin kowane dan kasa na yin yakin neman zabe, shiga kungiyoyin siyasa da kuma goyon bayan dan takarar da yake so, ba tare da la'akari da jam'iyyar da yake ciki ba.

Ari yana da damar bambanta kansa, ba kawai a matsayin Darakta-Janar na yakin neman zabe da ya samar wa jam'iyyarsa nasara ba, har ma a matsayin jagoran siyasa da ya taimaka wajen kare hadin kan Jihar Plateau duk da muradu daban-daban na jam'iyyun siyasa 17.

Babban abin da ya kamata a auna nasarar aikinsa da shi ba wai yawan kuri'un da APC ta samu kadai ba ne, har ma da ko Plateau za ta kammala zaben tana da zaman lafiya, kyakkyawar alaka tsakanin al'ummarta da kuma kyawawan dabi'un dimokuradiyya.

Kaddamar da kwamitin na iya zama farkon fara shirye-shiryen tattara jama'a a fadin jihar.

Amma hakikanin jarabawar shugabancin Ari za ta kasance ne a yadda zai tafiyar da bambancin ra'ayoyin siyasa, tsammanin jama'a da tashe-tashen hankulan da ka iya tasowa sakamakon babban zaben shekarar 2027.

Kada a mayar da Jihar Plateau tamkar kudin fansar samun nasarar siyasa.

Kungiyar malaman jami'o'i ta ASUU UniAbuja ta bukaci a janye raba fili da ba bisa ka'ida ba

Daga shafi na 1

fili ne ga Jami'ar Abuja," in ji shi.

Ya bayyana cewa an kafa Jami'ar Abuja ne a ranar 1 ga watan Janairun 1988, inda aka ware mata fili mai fadin hekta 11,824 tun farko, domin gudanar da ayyukan ci gaban ilimi da ababen more rayuwa na dogon lokaci. A cewarsa, hukumar jami'ar ba za ta iya yanke shawara kan inda za ta sanya wannan cibiya ba.

Ya ce jami'ar da ƙasar mallakar gwamnatin tarayya ne ba ta FCT ba.

Ugoh ya ce an ware babban filin don samar da sarari don faɗaɗawa a nan gaba, ayyukan bincike, wuraren karatu da sauran buƙatun cibiyoyi.

Ya lura cewa jami'ar, a matsayinta na cibiya mai yanayi biyu wacce ke ba da shirye-shiryen koyon al'ada da na nesa, tana buƙatar isasshen fili don cika umarninta.

Ugoh ya ce ana kuma buƙatar ƙasar don kafa cibiyoyin bincike, cibiyoyin kirkire-kirkire da sauran wurare waɗanda za su ba da gudummawa ga ci gaban ƙasa.

"Ci gaban Jami'ar Abuja na iya zama kamar jinkiri sosai, amma har yanzu Gwamnatin Tarayya ce ke da alhakin ci gaban jami'ar ta.

"Muna godiya da himmar Ministan FCT don haɓaka FCT, amma hujjar cewa an bar ƙasar ba tare da an gina ta ba na dogon lokaci ba ta tsaya ba.

"Jami'o'i a hankali suna gane cikakken karfinsu da damarsu. Ya dace a lura cewa filin Jami'ar Abuja, mai girman hekta 11,824, bai wuce yadda ya kamata ga jami'a mai tsarin koyarwa na bangarori biyu (dual-mode) a babban birnin kasar ba.

"Misali, Jami'ar Ilorin tana kan fili mai girman hekta 15,000; Jami'ar Obafemi Awolowo, Ile-Ife, tana kan hekta 13,000; Jami'ar Fasaha ta Tarayya, Minna, tana kan hekta 10,650; yayin da Jami'ar Aikin Gona ta Tarayya, Abeokuta, take kan hekta 10,000," in ji shi. *NAN*

'Yancin Dan Adam

GASKIYA NA DAUKASA KASA

Kundi na 002, Bugu na 46 * Alhamis, Nuwamba 5, 2026

"Wannan bayani nasa ya ja hankalin jama'a kan irin kalubalen tsaron da Wase ke fuskanta da kuma bukatar Gwamnatin Tarayya da ta Jihar Filato su dauki matakai masu karfi domin magance matsalar.

WAIWAYE

Shekaru 16 na Sarkin Wase: Tarihin zaman lafiya, hikima da gina dangantaka

Sau da yawa, ba a auna nasarar shugabancin gargajiya da irin martabar sarauta ko kyan fadarta ba, sai dai ta hanyar irin tasirin da shugabancin ke yi a rayuwar al'ummar da ake mulka. Tsawon shekaru 16, Sarkin Wase, Dokta Muhammad Haruna, ya shafe yana gudanar da nauyin da ke kansa na kare al'adun gargajiya, inganta zaman lafiya tsakanin mabiya addinai daban-daban, fuskantar matsalar rashin tsaro da kuma bayar da gudummawa wajen ci gaban al'umma. SANI IBN SALIHU ya yi nazari kan muhimman nasarori, kalubale da gudummawar da suka bambanta zamaninsa tare da kara wa Masarautar Wase matsayi a Jihar Filato



Lokacin da Dokta Muhammadu Haruna ya hau karagar sarautar Masarautar Wase a shekarar 2010 a matsayin Sarki na 13, ya gaji ba wai sandar mulki kawai ba, har ma da dimbin kalubale.

A lokacin, Jihar Filato na fama da daya daga cikin mafi munin rikice-rikicen kabilanci da na addini a tarihinta. Ita ma Karamar Hukumar Wase, wadda ke da fadin kasa da albarkar noma, kuma ke da al'ummomi daban-daban, tana makwabtaka da jihohin Bauchi, Taraba da Nasarawa, ta fuskanci hare-hare sama da 100 a kauyukanta tun daga shekarar 1998, kamar yadda Sarkin ya bayyana.

A lokacin, sabanin manoma da makiyaya na kara tsananta, yayin da dangantaka da amincewa tsakanin Hausawa/Fulani, Tarokawa, Basharawa da sauran kabilu suka tabarbare matuka.

Da yake tunawa da halin da ake ciki lokacin da ya hau karagar mulki, a yayin bikin cika shekaru 10 da hawansa sarauta, Sarkin ya ce: "Farkon zamanina ya kasance mai matukar wahala saboda rikice-rikicen da suka mamaye daukacin Jihar Filato a lokacin."



Sarkin Wase

Shekaru 16 bayan haka, shugabancinsa ya wuce iyakokin Wase, inda ya samu karbuwa a sassa daban-daban na jihar. A yau, ana kallonsa a matsayin daya daga cikin sarakunan gargajiya da suka yi fice wajen samar da zaman lafiya, nuna dattako da kuma hada kan al'umma.

Gwamnan Jihar Filato, Caleb Mutfwang, ya bayyana shi a matsayin "abin koyi wajen hikima, zaman lafiya da shugabanci na gari", yayin da tsohon Gwamnan jihar, wanda yanzu Sanata ne, Simon Lalong, ya kira shi "ginshikin hikima, daidaito da zaman lafiya".

Shugabannin Kungiyar 'Yan Jarida ta Najeriya (NUJ), Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) da kungiyoyin Kiristoci ma sun sha neman shawararsa kan batutuwan da suka shafi al'umma.

Saboda haka, cikar shekaru 16 da hawansa karagar mulki wata dama ce ta yin nazari kan gudummawarsa, kalubalen da ya fuskanta da kuma sauye-sauyen da aka samu a karkashin shugabancinsa.

Samar da zaman lafiya da yaki da rashin tsaro

Watakila babban abin da ya fi bayyana zamanin mulkin Dokta Haruna shi ne jajircewarsa wajen dawo da zaman lafiya da karfafa zaman tare tsakanin al'ummomi daban-daban da ke cikin Masarautar Wase da wajenta.

Tun daga farkon hawansa sarauta, ya sanya samar da zaman lafiya a matsayin daya daga cikin manyan manufofinsa, bisa fahimtar cewa idan babu tsaro da fahimtar juna, zai yi wuya a samu gagarumin ci gaba a fannonin ilimi, kiwon lafiya, samar da ababen more rayuwa da sauran bangarori.

Daya daga cikin manyan matakan da ya dauka shi ne shirya wani tarihi na musamman na taron tuntubar juna tsakanin Musulmi da Kiristoci a Babban Masallacin Juma'a na Jos, tare da hadin gwiwar Kungiyar Kiristocin Arewa da Fastocin 'Yan Asalin Kasa (ACIPA).

Taron, wanda aka gudanar karkashin taken 'Fahimtar Juna, Zaman Lafiya, Hadin Kai da Ci Gaba', ya hada mutane daga bangarorin addinai dabandaban domin tattauna muhimmancin zaman lafiya da fahimtar juna.

Sakon Sarkin ya kasance kai tsaye kuma babu sassauci a cikinsa. Ya tambaya: "Babu wata fa'ida a cikin fada da juna. Wane irin ci gaba muka samu daga dukkan barnar da ake ta yi a cikin shekaru sama da 20 da suka gabata? A matsayina na shugaban Musulmi, ni ban ga wani amfani ba."

A lokuta da dama, ya jaddada cewa bai kamata a bar bukatun siyasa su sanya talakawa gaba da junansu ba. Ya gargadi 'yan siyasa da kada su rika amfani da bambance-bambancen addini da kabilanci domin cimma muradunsu na siyasa, yana mai tunatar da su cewa, "Allah ne kadai ke ba da mulki ga wanda Ya so."

Daga bisani, ya bukaci shugabannin siyasa da su daina amfani da addini da kabilanci a matsayin makaman raba kan al'umma.

A cewarsa, an samu dawowar zaman lafiya a wani mataki a Wase tsakanin shekarar 2015 da 2020, lamarin da ya samar da yanayin da aka fara aiwatar da shirye-shiryen ci gaba.

Wase ta zama daya daga cikin 'yan hedikwatar kananan hukumomi a Jihar Filato da Musulmi da Kiristoci ke iya shirya tarukan hadin gwiwa yayin bukukuwan Kirsimeti da Sallah ba tare da fuskantar wani babban tashin hankali ba.

Kokarinsa na samar da zaman lafiya ya shafi cibiyoyin addini ma. A matsayinsa na Shugaban Jama'atu Nasril Islam na Jihar Filato kuma Mataimakin Shugaban Kungiyar na kasa, ya yi kokarin sake fasalin ayyukan kungiyar domin ta zama wata cibiya da ke inganta fahimtar juna tsakanin mabiya addinai, shugabanci nagari da zaman lafiya.

A shekarar 2025, ya kaddamar da sabon kwamitin zartarwa na JNI mai mambobi 19 a Jihar Filato, inda ya bukaci mambobin da su rungumi hadin kai da shugabanci mai nagarta.

A kai a kai, ya kan jaddada cewa zaman lafiya da zama tare suna daga cikin muhimman koyarwar Musulunci, inda ya bayyana cewa: "A matsayimmu na Musulmi, wajibi ne mu daraja zaman lafiya, mu zauna lafiya kuma mu rika wa'azin zaman lafiya a kowane lokaci, domin zaman lafiya shi ne hakikanin asalin addininmu."

Wannan akida tasa ta samo asali ne daga kyakkyawan tushe da mahaifinsa marigayi, Dokta Haruna Abdullahi, ya kafa, wanda ya yi aiki tare da tsohon Archbishop na Jos, Mai Martaba Rabaran Ignatius Kaigama, wajen karfafa zaman lafiya da fahimtar juna tsakanin mabiya addinai a Jihar Filato.

Haka kuma, Sarkin ya jaddada cewa wajibi ne kungiyoyin addini su kasance a saman siyasar bangaranci, su kuma yi hidima ga daukacin al'umma ba tare da la'akari da jam'iyyar siyasar da mutum yake goyon baya ba.

Matsayinsa na cewa, "Kungiyoyin addini su wuce siyasar bangaranci domin yi wa kowa hidima", ya taimaka wajen kara masa karbuwa a karkashin gwamnatoci daban-daban.

Baya ga kokarinsa na inganta zaman lafiya tsakanin mabiya addinai, Dokta Haruna ya zama daya daga cikin sarakunan gargajiya a Kudancin Filato da suka fi bayyana damuwa kan barazanar 'yan bindiga da matsalar rashin tsaro.

A shekarar 2021, yayin wani taron tattaunawa da Majalisar NUJ ta Jihar Filato ta shirya a Jos, ya yi gargadi kan yadda matsalar tsaro ke kara tabarbarewa a Wase, inda ya bayyana irin illar da kungiyoyin 'yan bindiga dauke da makamai suka yi wa al'ummomi da kuma korar jama'a daga muhallansu.

Ya koka da cewa: "Abin damuwa ne kuma abin takaici yadda a wannan lokacin da nake magana, 'yan ta'adda suka mamaye yankin... Kashi 50 cikin 100 na fadin kasar Wase sun fada hannun 'yan ta'adda, kuma mutane da dama sun bar kauyukansu suna neman wuraren da za su samu rayuwa mai kyau saboda tsoron kada a kai musu hari."

Ya bayyana cewa Wase na da albarkar kasa mai kyau da dimbin damar noma, amma matsalar rashin tsaro ta hana manoma da dama zuwa gonakinsu.

Wannan bayani nasa ya ja hankalin jama'a kan irin kalubalen tsaron da Wase ke fuskanta da kuma bukatar Gwamnatin Tarayya da ta Jihar Filato su dauki matakai masu karfi domin magance matsalar.

Ya ci gaba da kira da a kafa sansanonin jami'an tsaro na dindindin a yankunan Bashar, Kadarko da hanyoyin dazukan Wase, tare da tallafa wa kungiyoyin sa-kai da mafarauta da ke aiki tare da hukumomin tsaro da aka amince da su.

Haka kuma, ya bukaci a samar da agajin jin kai ga mutanen Wase da suka rasa matsugunansu, wadanda suka tsere zuwa Jos da jihohin makwabta da suka hada da Bauchi da Taraba domin neman mafaka.

Ilimi, ikon sarautar gargajiya da kyakkyawan shugabanci

A matsayinsa na mai digirin digirgir na PhD, Dokta Haruna ya dade yana bayyana ilimi a matsayin muhimmin makamin magance jahilci, talauci, rashin tsaro da sauran matsalolin zamantakewa.

Kokarinsa a wannan fanni ya fi mayar da hankali kan samar da ilimi ga al'ummomin makiyaya da kuma 'ya'ya mata.

A shekarar 2024, yayin wani taron tuntubar masu ruwa da tsaki da Kungiyar Bunkasa Al'adu da Cigaban Fulani (FUDECO) ta shirya a Jos, Sarkin ya jawo hankalin jama'a kan koma bayan ilimi a tsakanin al'ummar Fulani, musamman makiyaya da mata.

Wakilinsa, Galadiman Wase, ne ya bayyana matsayinsa a taron, inda ya nuna damuwa kan yadda kashi 15.7 cikin 100 na makiyaya ne kawai suka samu ilimin firamare, yayin da kashi 8.6 cikin 100 suka kai matakin sakandare, sannan kashi 2.6 cikin 100 kacal suka samu ilimin gaba da sakandare.

Ya kalubalanci FUDECO da gwamnati da su dauki matakan magance wannan matsala, yana mai cewa: "Wajibi ne mu yi tunani kan daukakar da muka taba samu a baya, sannan mu sake duba dabi'un al'adunmu... Neman ilimi a tsakanin Fulani, musamman ilimin 'ya'ya mata, yana da matukar muhimmanci ga ci gaban al'umma."

Ta hanyar fadarsa, ya ci gaba da karfafa wa iyalan Fulani gwiwa wajen tura 'ya'yansu mata makaranta, tare da goyon bayan shirin FUDECO na shekaru 10 na inganta damar samun ilimi a tsakanin al'ummar Fulani.

Haka kuma, yana goyon bayan tsarin ilimin da ya hada karatun addinin Musulunci da na zamani, bisa imanin cewa irin wannan tsari zai bai wa matasan Wase ilimi da kwarewar da za su taimaka musu wajen taka rawar gani a cikin al'umma ta zamani, ba tare da sun rasa addininsu da al'adunsu ba.

Sha'awarsa ga ilimi tana da alaka ta kut-da-kut da kokarinsa na ganin an bunkasa cibiyoyin sarautun gargajiya tare da amincewa da rawar da suke takawa a karkashin kundin tsarin mulkin Najeriya.

A yayin bikin cika shekaru 10 da hawansa sarauta da kuma bikin auren

Juya shafi na 2

WASANNI

Mai tsaron gidan Edo Queens Uzoma tana sa rai da kyautar CAF 2026

By DUNG CHUNG



Uzoma

An zaɓi mai tsaron gida Christiana Uzoma, wacce ta fito daga Edo Queens a matsayin wacce za ta lashe kyautar mai tsaron gida ta shekarar 2026 ta Hukumar Kwallon Kafa ta Afirka (CAF).

'Yar shekara 17 ita ce kaɗai 'yar Najeriya a cikin 'yan takara 10 da CAF ta sanar a ranar Talata.

Uzoma za ta fafata da masu tsaron gida daga Algeria, Kamaru, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Afirka ta Kudu da Zambia don lashe kyautar.

Ta kuma kasance cikin tawagar Falconets ta Najeriya da ta kai wasan kusa da na karshe na gasar cin kofin duniya ta mata ta FIFA 'yan kasa da shekaru 20 ta 2026 a Poland.

Chiamaka Nnadozie, wacce ta lashe sau uku, ba ta cikin jerin 'yan wasan da za a fafata a wannan shekarar ba. Najeriya ta kuma samu shiga cikin jerin 'yan wasan mata.

Super Falcons na cikin jerin 'yan wasan da za su fafata a gasar cin kofin mata na shekarar, yayin da 'yar wasan gaba ta Falconets Seimeyeha Janet Akekoromowei da 'yar wasan gaba ta Flamingos Oluwakemi Adegbuyi ke cikin jerin 'yan wasan da za su fafata a kyautar 'yar wasan mata ta shekarar.

Najeriya ba ta da wani ɗan takara a cikin rukunin 'yan wasan mata na shekara. An shirya bikin bayar da kyaututtukan CAF na 2026 a ranar 7 ga Disamba.

Makomar wasanni a Najeriya na cikin haɗari yayin da tsarin

By KIM DAHWOL

Tsarin wasanni na gida a Najeriya yana rasa goyon bayan da ya sanya shi ya zama tushen ingantacciyar hanyar samun hazikan 'yan wasa.

Filin wasanni na al'umma yana faɗuwa, gasar makarantu ta ragu kuma ƙananan ƙungiyoyi suna fafutukar jawo hankalin masu zuba jari. Masu ruwa da tsaki a wasanni sun ce za a iya jin sakamakon a cikin wasan da ƙasar za ta yi a nan gaba a gasannin ƙasa da ƙasa.

Shekaru da yawa, 'yan wasan Najeriya da yawa sun fara ayyukansu a filayen wasanni na unguwanni da kuma a gasannin makaranta.

Wadannan wurare na yau da kullun sun ba matasa damar yin wasa da kuma a lura da su, sau da yawa ba tare da kudin shiga makarantar sakandare mai zaman kanta ba. Wannan hanyar tana ƙara yin wahala a bi.

A fadin ƙasar, an yi watsi da filayen wasanni ko kuma an mayar da su kasuwanni da wuraren ajiye motoci.

Wuraren horarwa na jama'a suma sun lalace, wanda ya bar matasa 'yan wasa da ƙarancin wurare don yin atisaye.

Ezekiel Victor na Old Rangers FC ya ce wasu matasa suna barin wasanni saboda matsin lamba na kudi da ke kewaye da su.

"Daya daga cikin dalilan da ba a yi la'akari da su ba na raguwar wasannin motsa jiki na gida a Najeriya shine ƙaruwar zamba; samari matasa suna barin wasanni saboda zamba," in ji shi.

David Itodo ya ce rashin kyawun kayayyakin more rayuwa na wasanni shi ma yana hana matasa 'yan wasa gwiwa.

"Cin hanci da rashawa da rashin ci gaban ababen more rayuwa suna hana matasa masu hazaka kuma suna kula da wasu mafarkai," in ji shi.

Ƙananan ƙungiyoyin ƙwallon ƙafa suna fuskantar wata matsala ta daban. Joel Dachomo ya ce wakilan masu leƙen asiri suna ƙara mai da hankali kan makarantun ƙwallon ƙafa, suna barin ƙungiyoyin al'umma ba su da hankali sosai.

"Babban dalili shine ƙarancin saka hannun jari a ƙananan ƙungiyoyin ƙwallon ƙafa; ba a ba da kulawa sosai ga ƙananan ƙungiyoyin da ke kewaye. Wakilan masu leƙen asiri galibi suna zuwa makarantun ƙwallon ƙafa don neman 'yan wasa," in ji shi.

Wannan sauyin yana da sakamako ga matasa waɗanda ba za su iya biyan kudin makaranta ko koyarwa na sirri ba.

Ba tare da waɗannan zaɓuɓɓukan ba, 'yan wasa masu hazaka daga ƙabilu marasa galihu na iya fuskantar wahalar samun kulawa. Makarantu kuma sun zama ƙasa da mahimmanci ga tsarin haɓaka baiwa.

Rage hankali ga ilimin motsa jiki da kuma rashin kulawa da filayen wasa sun raunana gasannin makaranta waɗanda a da ke ba wa yara damar shiga cikin wasannin da aka tsara.

Labarin ya kuma nuna rashin daidaiton kuɗaɗen shiga. An ce hukumomin wasanni na jihohi da na ƙasa suna mai da hankalinsu ga gasannin ƙasa da ƙasa masu kyau, yayin da shirye-shiryen matakin al'umma ke samun ƙarancin tallafi.

Masu ruwa da tsaki suna son gwamnatoci su maido da filayen wasan al'umma da wuraren horo na jama'a. Sun kuma yi kira da a ƙarfafa gasar ilimin motsa jiki da kuma gasa tsakanin makarantu a makarantun firamare da sakandare.



Bukola Olopade, Darakta Janar Hukumar Wasanni

Sun ce ƙungiyoyin gida suna buƙatar tallafin kudi kai tsaye, maimakon barin ci gaban hazaka galibi ga makarantun masu zaman kansu. Tallafin kamfanoni da kuma yada labarai na gida na iya taimakawa ƙananan ƙungiyoyi su jawo hankali da albarkatun da suke buƙata.

Abin damuwa shi ne cewa Najeriya na iya raunana tsarin da 'yan wasanta da yawa suka fara shiga wasannin gasa. Idan ƙungiyoyin al'umma da shirye-shiryen makaranta suka ci gaba da rasa tallafi, ƙananan matasa za su iya samun hanyar shiga wasannin motsa jiki masu tsari.

Yancin Dan Adam **jaridace a harshen Hausa daga jerin jaridun The NIGERIA STANDARD wadanda madaba'ar Gwamnatin Jihar Plateau take bugawa. Babban Edita kuma Shugaban Madaba'a, CHRIS GYANG; Mukaddashin Edita kuma Editan Samarda Rukunin Jaridu, IDRIS DANAZUMI. Ofis Lamba 5, Titin Joseph Gomwalk, Jos.**