



News as it breaks

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2023 elections will be the best in Nigeria – INEC

>>2




PDP caucus moves to endorse Wike as Atiku's running mate

>>4



Moghalu dumps ADC after losing presidential ticket

>>5



Buhari Rejoices With Abdulsalami Abubakar at 80

>>4

Controversy rages over Muslim-Muslim ticket

- *As ruling party set to unveil Tinubu's running mate*
- *Kebbi Gov, Atiku Bagudu, former Gov of Borno State, Kashim Shettima, Kano Gov Abdullahi Ganduje and Plateau Gov, Simon Lalong among top contenders*
- *Muslim-Muslim ticket insensitive, complete lack of respect for Nigerians – Bode George*

>>PAGE 2



President BUHARI at the 2022 Democracy Day Celebration at the Eagle Square, ABUJA. President Buhari with L-R: Minister of Defence Maj. Gen. Bashir Magashi (Rtd), SGF Boss Mustapha, APC National Chairman Abdullahi Adamu, Special Envoy to Lake Chad Amb. Babagana Kingibe, Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Ibrahim Tanko Mohammed, Former President Goodluck Jonathan, Senate President Ahmed Lawan, Speaker Femi Gbajabamila, Deputy Speaker Admed Idris Wase, COS Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, FCT Minister Muhammad Bello and Dean of Diplomatic community and High Commissioner of Cameroon Amb. Salabeddine Abbas.

Troops kill bandit on Kaduna-Abuja highway

>>PAGE 5

Bishop, wife, driver abducted in Oyo State

>>PAGE 6

Electricity customers hit 10.37m in 2020, says NBS

>>PAGE 2

Again, national electricity grid collapses

>>PAGE 2

COVER

Gunmen kidnap CAN chairman in Plateau

Gunmen have kidnapped chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Jos East Local Government Area of Plateau State, Rev James Kantoma.

The Priest of St Anthony Parish in Angware community, The Nation learnt, was abducted at his house on Monday morning.

Plateau CAN Chairman, Polycarp Lubo, confirmed the abduction of the cleric.

Lubo said: "Since the gunmen took the Reverend Father away, we have not heard anything either from him or the abductors up till this afternoon."

A resident of the community, Paul Aware, also confirmed abduction of the Reverend father to reporters in Jos on Monday.

Aware said: "When the gunmen arrived the community early hours of the morning, they moved straight to the house of the Reverend Father."

"Some youths in the area, who were alerted, tried to stop and even gave them a hot chase into the bush but the gunmen started shooting everywhere and eventually took the Reverend Father away."

Plateau Police spokesman, Alabo Alfred, said that the Command was aware of the incident and had deployed officers and men from the anti-kidnapping unit to the community.

"Our men are already working to ensure that the Reverend father regains his freedom and apprehend those behind the abduction," Alfred said.

He called for calm saying the police were on top of the situation.

Controversy rages over Muslim - Muslim ticket

- * *As ruling party set to unveil Tinubu's running mate*
- * *Kebbi Gov, Atiku Bagudu, former Gov of Borno State, Kashim Shettima, Kano Gov Abdullahi Ganduje and Plateau Gov, Simon Lalong among top contenders*
- * *Muslim-Muslim ticket insensitive, complete lack of respect for Nigerians - Bode George*

Groups including the Christian Association of Nigeria and the Catholic Society of Nigeria have warned political parties against fielding a Muslim-Muslim ticket in the 2023 presidential election.

They gave the warning as the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (ret.), the All Progressives Congress governors and the party's presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, on Tuesday intensified moves to pick Tinubu's running mate ahead of Friday's deadline by the Independent National Electoral Commission.

Groups campaigning for Tinubu said that what mattered was a responsive and responsible government, not religion.

Since the emergence of Tinubu, a southern Muslim, there has been controversy over his running mate for the 2023 presidential election with CAN insisting that a Muslim-Muslim ticket was a recipe for crisis.

But the Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-Rufai, in an interview with Channels Television on Sunday, said

competence not religion should be considered when picking a running mate.

CAN, in an open letter addressed to all political parties on Tuesday said it would take a Muslim-Muslim ticket as a declaration of war and would mobilise against political parties that adopted it.

The religious body in the letter advised politicians not to sow seeds of religious conflicts among Nigerians.

The letter which was signed by the national secretary of the association, Joseph Daramola was addressed to the chairmen of all political parties in Nigeria.

He stated that although there were reports of corruption at presidential primaries, it was a big relief that generally the activities were largely peaceful.

According to him, although it is the responsibility of political parties to pick their candidates, there is the need to strike a balance, "to guarantee that the nation enjoys peace and security after elections."

"As the umbrella body of Christians in Nigeria, we call on

all the presidential candidates to choose men or women of alternative religion as their running mates. For avoidance of doubt, the CAN will not accept any presidential ticket that is Christian-Christian or Muslim-Muslim.

"This simply means that where the presidential candidate of the party is a Christian, the deputy should be a Muslim; and where the presidential candidate is a Muslim, the deputy should be a Christian.

"There should not situation where the presidential ticket of a political party in Nigeria, whether a major or minor party, will be two Christians as presidential candidate and running mate, or two Muslims as presidential candidate and running mate. All within us as Nigerians must be done to douse religious and ethnic tensions in the land.

"This minimum requirement for a valid presidential ticket in the Nigeria of today is that it is religiously diverse. With the crisis

Cont'd on Page 5

Again, National Electricity Grid Collapses

The national electricity grid has collapsed again, throwing several cities including the federal capital, Abuja, into darkness.

The latest incident, fifth time in 2022, broke down on Sunday, around 6.49pm, leading to the shutdown of the outgoing electricity feeders of some power distribution companies.

Power distributors in Kaduna, Lagos and other parts of the country said they have not been able to receive bulk electricity from the national supply line.

Nigeria's power grid collapsed twice in March and twice again in April this year, making the power generation on the system to fluctuate, due to various concerns such as gas constraint, water management challenges, gas pipeline vandalism, among others.

"We regret to inform you that the power outage being experienced in our franchise states, is due to system collapse of the national grid. The collapse occurred at about 18:47 pm this evening, hence the loss of supply on all our outgoing feeders.

"Power supply shall be restored as soon as the national grid is

powered back", Kaduna Electric announced on Sunday evening.

Eko Electricity in its own statement said, "We regret to inform you of the ongoing system collapse on the national grid. This has affected our entire network and impacted our ability to deliver optimum service. Please bear with us as we are working with our TCN partners on a swift resolution."

In its own statement, Abuja Electricity said: "The current power outage is due to a system failure from the national grid. The system collapsed at about 6.49 pm today, 12th June, 2022, causing the outage currently being experienced. We appeal for your understanding as all stakeholders are working hard to restore normal supply."

Also, the Head, Corporate Communications, EEDC, Emeka Ezech, said the grid collapse threw five states under the Disco's franchise area in total blackout.

A notice from the Disco, which he signed, read in part, "The Enugu Electricity Distribution Company Plc, wishes to inform her esteemed customers of a system collapse which occurred at 6.49pm this evening, Sunday.

"As a result of this development, all our outgoing feeders are out and this has affected supply to our customers in Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo states."

As of 6:00pm on Sunday, June 12, 2022, power generation on the national grid was 1,353.80 megawatts (MW), generated by 13 GenCos shortly before the system crashed.

There are up to 24 active Gencos on the grid system, but even from the 13 GenCos on Sunday evening, only Delta (Ughelli) GenCo did up to 371MW; Rivers IPP had 156MW, Omotosho did 130MW, Olorunsogo did 128MW, while the other nine GenCos did not generate up to 100MW.

Sadly, the baseload GenCos which are the three hydropower plants that guarantee stable electricity were affected.

While Kainji had 51MW, Jebba had 88MW and Shiroro was down, some 45 minutes before the national grid collapse.

Reports from the Nigeria System Operations, a section of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and grid manager, indicate that there has been a lull in power generation.

2023 elections will be the best in Nigeria - INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, has said that it will deploy new technologies in making the 2023 elections the best coordinated in Nigeria.

The Resident Electoral Commissioner, REC, in Kwara, Garba Attahiru-Madami, stated this during the commemoration of 2022 Democracy Day, organised by Michael Imoudu Institute of Labour Studies in Ilorin on Monday.

He said that INEC will utilise the new technologies with the aim of improving electoral process in the country.

Mr Attahiru-Madami said that Nigeria started using digital technology in the electoral process in 2011, adding that the commission introduced the automated fingerprint identification system to stop voters from registering more than once.

He noted that the use of the technologies had improved the legitimacy of past the electoral process, adding that the commission has also improved on it and would ensure that all the identified irregularities were eliminated.

The REC enjoined all eligible citizens to get their PVCs, stressing that it was their power to make choice for good leadership in the country.

He, however, warned people against multiple registrations, adding that political parties must caution their members against contravening the law governing voter registration.

According to Attahiru-Madami, a fine of N1 million and/or imprisonment awaits any violator of the voter registration law.

Earlier in his address of welcome, Director-General of MINILS, Mr Isa Aremu, said that democracy day was worth celebrating, as it had brought about great development and enhanced human rights.

He commended President Muhammadu Buhari for moving the commemoration of democracy day to June 12 and for the posthumous award bestowed on the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola.

Mr Aremu commended INEC for its roles in fostering democracy in the country, adding that so far 84 million Nigerians had been registered as voters.

He said that the institute would continue to assist in fostering and strengthening democracy in the country.

He also appealed to Nigerians to get registered in order to have the opportunity of electing leaders of their choice in 2023.

NAN

EDITORIAL

Curbing electoral corruption

Elections which define our democracy and the governments that spring from them are very weakly regulated. Political parties, candidates and their supporters freely help themselves. It is one of the drivers of corruption and bad leadership which are at the foundation of our failing state status.

The “bazaars” in the All Progressives Congress, APC, and the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, say it all. The ruling APC skyrocketed its presidential expression of interest and nomination forms to N100 million, while the main opposition PDP sold theirs for N40 million.

Even in the primary elections, politicians mopped up scarce foreign exchange to bribe their parties’ delegates in their bids to buy the nomination processes. Successful candidates will still spend through their noses to buy votes.

Many of the aspirants who failed even after bribing their party delegates are openly demanding refunds of money spent on vote-buying. Some have taken extraordinary measures to recover the bribes after failure. Since bribery is an offence that targets both the giver and taker, how many of the self-confessed givers have been apprehended by the law enforcement agencies?

How many receivers have been prosecuted? How many ballot snatchers and their sponsors, election result falsifiers, people who attack the electoral process with arms and others who have always sought to hijack our democracy have been visited with the full weight of the law?

Our failure to pay due attention to electoral offenders has fuelled overwhelming lawlessness in the process.

Perhaps the reluctance of law enforcement agencies to pursue electoral offenders has to do with the fact that even the most highly placed elected officials and top brass of our security benefit from these crimes. That is why no one is willing to bell the cat.

It is shocking that the just-concluded round of Electoral Act amendment was unable to create the much-needed clamour for electoral offences courts which should specifically focus on punishing the traducers of our democracy.

This is why corruption and bad governance are pushing the system toward total failure. Corruption and bad governance are directly linked to the worsening insecurity in the land.

Politicians alone should no longer be left to decide on whether and when to create a punitive system for electoral offences. We must all fight for it.



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Mission Statement

To tell the truth at all times and hold government accountable to the governed and to give the citizens the information they need to be active participants in the democratic process. In this light Daybreak newspaper refuses to be an ally of any special interest but to maintain objectivity, fairness and balance as its core principle especially in an age of misinformation and fake news.

News

Buhari Rejoices With Abdulsalami Abubakar at 80

President Muhammadu Buhari has rejoiced with former Head of State and Chairman of the National Peace Committee, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, as he marks his 80th birthday anniversary on June 13, 2022.

The President, in a release issued Monday by his Media Adviser, Femi Adesina, joined family members, friends and associates of the former Head of State in celebrating the milestone, taking into full cognisance the historic roles

he has played in the unity and peace of Nigeria, and in laying the building blocks of democracy.

He noted the meritorious service of the former Chief of Defence Staff, sacrificing for the country and African continent by participating in peace missions and negotiating for the upholding of democracy across the continent.

President Buhari extolled the humility and humanity of the Army General, who chose the noble path by ensuring

transition to democratic government in 1999, and midwived a peaceful handover process in 2015.

The President believed the nation owes General Abubakar debt of gratitude for always putting the interest of the country and its citizens first, and working for the greater good of Nigeria and a better Africa.

President Buhari prayed that the Almighty God will continually bless the former Head of State with good health, strength and wisdom.



PDP caucus moves to endorse Wike as Atiku's running mate

Indications emerged, yesterday, that members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) caucus in the House of Representatives might endorse River State Governor, Nyesom Wike, as running mate of the presidential flag bearer of the party, Atiku Abubakar.

This came to the fore after a member of the caucus, Mr. Busayo Oluwole Oke, in a statement,

disclosed that key colleagues would meet in Abuja to take the decision.

Oke, who chairs the House Committee on Public Accounts, explained that the members, comprising party faithful across the six geopolitical zones, had already resolved to endorse Wike after seriously considering his contribution to the growth of the party over the years.

He said: "We, the Progressives

at the Green Chamber of the National Assembly, under the umbrella of our great party, the PDP, are meeting on Monday in Abuja to endorse the candidature of the River State Governor, Nyesom Wike, as the vice presidential candidate of our party.

"We have been watching with keen interest all his activities over the years. We have also assessed

his ability and capability in all the spheres of life, and we have seen in him all what the party needs to win the presidential poll in 2023. With our presidential candidate, Abubakar Atiku, leading, we have total confidence in the duo.

"Wike's achievements as governor of River State is of public knowledge and towers above others in the land. He is a fighter for true federalism, highly

detrimentalised, and defender of our constitution.

"While we respect the right of the presidential candidate to choose the person he wants, his decision to embark on wider consultation is commendable, and a sign of a true democrat.

"The caucus will meet with our presidential flag bearer to convey our position to him almost immediately."

Muslim-Muslim ticket recipe for crisis – CAN

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has, again, advised political parties against undermining the Christian community in the forthcoming presidential election by running Muslim-Muslim tickets.

The Christian body gave the warning, during the interdenominational church service to mark the 2022 Democracy Day celebration at the National Christian Centre, Abuja. It stated that it is the presidential candidate who works with the church that will win the presidential election.

President of CAN, Dr Samson Ayokunle, who was represented by National President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) and Founder of Sword of The Spirit Ministries International, Bishop Francis Wale-Oke, said the party that favours fairness, equity and justice would in return receive the support and votes of Nigerians in the coming election.

This is coming two days after CAN had in a statement by its National Secretary, Joseph Daramola, restated its clamour for "a balance of religious representation on the presidential tickets of the major parties.

"The running mate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential flag bearer, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, should be a Christian from the North; Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Atiku Abubakar's running mate should be a Christian

from the South; while Labour Party's Peter Obi should choose his running mate among the Muslims from the North.

"Anything contrary to the above means that the leadership of these political parties do not bother about the unity of this entity called Nigeria. Those who are planning a Muslim-Muslim ticket should also find out what was the outcome of the MKO Abiola and (Babagana) Kingibe ticket in 1993. If they try a Muslim-Muslim ticket this time around, the outcome will be worse, because our fault lines are very visible."

The CAN statement was referencing the 1993 presidential election won by an all-Muslim ticket of Moshood Abiola and Babagana Kingibe, but which was immediately annulled by the military head of state, Ibrahim Babangida. Abiola died five years later in detention over his struggle to activate the electoral mandate.

Recall that Governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai, had, at the weekend, said there was nothing wrong about the controversial Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket.

While reports make the rounds that APC and its candidate, Tinubu, might settle for a Muslim-Muslim ticket, given the party's calculation that it might be difficult to find a Christian from the North, who would be acceptable enough to boost the party's chances in the election, the CAN President, however, warned APC and the

major parties to resist the temptation to fly a Muslim-Muslim ticket in next year's election.

Speaking on the theme 'More than Conquerors,' Ayokunle noted that any party that wishes to produce the next president must not undermine the Christian community.

He said: "While I congratulate the candidates, I must sound this warning, please do not fly a Muslim-Muslim ticket. It will not fly. It will not stand. Rather, it would set the nation against each other. The candidate who will emerge is the one who works with the Church. Please, do not alienate the church."

He urged candidates to exalt righteousness in their campaigns saying: "You can only rule when there is a nation. In your campaigns, make sure you exalt fairness, justice and equity. If there is no righteousness, fairness and equity, we will remain divided.

"There is no fairness if a certain people from a certain ethnic group are reduced to second class citizens who cannot aspire to the highest office in the land.

"We pray for an end to killing people in their place of worship. We pray for a nation that is united and where justice, fairness and equity reigns. God bless you all and God bless Nigeria."

THE Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo, praised the nation's democratic journey, saying that Nigerians rose to the occasion when military dictatorships almost

pushed the country to the edge of extinction.

Speaking at the interdenominational church service, the Vice President who was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, noted that the nation's democracy was hard earned by Nigerians from the trenches of the six geopolitical zones. He said: "We rose to the occasion, following the ravages of a civil war, to rebuild a united country, no matter how imperfect, and we have come this far because of all of us, from the North, to the South, marched against military rule to transition to democratic governance.

"Our struggle for a better country, as always, will require us to be united. It is important to note that our commemoration of Democracy Day was recently moved from May 29 to June 12 by a President from the North in honour of a political leader from the South."

Osinbajo observed that democracy works all the time, also, "in a heterogeneous union like ours, through negotiations and compromises, carried out in good faith and each year brings us closer to a more perfect union and a more mature democracy."

He noted that in 2015, the present administration became the first administration in the history of Nigeria to take over governance from a sitting president in a smooth

transition.

According to him, "in the last couple of weeks, party primaries have been held by political parties, big and small, across the country, without violence, rancour or the prevalence of court cases as have characterised the process in times past."

In attendance at the service were representatives of the Senate President and Speaker House of Representatives, Deputy Chief Whip of the House of Representatives, Nkeiruka Onyejeocha; Minister of Women Affairs, Paulen Tallen; President of the Court of Appeal, represented by Justice H.S. Samani; Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Dr Folashade Yemi-Esan; Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of the Federal Capital Territory, Water Resources, Police Affairs, Civil Service Commission.

Others include Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor; representative of the Chief of Air Staff, Major General A.B Omozoje; representative of the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral J.B. Basan; representative of the Inspector General of Police, DIG Johnson Kokumo; Chief of Defence Intelligence, Major General S.A. Adebayo, heads of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Nigeria Immigration Service, National Security and Civil Defence Corps and Nigeria Customs Service.

Troops kill bandit on Kaduna-Abuja highway

A combined team of Police and military operatives foiled a mission by bandits on the Kaduna-Abuja Highway on Monday.

The team killed one of the bandits and recovered one AK-47 rifle and nine of their operational motorcycles.

The Kaduna State Police Command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mohammed Jalige, confirmed the incident in a statement in Kaduna on Monday.

According to DSP Jalige: "The dividends of the renewed vigor and purposeful synergy between the Police and the military in Kaduna State came to the fore yet again on Monday 13th June 2022 at about 0255hrs when the combined team of Police Operation Puff Adder and

that of the Nigerian army Operation Thunder Strike while on routine patrol along Kaduna -Abuja highway at Sabon Sara had an encounter with armed bandits' who were on their nefarious mission along the busy highway.

"The marauding armed bandits were intercepted at the above mentioned point where exchange of fire ensued as a result of which the friendly forces succeeded in truncating the bandits mission forcing them to retreat into the forest as one bandit was neutralized," it said.

The statement explained that upon search of the general area, an AK47 rifle and nine bandits operational motorcycles were recovered while the high spirited operatives are not resting

on their oars in ensuring the safety of motorists and other legitimate road users.

"The Commissioner of Police, Kaduna State, CP Yekini A. Ayoku psc (+)mni, is highly elated with the exemplary commitment and gallantry exhibited by this combined team and assured them that their sacrifices towards ensuring public safety will not go unrewarded.

"As it is expected that the injured criminal elements will be hibernating around the nearby communities to access healthcare services, the CP called on the general public to report any person or group nursing gunshot wound to the nearest security formation as he assured them of prompt response at all time," it said.

... Muslim - Muslim ticket

Cont'd from Page 2

of religious fundamentalism and its mainstreaming into policymaking and administrative actions in Nigeria today, anything short of a Christian-Muslim or Muslim-Christian ticket is an undisguised effort to nurture religious conflicts and destabilize the country."

Daramola added that in view of growing religiously motivated terrorism, including the recent attack in a church in Owo, Ondo State, "any plot to have both the President and Vice President come from the same religion is a deliberate effort to ignite the fire of religious warfare in Nigeria.

"The weaponisation of religious difference in the recent past as never before is a cause for concern and a sufficient reason for those of us who do not want this nation to go into avoidable crisis to cry out now. It will be plain disrespect for diverse religious communities in Nigeria for any party to go against common sense to foist a single religious ticket in a religious plural country with serious problems of religious extremism and violence on Nigerians. No party in Nigeria can deny the existence of credible men and women from both Islam and Christianity that can be their Presidential and running mate.

"Whereas CAN is not a partisan organisation and does not involve itself with the process of partisan politics, it has a responsibility to defend the religious freedom of Nigerian citizens, whether Christians or not. CAN has a responsibility to speak out and mobilize civic action against threats to the unity, peace and security of the Nigerian state.

"Therefore, we give notice to all political parties that we will protect the religious diversity of the Nigerian state and will "mobilize politically against any political party that sows the seed of religious conflict by presenting to Nigeria a presidential ticket that is Muslim-Muslim or Christian-Christian.

"We will consider such action as a declaration of war against the freedom of religion, the peace and security of the Nigerian state. We will consider such insensitive action as evidence of a deliberate action to plunge the country further into religious violence and extremism and destroy the foundations of the continuation of the Nigerian state.

"As the presidential candidates prepare to nominate their running mates, we sound the note of warning, through this letter, that only a diversified presidential ticket will be acceptable to Nigeria in line with the constitutional requirement of power

sharing and the responsibility of sensitivity to Nigeria's deep religious diversity.

"We pray that God will give the political elites the wisdom to seek peace and prosperity for the mistreated citizens of Nigeria and avoid the path of provocations that lead to violent conflict. May God guide our leaders to become statesmen and women who are dedicated to the promotion of the common good and not the mindless pursuit of destructive selfishness."

Also, a group, the Oodua Youth Parliament, called on Tinubu to pick a northern Christian.

It said picking a Christian running mate from the Northern part of the country would give Tinubu and the APC the desired victory.

This was contained in a statement issued by the leader of the group Abdulmojeed Oyeniyi, on Tuesday.

Northern Christians and pastors under the aegis of Arewa Christians and Indigenous Pastors Association warned against the imposition of a Muslim-Muslim ticket.

The group, in a statement by the chairman, Rev. Shehu Luke, stated, "The ACIPA has observed with sadness the hijack of Nigeria's political process and perhaps our future by a few money bag politicians with the tacit conspiracy of some of our legislatures and the Presidency.

"While the recently concluded primary elections of the major political parties have a public semblance of transparency, it is obvious that there was a covert inducement of delegates through a well orchestrated machinery which influenced."

"Competence matters"

In its reaction, the Director of Publicity, Tinubu Support Organisation, Ekiti State, Abiodun Alonge, in an interview said what mattered to Nigerians was a government that could deliver the greatest good for the greatest number of the people and not whether the president and vice president belonged to same religion or not.

Alonge said, "The issue of Muslim-Muslim ticket or Christian-Christian ticket for Nigerians as of now is a non-issue. Hunger has no religion, poverty has no religion. If a Muslim is the President of Nigeria and a Muslim is the Vice President, as long as there is good healthcare, good education, jobs and our students are in the school uninterrupted by strikes for four years, no one will say it because Muslims are in power. The same thing if a Christian is President and a Christian is vice president."

When asked for his take on Muslim-Muslim, the leader of the Grassroots

Network for Asiwaju Tinubu group, Mr Abiodun Mafe, said he was concerned about the competence and capability of the person who will fill the vice president slot of the party.

On its part, the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria in a statement on Tuesday warned political parties against the imposition of a Muslim-Muslim ticket.

The statement which was signed by the Secretary General of the CSN, Very Rev. Fr. Zacharia Nyantiso Samjumi, said, "Ordinarily, there would have been nothing wrong with a Muslim-Muslim or Christian-Christian ticket in a democratic dispensation if there is mutual trust and respect for the human person and where the overriding desire for seeking political office is the fostering of the common good. But one cannot really say so of our country at the moment.

"The present glaring crisis and division in the nation, a Muslim-Muslim ticket would be most insensitive and a tacit endorsement of the negative voices of many non-state actors who have been threatening this nation's unity and peaceful coexistence without an arrest."

Also, youths in the APC, under the aegis, of the APC Youth Progressive Forum, at a press conference in Bauchi on Tuesday rejected the Muslim/Muslim.

They therefore, called on the presidential candidate of the APC to pick a former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara as his running mate.

The National Chairman of the group, Ukkasha Hamza Rahama, said the choice of Dogara, would douse tensions in the country.

Meanwhile, Buhari on Tuesday met behind closed doors with the APC governors at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

Although the governors declined to speak with the media after the meeting, it is believed to be in connection with last-minute hunting for a running mate for the party's standard bearer, Bola Tinubu.

Chairman of the Progressive Governors' Forum Governor Atiku Bagudu of Kebbi State, led the governors to the meeting.

Attending the Villa meeting were the Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari; the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha; governors Babagana Zulum of Borno, Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna, Mohammed Abubakar of Jigawa, Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa, Simon Lalong of Plateau, Yahaya Bello of Kogi, and Hope Uzodinma of Imo.



Moghalu dumps ADC after losing presidential ticket

Former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Dr Kingsley Moghalu has resigned from the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

His decision comes days after he lost the party's presidential ticket to founder of Roots Television, Dumebi Kachikwu.

In a letter dated June 13, Moghalu announced his decision to leave the party.

He expressed dissatisfaction over the process and conduct of his party's presidential primary.

He said: "I am writing to hand in my resignation from my membership of the African Democratic Congress, effective immediately. I have resigned because the process and conduct of the party's presidential primary on June 8, 2022 at Abeokuta revealed a fundamental clash of values between me and your leadership of the party

"Despite the circular you issued a few days to the primary committing the party to providing transportation and accommodation for delegates to and in Abeokuta, and which as we agreed would provide a level playing for all the presidential aspirants, the party under your leadership failed to do so.

"Some aspirants, including myself, made donations to the ADC party account as requested by the party for this

purpose. This failure, which appeared intentional, created room for massive abuses of the electoral process including delegate capture and financial inducement of delegates.

This is only one of numerous inconsistencies and the absence of transparency and predictability in the management of the party that I had progressively complained about.

"As you are well aware, I have consistently resisted pressures to join the APC or the PDP precisely to avoid "cash-and-carry" politics. For me to remain a member of the ADC therefore, after what thousands of party members participated in at Abeokuta, would be to endorse political corruption of a most obscene order.

"I joined the ADC in October 2021 with the best of intentions. Since then, I have put my entire team to work on growing and improving the party, including raising the party's visibility on all media platforms, recruiting more than 10,000 new members to the party, and providing new offices for various state chapters of the party at my expense.

"It is deeply regrettable that other inducements appear to have played more important roles in determining the outcome of the primary than loyalty to the party."

Photo News

*President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurates Presidential Council on E-Government and Digital Economy in State House on 10th June 2022
President Buhari with SGF Boss Mustapha, Minister of Communication and Digital Economy Prof. Isa Pantami, Gombe State Governor Inuwa Yahaya and Exec. Vice Chairman NCC Prof. Umar Danbatta*



Special Report

By yke Obi Durumba

Fibre Cement Boards – A Solid Choice For Builders

The importance of housing is central to the welfare of the citizens of any society. Shelter makes up one of the basic needs of man and with a huge population of over 200m, Nigeria's housing sector is expected to be very vibrant. With such a large market, it is predictable that housing needs would evolve to utilizing diverse materials designed to suit local market needs.

The Fibre Cement Board whose manufacture in Nigeria is pioneered by a Chinese company, New Material Nigeria Company Ltd, is one of the innovative products introduced into the housing construction sector which promises to revolutionize the way houses are built in Nigeria. The product has the potential of transforming the building sector with qualities which suit building engineers and consumers.

Nigeria's current housing deficit is estimated at 17-20m units. This deficit is partly driven by high cost of building materials among other factors identified by professionals in the industry. Increasing poverty, overpopulation and migration has put pressure on Nigeria's housing woes thereby generating a need for more advanced and cost efficient materials like the Fibre Cement Board.

A Fibre Cement Board or FCB is a composite board made of cement, cellulose fibre like paper pulp and quartz stones and sand. They are used in building construction as walls, partitioning, roofing and flooring. FCBs are hard, durable and resistant to weather corrosion. For the first time, these boards will be manufactured in Nigeria by a Chinese company.

The company, New Material Nigeria Company Limited, is a subsidiary of the Chinese group CNBM, China New Building Material group wholly owned by the government of China. It is a globally recognizable brand known for high quality building materials and diverse investment in cement, gypsum and solar energy. The company whose affiliates have been working in Nigeria and constructed Lafarge and Dangote factories are helping manufacturing industries set up with high quality and safety standards.

The Fibre Cement Board factory in Abuja is the first abroad built by China.

Speaking with journalists during a new product news briefing the MD, Jackie Dai Hui expressed elation at being involved in manufacturing in a country like Nigeria with such a vast market. He said, "It is a good opportunity for our company to enter Nigeria. That's why we have to work together, share together to bring the immense advantages of this new material to the Nigerian people".

The factory has a production capacity of 5 million square feet of Fibre Cement Board per annum while the second phase will feature an expanded capacity of 10m square feet per annum.

The uses of Fibre Cement Board in building construction is multifaceted. As internal wall partitioning, these boards provide excellent strength, soundproof and fireproof qualities that make them the preferable alternative. As exterior wall cladding, FCBs are weather-resistant and are highly energy efficient thus contributing to climate goals. As good insulators of heat and sound, they are preferred to the solid cement block or bricks commonly used.

Expectedly, a major point of interest is the source of raw materials for the innovative Cement Fibre Boards. Devising a strategy of organic growth relying on local inputs, the company aims at long term business sustainability through viable partnerships with other local industries and players.

"We source locally", says Dai Hui. "That's why we have confidence to grow and stay in Nigeria." Essential materials like paper pulp are sourced from Kano while locally manufactured cement are also utilized to produce the very high quality Cement Fibre



Boards which are harder and more durable than other materials in its class. Quartz sand and stones are other important ingredients which are all entirely sourced locally

In terms of capacity building for local content, the company which employs over 120 Nigerians also has Nigerians on its management team. Technical staff are given adequate manpower training and technology transfer is ensured through skill acquisition.

The \$50m factory located in the Kuje Council also has capacity to train students on industrial attachment. The company expressed willingness to collaborate with Nigerian universities to research other similar products. Similarly, it brings its technical expertise to bear in making analysis and projections for Nigeria building material industry.

The presence of the factory in Nigeria holds the potential of \$60m savings for Nigeria, funds which would have left the shores of Nigeria in imports.

Made from raw materials like paper pulp, cement sourced locally, quartz stone etc, civil engineers have described Fibre Cement Boards as the workable alternative to gypsum boards. "It is the prefab product of the future," says

Noel Ofor, a civil engineer. Use of the FCB drastically cuts cost of labour. A product with an environmentally friendly composition, it is also water and fireproof. The latter quality makes it the product of choice where fireproofing concerns are high. FCB are choice materials for buildings like markets and malls, warehouses, offices and other public buildings where the risk of fires are higher.

Enthused on how the FCB can replace the gypsum board, Dai Hui said, "For gypsum boards, you have to import from abroad like Turkey but prices are really high and Nigerian government have to pay dollar abroad. But now you have local factory in Nigeria, we source raw materials locally so we can produce in Nigeria in the name of Nigeria and we can export to ECOWAS, to Europe to America."

Gypsum imports from three countries alone Turkey, Spain and Egypt are worth over \$132m a year. Locally produced Fibre Cement Board is an alternative to this flight of scarce foreign exchange.

Expectedly, a major point of interest is the source of raw materials for the innovative Cement Fibre Boards. Explaining his company's strategy, Hui said, "The reason we can grow in Nigeria is because we source everything in Nigeria. It is made in Nigeria. And we can also use this material to make Nigeria proud through Nigerian product."

Devising a strategy of organic growth relying on local inputs, the company aims at long term business sustainability through viable partnerships with other local industries and players.

"We source locally," says Hui. "That's why we have confidence to grow and stay in Nigeria." Essential materials like paper pulp are sourced from places like Kano while locally manufactured cement are also utilized to produce the very high quality Cement Fibre Boards which are harder and more durable than other materials in its class. Quartz sand and stones are other important ingredient which are all entirely sourced locally.

The innovative nature of the company's flagship product, Fibre Cement Board, has necessitated the need to create new standards for such a new material. Thus, the company

is working closely with the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to develop new protocols for assessing standards for Fibre Cement Boards. Narrating this to journalists, Dai Hui said, "When we came to do business here, we go (sic) to the standards authority but they could not find this item Fibre Cement Board on their list. It is a new product. So we were able to help the Nigerian govt make new standards for this new material in Nigeria". This increases SON's overall technical competence and provides an invaluable learning curve for standards assessors in Nigeria.

Industrial safety is of prime concern for the management. Health and safety practices are of utmost importance in the factory as extensive safety systems are put in place. Fire prevention measures and the mandatory use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are among

The \$50m factory located in the Kuje Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja has capacity to train students in industrial attachment. The company also expressed willingness to collaborate with Nigerian universities to research other similar products. Similarly, it brings its technical expertise to bear in making market analysis and projections for Nigeria building material industry.

Being a commercial interest vying for a share in the local market, New Material Nigeria Company has adopted a warm, friendly face within its community of operations. It has provided boreholes, roads and carried out school renovations. Unlike many foreign-owned companies operating in Nigeria, New Material Nigeria Ltd makes active effort to provide incentives like food and provisions to Nigerians during festivals. "Because we get from Nigeria, we have to share with Nigerians," quipped Dai Hui.

On future projects, the company plans to build a new factory in Lagos for export while retaining the Abuja factory for production for domestic use. Quoting Chinese President Xi Jinping, Hui said the entrance of New Material Nigeria Company into the Nigerian market was in furtherance of a shared prosperity vision.

News



Without Muslim-Muslim Presidential Ticket, APC May Not Win In 2023 – Orji Kalu

The Chief Whip of the Senate, Senator Orji Kalu, has proposed a Muslim-Muslim ticket as a critical factor for the All Progressives Congress (APC) to win the presidential election in 2023.

He believes the ruling party may lose the election if it fails to go for the option of a Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket, considering the present situation it has found itself.

Senator Kalu made the remarks on Wednesday in an interview with journalists at the National Assembly complex in Abuja, the nation's capital.

"If we don't play Muslim-Muslim (ticket), we are in trouble," he stated. "It will be difficult to win the election because the only thing left for Ahmed Tinubu today is to play Muslim-Muslim."

"What is wrong with Muslim-

Muslim ticket? I don't see anything wrong. There is nothing wrong with a Christian-Christian ticket also, it depends on the condition.

"The condition that we have found ourselves today is that you cannot play two minorities – Tinubu is a minority Muslim from the South and if you put a Christian from the North, it is a minority Christian from the North. What I am telling you is sincerely from my mind; it is not the position of our party."

The lawmaker stressed that there was nothing wrong if the APC decides to field a Muslim-Muslim ticket for the election.

He argued that it was impossible for a southern minority Muslim and a northern minority Christian to win a presidential election in Nigeria.

According to Senator Kalu, the priority of the ruling party should

be winning the presidential election in 2023 and not the religious and ethnic affiliation of its vice presidential candidate.

He thanked President Buhari for ensuring a level playing ground for all candidates at the party's presidential primary election.

"If I am in Ahmed Bola Tinubu's situation – the wife is a senior pastor in a Pentecostal church, I will go (for a) Muslim-Muslim ticket," the lawmaker said. "The most important thing is for the party to win."

"Already the wife is a pastor and they have been living together for over 50 years. She's already like a deputy president, if I'm to say; I am saying my opinion, this is Orji Kalu's opinion. You cannot deny me my opinion, but you can also play a Christian-Christian ticket, depending on the scenario."

INEC creates additional Registration Centres in Anambra

The Independent National Electoral Commission in Anambra State has created additional 25 registration centres, thereby bringing the total number to 87 centres in the state.

The state Resident Electoral Commissioner, Dr Nkwachukwu Orji, stated this on Tuesday, during a press briefing on the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration in the State.

According to him, creating additional centres was one of the measures adopted by the commission to address the sudden surge in the number of those seeking to register.

He also said that the commission has also reopened all the centres in the state that were shut down as a result of insecurity.

"I am pleased to announce that the Commission has created additional 25 registration centres in Anambra State and that they commenced operation by 9.00am today. The additional centres bring the total number of centres in

Anambra to 87," he said.

"We have also reopened some LGA offices that were shut down as a result of insecurity. Specifically, on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, the

Idemili North LGA Office was reopened. Today, June 14, 2022, we have resumed registration exercise in Ogbaru and Ayamelum LGAs."

He also said that the commission had reorganised its operational procedure by separating people seeking biometric services from those that require non-biometric services.

According to him, the biometric services involve fresh registration while non-biometric services include request for PVC Replacement, Voter Transfer, and Update.

Orji said that those requesting non-biometric services need not come to the registration centres, rather they should do them with their android phones.

He also said that immediately after the transfer, update and

replacement are completed the person would be prompted with a message which will be used to collect his/her PVC at preferred areas.

"These services can be obtained through the Commission's CVR Portal. However, we have deployed personnel to assist those who cannot access the online portal at the various registration centres. In areas where the security situation permits, we would extend our time of operation, which is 9.00am to 3.00pm. We would continue to expand our public communication to inform and educate members of the public," he said.

Orji said the commission had suspended the personnel accused of extorting money and an investigation is ongoing on the matter.

He appealed to the registrants to exercise patience and understanding and show cooperation at this challenging time.

Gov Matawalle Assures Zamfara Residents of Safe Return of Abductees

Four days after bandits kidnapped 50 wedding guests travelling along the Sokoto-Zamfara road in Gusau, Governor Bello Matawalle has assured that they will be released.

The Zamfara governor decried the rising cases of banditry in the north-western state where several people have been killed with many others abducted.

In a statement by his media aide, Zailani Bappa, the Zamfara leader said his administration has taken steps in arresting the security situation in the state.

Matawalle appealed to families of kidnap victims to have confidence in the state government's ability to curb banditry in the bud.

"This singular incident marks another sad moment in the fight against the security challenges we are facing in our dear state," the governor was quoted as saying.

"I appeal to the families of all abducted persons to have confidence in our ability to do all that is needed to be done in rescuing their dear ones."

"I have directed all security agencies for the speedy location of

the abducted persons and will, in sha Allah, be rescued."

According to him, the state government will not tolerate any act of indiscipline from unscrupulous persons who want to manipulate the present situation to score cheap political goals.

He warned that his administration will no longer fold its arms and allow heartless people to go on manipulating the misfortune of innocent citizens for their selfish political ends.

"We are a responsible Government and we shall not relent in ensuring the safety of all our citizens at all times. We shall not condone calculated political sabotage or vagaries and indiscriminate abuse of privileges to jeopardize our fragile security situation in the state" Governor Matawalle warned.

"We have noted the rise of informants' activities leading to many unfortunate banditry attacks on soft targets. We shall take more stringent steps in addressing the current situation, including possible communication shut down once again," Governor Matawalle added.

Shun Hate Speech NCPC Boss Admonishes Nigerians

By Joyce Remi-Babayeju

The Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Christian Pilgrim Commission, Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam has urged Nigerians to shun hate speech as the nation is currently experiencing critical times.

Rev. Pam gave this advise when the Executive Members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists paid him a courtesy visit at NCPC Corporate Headquarters, Garki 2, Abuja recently.

He said, "Words are powerful, they can build or destroy a nation."

Also the NCPC lead commended the Nigeria Union of Journalists for their role in nation building and development, adding that the Nigeria media has played a great role in information dissemination.

He appreciated the media for countering fake news particularly from the social media and for always dissemination activities of the

Commission.

He said, "Journalism is not only an expression of opinion but a profession that speaks life."

He assured the journalists that the Commission would support the NUJ.

National President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Mr Chris Isiguzo commended the Executive Secretary for his track record of selfless service and integrity to the nation.

Isiguzo said, "It is on record that your honesty and hard work have contributed in restoring probity, transparency and accountability to the Commission within a short time."

He stressed the need for collaboration between the Commission and National Union of Journalists in advancing the cause of peaceful coexistence in the country and in other areas of promoting our democratic value





Nigeria Facing Political, Economic Problems - ACF Boss, Ogbeh Tells Tinubu

By Ike Obi

Former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and current chairman of Arewa Consultative Forum, Chief Audu Ogbeh, has said Nigeria is currently facing what he called “frightening multiplicity of political and economic problems.”

Chief Ogbeh stated this in a congratulatory letter to the APC

flag bearer in the forthcoming 2023 Presidential elections, Ahmed Bola Tinubu, in Abuja.

“I believe that your wealth of experience will help in strengthening our great party ahead of the forthcoming elections. As one and the same party members, we must now work together to pursue our common interest which is to come out victorious in the upcoming elections.

“You are coming into office

at one of the most difficult and challenging times in our history with a frightening multiplicity of political and economic problems confronting us. But we believe that with hard work and sincerity of purpose, we shall overcome,” Chief Ogbeh wrote in the letter.

The Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum said he will work with Tinubu to achieve his dreams for a united and strong Nigeria.

Why northern delegates voted for Tinubu -El-Rufai opens up

Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-Rufai, has blamed the silence of the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), for the decision reached by many delegates to vote for Bola Tinubu as the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress.

He said this while appearing as a guest on Channels Television’s Politics Today.

El-Rufai explained that Buhari asked the northern delegates to vote for any of the shortlisted five presidential candidates of their choice.

According to him, Buhari didn’t

dictate how delegates from Kaduna State should vote at the APC presidential primaries.

While speaking Friday night, governor said, “In many of our states, the delegate votes were divided,” El-Rufai said.

“Before I went to address the Kaduna delegates for the last time, I went to the President and I asked him, have you decided on who we should vote for? He said, I told you, go and vote for any of the five (candidates selected by APC Governors)

“I said, Mr President, the Kaduna delegates are your delegates, you are going to retire and live in Kaduna.

So you can tell me who you want out of the five, and the President said ‘I want all five’.

“I said, what then should I tell Kaduna delegates. He said, tell them to vote their conscience; they are representing 10 million people in Kaduna state. It’s a heavy responsibility, and they should discharge it and pick the best candidate.

“Now I don’t know how the Kaduna delegates voted, but the feedback I got after the voting is that most of them voted for Asiwaju, some voted for Amaechi and some voted for Professor Yemi Osinbajo.”

2023: It will be good for APC to settle for Muslim-Christian ticket – Babachir Lawal

Former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGE, Babachir Lawal has downplayed the possibility of him emerging as the running mate of the All Progressives Congress, APC, presidential candidate, Bola Tinubu.

Lawal, who is a close ally of the APC presidential candidate, disclosed that God had not told him to aspire to be Tinubu’s running mate for the 2023 presidential election.

Speaking on Channels Television’s

Politics Today, the former SGF said he would seek the face of God first before considering becoming Tinubu’s running mate.

According to Lawal: “God has not told me to aspire for that position. If you reach the level of Christianity that I am, you should be able to seek God’s opinion on everything that you do and get the indication.

“I will consider it. I have been in government before, and I have not seen any personal merit or advantage to me

being in government. Since I left government, I have had a very good life and basically, a businessperson, and I have lived well. I am happy, and my children are happy.

“The religious divide has increased, the tribal division has increased, the regional division has increased,” said the former SGE.

“So, it will be a good thing if APC will settle for a Muslim-Christian ticket because we know the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), that is what they will do.”

Sanwo-Olu has abandoned governance for Tinubu’s campaign -Adegboruwa raises alarm

Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Egun-Olu Adegboruwa, has accused the Governor of Lagos State of abandoning governance after the emergence of Bola Tinubu as the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress.

He said this in a statement on Saturday titled, ‘Sanwo-Olu and governance in recess’.

It was reported that Tinubu won the APC’s presidential ticket after polling 1,271 votes to defeat his closest rivals, ex-minister Rotimi Amaechi and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo.

Adegboruwa, who was one of the members of the Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry on Restitution for Victims of SARS-Related Abuses, warned the governor on spending the state’s resources on Tinubu’s campaign.

“Since the declaration of the presidential aspiration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor Babajide Sanwoolu has abandoned governance in Lagos State.

“He is the unofficial campaign manager of Tinubu, his media strategist and personal anchorman. The Governor has hardly been in office.

“It was the Governor that

declared the ban on motorbikes but he is not on the ground to monitor the daily crisis occasioned by the declaration, though commendable but needs careful enforcement.

“The rainy season in Lagos is always a bitter experience for Lagosians in flooding, heavy traffic and other casualties, but the Governor has not been on his seat to address issues related to this. Crime has been on the increase in Lagos lately.

“No doubt state resources will be involved in these campaign activities and most government officials will cash in on the absence of the Governor to also abandon their responsibilities, either to pursue their political other business interests.

“There are many more grave consequences attendant upon the decision of the Governor to abdicate his constitutional responsibilities in pursuit of the political ambition of the APC presidential flag bearer.

“From all the foregoing, I do hereby appeal to Governor Sanwo-olu to return to Lagos and assume his constitutional responsibilities of functional governance. His Excellency was not elected as Campaign Manager of politicians but as an administrator.”



Politics

Yahaya Bello pledges to mobilize youth for Tinubu's victory

The Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, on Friday, pledged his support for the presidential ambition of the All Progressives Congress presidential candidate, Bola Tinubu, saying he would mobilise youths to ensure Tinubu's victory in 2023.

Bello made the pledge when Tinubu paid him a visit in Kogi, about 72 hours after Tinubu's emergence as the APC presidential

flag-bearer.

Tinubu had, in his remarks, commended Bello, who also contested the APC presidential ticket but lost out, for his outing at the primary.

Describing Bello as his son, Tinubu said the Kogi governor "reminded us of what the nation wants to be," adding that Bello deserved commendation for "mobilising the consciousness of

the youths in the country."

Tinubu was accompanied on the visit by Governors Babajide Sanwo-Olu (Lagos); Bello Matawalle (Zamfara); and Abdullahi Ganduje (Kano).

A former governor of Edo State and former national chairman of the APC, Adams Oshiomhole, was also at the meeting where Bello announced the collapse of his Presidential Campaign Council and announced the donation of the secretariat to Tinubu.

Bello said, "Today, I have collapsed my President Campaign Organisation. I am donating my campaign organisation secretariat to you. I've learnt a lot from the little lecture you gave to us. What elders see when they're in the valley, the younger ones won't see it.

"The exercise (convention/ primaries) has come and gone. I will be on streets to lead the youths to ensure that we win convincingly. Never again will PDP lead this country. Thank you all my colleague governors for giving me the opportunity to learn from you.



We lost the battle, not the war – VP Osinbajo

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has said he remains committed to the dream of a new Nigeria, despite losing the All Progressives Congress' presidential ticket to Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

He made the remark while speaking in Abuja at the campaign office of The Progressive Project (TPP), a coalition of support groups that backed the Vice President for the presidency.

The Vice President also stated that he will support the winner and flagbearer of the APC for the 2023 presidential elections, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Osinbajo was received by a large crowd at the TPP Office in Abuja, a statement signed by presidential spokesperson Laolu Akande said.

In his address to the crowd of supporters, the Vice President described the clamour for a new Nigeria as a movement.

"This movement is a movement within a party also, we are not doing something that has not been heard of before," he said.

"What is new is that we have a firm belief that a new Nigeria is possible and it is possible through us who are here.

"We went to the convention, and the results showed us clearly that we lost, but it is only a battle, it is not the war. There are battles ahead, but we will win the war for a new Nigeria. I have no doubt in my mind that we will win that war for a new Nigeria.

"That is why our movement for a new Nigeria must remain strong and firm. And we will do everything to keep our movement strong and solid."

According to the Vice President, despite the result of

the APC Presidential Primary, "the dream of a new country remains alive and well... We will have at the back of our minds, that what you have started in the various movements, coming into one, is the seed that will birth a new nation. You and I know the time has come and we will devote everything to it.

"I am committed and will remain committed to that dream (of a new Nigeria), for as long as you are willing and recognize that we have not yet written the story of this country, we have not yet completed the story of this country. As a matter of fact, the story has just begun, this movement has just started."

The Vice President further said, "a new Nigeria has only just started, and everywhere across this land, it will be clear to all that a new Nigeria has been born. Once the genie comes out of the bottle, you cannot put it back. The word has been spoken; it cannot be taken back: it is time for a New Nigeria."

Pledging support for the APC presidential candidate for the 2023 elections, Prof. Osinbajo recalled the personal letter he wrote to Asiwaju yesterday congratulating him on his victory at the party primary.

"In that letter, I said to him that the dream of this country, the dream of a new country remains alive and well. And I want you to know in your hearts that we are democrats when we participate in a contest and the results are announced.

"No matter what those results may be, we abide by them because there is only one process for democrats, whether that process is good or bad, there is only one, and we have gone through that process."

Nasir Ahmed's re-election sign of good leadership- APC volunteer group

By Joyce Remi-Babayehu

The APC Volunteer group has attributed the re-election of Honourable Nasir Ahmed for the fourth time into the National Assembly to represent the Nasarawa Constituency of Kano state as a good sign of his leadership and representative qualities.

The re-emergence of Honorable Nasir Ahmed of Nasarawa constituency of Kano state, is a sign post on that Nigerians certainly appreciate good

leadership when they see one. According to the group, Hon Ahmed was reelected for the fourth time to the National Assembly, House of Representatives as the sole representative of the good people of Nasarawa constituency of Kano state attest to the fact that "one good turn, deserves another."

In a statement signed by Victor Walsh Oluwafemi, National Coordinator APCV, made available to newsmen in Abuja, Ahmed's re-election is not farfetched from his pedigree garnered from his activities in public and private life

as a reliable party man, consistent, savvy, patriotic and a silent workaholic who has served his Constituency."

In the light of this it has become imperative for such an experienced hand like Hon. Ahmed who has been tested and trusted to be elected back into the National Assembly instead of voting for one who does not have experience.

With politicians like Hon. Nasir Ahmed in the house one can really say that the rule of law, and the culture of democracy will not perish in our generation, APCV emphasized.



By Prof. Michael Ogueke



Commentary

Let Tinubu be

I don't know why those from South-east and South-south where Tinubu did not rule as governor are those that abuse Tinubu most whenever his name is mentioned. Some of them couldn't even remember their governors between 1999-2007 again but Tinubu's name always ring bell in their ears.

Tinubu's immunity expired in 2007 and PDP left govt in 2015. Tinubu was without immunity for good 8 years under PDP, yet, Obasanjo, Yardua and Jonathan had nothing to rope him in as a criminal. Even Nuhu Ribadu did not probe him under Obasanjo. Three (3) EFCC chairmen (Ribadu, Farida Waziri and Lamorde) couldn't trace anything incriminating against Tinubu between 2007 — 2015 but you want him probed now. Has he taken any contract from state or federal govt that he has not executed? Has anybody reported him for financial crime? You always refer to Tinubu's companies as if he had no means of livelihood before becoming governor.

Tinubu was an Executive Director/board member of Mobil Oil Producing before he joined politics. Obasanjo and Atiku established private universities as sitting President and Vice President. Obasanjo established Presidential Library as a sitting President. Atiku sold shares of companies to himself as VP and Chairman of Privatisation Council. Peter Obi took state money to support family business as Governor of Anambra. Yet, these people are your heroes. When other former governors were busy shipping their states resources abroad & developing foreign economies, Tinubu was busy establishing his businesses in Nigeria. Those companies are employing several hundreds of bread winners

in Nigeria.

He met Lagos IGR at about N600m per month and he left it at N12 - 14bn per month. When Obasanjo seized Lagos allocations despite Supreme Court judgement against Obasanjo, Tinubu was paying salaries and pensions regularly for three and half years that it lasted. It was Yardua that paid the allocation to Fasola's govt. Tinubu used his initiative to create LASTMA and Obasanjo in his copy cat attitude moved ahead to create FERMA.

Those of you that always criticise Tinubu because of envious hate, when will you start criticising Ikpeazu who has not been paying salaries and pensions Abia with no single project to show in Abia. Why did you not say Tinubu was corrupt in 2011 when he supported Goodluck Jonathan? Di

He not win Jonathan govt at code of conduct tribunal when he was charged? Tinubu this and Tinubu that as if he is your Governor or President. If you are abusing Tinubu

because he is sponsoring APC, Is Atiku not using money to sponsor PDP and his Presidential project? Where is he also getting the money from? Where did he get all the dollars he spent during APC Presidential primary in 2014 and PDP presidential primary of 2018?

Tinubu is no longer a Governor and neither is he the President but he is your problem. When Tinubu was busy building his political structures since 2003 after PDP rigging in south-west,

Where were you? When he gave Atiku his party to use for his Presidential project in 2006/2007, where were you? When he was busy building bridges across 6 geo political zones, where were you? In 2015, you all mocked when Ahmed Lawan and Gbajabamila lost out the leadership of national assembly to Saraki and Dogara. He was not disturbed. He moved on till he was successful in 2019.

When he was bringing up Babachir Lawal and Boss Mustapha (former and current SGF) in ACN, where were you? When he was doing these, Bode George was calling him a local champion but now the local champion in his tenacity has built a national ruling party, you are envious. Tell us your governor that performed better than Tinubu. Your Peter Obi couldn't build APGA in South-east. Instead, he defected to PDP to kill APGA

Let Tinubu Be! He is not your problem!! Your past & present governors are your problem!!!



Centre Spread

By Song Yiran, Zhang Penghui,
People's Daily

The Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by China is closely related to improving people's livelihood and well-being, facilitates the realization of the United Nations (U.N.) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and provides other countries with ideas and inspiration for the formulation of policies for sustainable development, Rebeca Grynspan, secretary-general of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development, told People's Daily recently.

Since it was proposed last September, the GDI has received swift response and support from more than 100 countries and international organizations, including the U.N. 53 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI launched by China's Permanent Mission to the U.N. in January.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is taking a heavy toll on global development, China calls on the international community to focus efforts on development, jointly promote development and build a global community of development with a shared future, demonstrating the wisdom and strong sense of responsibility of a major country.

The GDI has gained wide response and support because it responds to the general concerns of the international community.

The weak and faltering global economic recovery is being exacerbated by a widening development gap and mounting global challenges. The Human Development Index has for the first time in 30 years declined. The world's impoverished population has increased by more than 100 million. Nearly 800 million people live in hunger. The international community requires a meaningful solution to unbalanced development immediately.

China is a champion of global development, and more importantly, a doer in development cooperation. As the largest developing country in the world, China always places development at the forefront of its governance and rejuvenation, adheres to a people-centered development philosophy, and attaches great importance to and actively participates in U.N. programs for economic and social development.

It was among the first countries to meet the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, took the lead in implementing the U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and accounted for over 70 percent of global poverty reduction, making important contributions to global development.

China has helped its people enjoy better lives, and hopes to improve the well-being of people in other countries through common development.

The country has been taking

China endeavors to join hands with other countries to build global community of development with shared future



Photo shows a new type of rural residential community with a pleasant living environment in Suqian city, east China's Jiangsu province, May 30, 2022. (Photo by Chen Hong/People's Daily Online)

practical actions to fulfill its solemn commitment to make sure that no country or individual is left behind and no aspiration is overlooked in development.

China has helped the Philippines cultivate 226,500 hectares of commercial Chinese hybrid rice varieties, directly and indirectly benefiting more than 134,000 local farmers and raising the country's grain output by 308 million kilograms, or roughly a three-kilogram increase in grain supply per Filipino.

In the Pacific island country of Vanuatu, a Chinese company spent two years helping extend Malapoa College, an English-language secondary school in Port Vila, Vanuatu. With new teaching buildings, laboratory buildings, dormitories, canteen, and playground, the school took on a brand new look.

COVID-19 vaccines provided by China were the first of its kind to arrive in Afghanistan and Syria, as well as other war-torn countries,

bringing hope to people in difficult situations.

China will take a slew of pragmatic measures to speed up the implementation of the GDI, including enhancing consultation with other emerging markets and developing countries and holding a high-level meeting on global development at a proper time to discuss ways to promote development; increasing input in development and further ramping up support for the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund and the China-U.N. Peace and Development Fund; building on the consensus to establish a pool of GDI projects for the participation of all parties; and releasing a Global Development Report in due time to promote international exchanges in and sharing of development knowledge.

Bridging the development divide and revitalizing global development are the shared aspirations of all countries; the trend of peace, development, and advancement for

Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy carry relief supplies to Tonga, January 2022. (Photo/Courtesy of China International Development Cooperation Agency)

humanity is irresistible.

China is always willing to work together with all countries to deepen and intensify the implementation of the GDI by re-energizing global cooperation on the implementation of the U.N. 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development, fostering a favorable environment for accelerating global development, building equal and balanced global development partnership, and enabling the U.N. system to play the central and guiding role.

Centre Spread



Customs officers inspect foreign trade containers at an international container terminal of Yantai Port, east China's Shandong province, Oct. 12, 2021. (Photo by Tang Ke/People's Daily Online)



A staff member with the trade promotion council of Qinhuangdao, north China's Hebei province, shows the first certificate of origin under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) issued by the council, Jan. 28, 2022. (Photo by Cao Jianxiong/People's Daily Online)



Tourists purchase commodities introduced into China through the China International Import Expo (CIIE) at a "CIIE bazaar" on Nanjing Road Pedestrian Walkway, east China's Shanghai municipality, Nov. 8, 2021. (Photo by Li Lizhen/People's Daily Online)

China continues advancing high-level opening-up

By Kong Dechen, People's Daily

Since a protocol on upgrading the free trade agreement (FTA) between China and New Zealand officially took effect on April 7, companies have enthusiastically followed relevant procedures to enjoy the benefits brought about by it.

The protocol, which was signed by the two sides in January 2021, is based on their FTA signed in 2008, the first of its kind between China and a developed country. The upgrading of the FTA reflects how China continuously promotes high-level opening-up.

"In the past, we can only apply for certificate of origin before shipment or on the day of shipment. Sometimes when the shipping information wasn't available in time, we couldn't handle it. Since the FTA has been upgraded, we are able to go through the procedure after shipment, which is much more convenient," said an executive with a trade company based

in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province.

Since the beginning of this year, the company has applied for and successfully got eight certificates of origin under the China-New Zealand FTA at a division of Shenzhen Customs District, which helped it enjoy import tariff reductions and exemptions worth about 1.7 million yuan (\$253,875) in New Zealand.

According to Wang Shouwen, Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce, China has so far sealed 19 FTAs with 26 countries and regions in Asia, Oceania, Latin America, Europe and Africa, almost doubling the figure ten years ago, and its trade with them accounted for about 35 percent of China's total foreign trade.

While increasing the number of its FTAs, China has also constantly improved their quality.

China sees lower tariff level and higher customs clearance efficiency in trade in goods. "Since 2012, China has signed nine new FTAs with foreign countries. In most of the

agreements, more than 90 percent of the goods enjoy zero tariffs; and in some, the proportion reaches as high as 97 percent," Wang pointed out.

Speaking of customs clearance efficiency, Wang noted that it only takes less than one and a half days for imports to complete customs clearance in China, compared with about four days in 2017. And goods exported from China only need about 1.2 hours for customs clearance, one-tenth of the time needed in 2017, he added.

China has lowered the market threshold and further expanded opening-up in trade in services and investment. "In trade in services, China pledged to open the market for 100 subsectors when we joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). And in the recent Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, we added 22 more service sectors," Wang said.

Besides, the country has adopted negative lists for foreign investment, committing higher-level opening-up in manufacturing, agriculture, mining and other fields, he

added.

As China opens its door wider, its number of free trade partners is also growing.

The RCEP's entry into force at the beginning of 2022 marked the formation of a free trade zone involving the largest population and largest trade scale in the world, Wang pointed out.

Since it took effect, the RCEP has constantly unleashed trade dividends and injected new impetus into regional economic development. Data showed that China's imports and exports with the other 14 RCEP members totaled 2.86 trillion yuan (about \$428 billion) in the first quarter of this year, which represented a year-on-year increase of 6.9 percent and accounted for 30.4 percent of the country's total trade.

According to Wang, China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) is speeding up multiple FTA negotiations. The country will make active efforts to advance its accession into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Digital Economy Partnership

Agreement (DEPA), and facilitate negotiations on a China-Japan-South Korea FTA as well as its FTA negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Israel and Ecuador.

China will promote the expansion and improve the quality and efficiency of its free trade zone (FTZ) network, and further elevate the level of its FTAs; it will implement zero tariffs on a larger proportion of goods, ease market access for trade in services and investment, and actively participate in negotiations on new topics such as digital economy and environmental protection; the country will also make efforts to improve the comprehensive utilization rate of FTAs and enhance their effectiveness so as to make them better benefit enterprises and people in relevant countries at a faster pace.

As the number of China's free trade partners continuously expands, more and more Chinese and foreign companies will enjoy the benefits of the country's higher-level opening-up, Wang noted.

Business & Economy

Electricity customers hit 10.37m in 2020, says NBS

Stories by Samuel Itsede

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has said electricity customers rose from 6.99 million in 2015 to 10.37 million in 2020.

Electricity Report 2015-2020, which the Bureau released, said in the period under review the number of metered customers increased consecutively on a

year-on-year basis from 3.15 million in 2015 to 3.80 million in 2019 but declined to 3.51 million in 2020.

NBS said Customer numbers under the reviewed period (2015-2020) increased successively on a year-on-year basis, with the highest numbers recorded in Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC).

It added: "Generally, it rose

from 6.99 million in 2015 to 10.37 million in 2020.

"Similarly, the number of metered customers increased consecutively on a year-on-year basis from 3.15 million in 2015 to 3.80 million in 2019 but declined to 3.51 million in 2020.

"In 2015, Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) recorded the highest number, while IBEDC stood top between 2016 and 2019. Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) recorded the highest in 2020.

"Estimated billing customer

records also show a year-on-year positive growth rate consecutively from 3.85 million in 2015 to 6.86 million in 2020. In 2020, the customer numbers were highest in IBEDC with 1,282,136 and lowest in Eko Distribution Company (EKEDC) with 269,022."



Census: NPC trains 150 officers, educationists in Southeast

A total of 150 senior officers of the National Population Commission (NPC) and selected academia in the Southeast are currently undergoing training in Anambra ahead of the Trial Census in preparation for the 2023 Population and Housing Census.

The officers, including facilitators, trainees, Secretariat, Data Quality Managers, are expected to train no fewer than 1156 enumerators and other field functionaries in readiness for the exercise.

Declaring the training open on Friday in Awka, Federal Commissioner representing Anambra State, Mr. Chidi Ezeoke said the exercise would access quality and usefulness of the created Enumeration Area maps, determine possible demographic and geographical changes and enumerators' requisite educational qualification, among other factors.

Ezeoke who was represented by his Enugu State counterpart, Ejike Eze restated Commission's determination to successfully conduct a Trial Census targeted at delivering a credible, reliable, acceptable and verifiable census.

"For the next few days, participants will re-evaluate

the skills and practical demonstrations of operations in the field with the overall efforts to deliver a truly scientific trial census that can prepare the ground for a credible and acceptable census next year," he added.

Expressing confidence that knowledge and skills acquired at the workshop would place officers in key positions to function more effectively, the Commissioner assured their security throughout the period of the exercise.

Deputy Director and Southeast Zonal Coordinator for the training, Charity Elibe, explained that the involvement of the academia was to enable the professionals bring their expertise in their various fields to bear in the exercise, a decision she said was in tandem with international best practices.

Earlier, State Director, Tpl Joachim Ulasi disclosed that Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State was chosen as pilot for the enumeration in the Southeast.

He said the training would involve 1156 enumerators for the 576 enumeration and 121 supervisory areas in the 36 classes of the selected local government area of the state.

How Foreign Investment In Agric Sector Dropped By 99%

Reports indicated that Foreign Investment in Nigeria's agriculture sector tumbled by 99.23 per cent from \$237.83m in the fourth quarter of 2021 to \$1.76m in the first quarter of 2022.

This means that there was a 99.23 per cent decline within three months.

This was contained in the Nigerian Capital Importation report for Q1 2022 released by the National Bureau of Statistics.

President Muhammadu Buhari has always encouraged Nigerians to go back into agriculture.

He has asked for the involvement of more Nigerian youths in agriculture, urging agencies involved in agriculture to further streamline their priorities in the inclusion of the youth in driving modern methods of farming.

The President has also said he looks forward to 2023 when he will

hand over power to a new president and return to tending to his farm.

However, in July last year, Buhari expressed sadness over the small portion of arable land being cultivated in the country while urging more Nigerians to embrace farming.

He also acknowledged that the low agricultural land use was closely linked to the spate of insecurity in various parts of the country, directing security outfits to work more with communities to create a more friendly environment for farmers.

In January this year, it was reported that at least 352 farmers had been killed and kidnapped in 12 months amid the rising insecurity in the country. The 352 comprised 216 killed farmers and 136 kidnapped farmers.

The figures were obtained from the Nigeria Security Tracker, a project of the Council on Foreign

Relations Africa, as well as media reports.

The figure exceeds 352 as there were cases of killings and kidnappings of farmers with unknown numbers.

The Federal Government in its National Development Plan 2021 – 2025 admitted that food insecurity was a major concern, noting that food security, which is essential for development, had declined in the country.

The government admitted that a rising security issue was threatening food supply and increasing uncertainty around food prices.

The Deputy President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr Gabriel Idahosa, however, identified the issue of insecurity as it affects Nigeria's investment in the agriculture sector.

"A significant part of this country, as we know, is being impacted by banditry and terrorism."

NNPC to pay N874bn in June as subsidy hits N1.82tn

Operators in the oil and gas sector as well as other stakeholders are uncomfortable with the continued rise in the amount spent in subsidising Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, as it jumped to N947.51bn between January and April 2022.

An analysis of data obtained from the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited on Wednesday showed a monthly rise in PMS subsidy spendings by the oil firm, though NNPC described it as under-recovery/value shortfall.

It was also gathered that the oil firm had informed the Federation Account Allocation Committee that it would deduct an estimated value shortfall of N874.5bn in the May 2022 proceed due for sharing at the June 2022 FAAC meeting.

NNPC has been the sole importer of petrol into Nigeria for several years running. The firm has also been subsidising the commodity all these years.

The President, Petroleum Products Retail Outlets owners Association of Nigeria, Billy Gillis-Harry, explained that the actual cost of petrol without

subsidy was usually a little higher than that of diesel.

He told our correspondent that if not for subsidy, PMS would be selling around N550 to N600/litre going by the international cost of crude oil and the fluctuations in foreign exchange.

The approved subsidised pump price of PMS in Nigeria is between N162 to N165/litre, but oil marketers stated that the actual cost should be a little higher or about the same price of diesel had it been PMS was deregulated.

Latest figures obtained from NNPC in Abuja showed how the amount spent on fuel

subsidy grew from January to April this year.

In January, February, March and April, the oil firm incurred N210.38bn, N219.78bn, N245.77bn and N271.58bn respectively, while the total during the four-month period was N947.51bn.

"This is unsustainable. In just four months we've incurred this much as subsidy on petrol because of our continued dependence on petroleum products imports," the National Public Relations Officer, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, Chief Ukadike Chinedu, stated.



Business & Economy

Amids CBN restrictions, Nigerians trade N78bn Bitcoin in three months

Nigerians traded at least N77.75bn (\$185m) worth of Bitcoin in the first three months of the year despite the Central Bank of Nigeria's restrictions on cryptocurrency transactions in the country.

This is a 5.71 per cent increase from the N73.54bn worth of Bitcoin that was traded in the corresponding period of 2021, according to data made available to our correspondent by Paxful, one of the major peer-to-peer cryptocurrency platforms in the nation.

Trade from Nigeria accounted for 25.87 per cent of the total N300.48bn (\$715m) worth of Bitcoin that was traded on the platform in the quarter under review.

Global trade on the platform showed an 8.33 per cent increase from the N277.377bn (\$660m) that was traded on it in the corresponding period of 2021.

According to the firm, Nigeria was its largest trading country in 2021 with 16,000 daily trades. In the period under review, the market cap of BTC dropped by \$36.90bn from \$902.10bn as of January 1, 2022, to \$865.20bn as of March 31, 2022.

This was despite the CBN's restrictions on cryptocurrencies in the nation. In February of 2021, the CBN asked banks in the nation to stop transacting in and with entities dealing in crypto assets.

The bank said, "Further to earlier regulatory directives on the subject, the bank hereby wishes to remind regulated institutions that dealing in cryptocurrencies or facilitating payments for cryptocurrency exchanges is prohibited."

Since the restriction, P2P trading of crypto, especially BTC, has increased. According to a 2021 report by Chainalysis, the nation is the sixth leading nation in the world in terms of crypto adoption.



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but declined to 3.51 million in 2020.

NBS said Customer numbers under the reviewed period (2015-2020) increased successively on a year-on-year basis, with the highest numbers recorded in Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC).

It added: "Generally, it rose from 6.99 million in 2015 to 10.37 million in 2020.

"Similarly, the number of metered customers increased consecutively on a year-on-year basis from 3.15 million in 2015 to 3.80 million in 2019 but declined to 3.51 million in 2020.

"In 2015, Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) recorded the highest number, while IBEDC stood top between 2016 and 2019. Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC)

recorded the highest in 2020.

"Estimated billing customer records also show a year-on-year positive growth rate consecutively from 3.85 million in 2015 to 6.86 million in 2020. In 2020, the customer numbers were highest in IBEDC with 1,282,136 and lowest in Eko Distribution Company (EKEDC) with 269,022."

Lagos: Pollution kills 30,000 people annually -- World Bank

The World Bank has disclosed that at least 30,000 people die every year from pollution in Lagos.

The Washington-based bank disclosed this in a feature story on its blog, which is titled 'Making Lagos a Pollution Free City: Solving the threat one solution at a time'.

According to the bank, pollution is a huge problem in many cities globally, including Lagos, which is notorious for its large population, high concentration of motor vehicles

and industrial pollution.

The bank further said that an estimated 20 million people live on an area of less than 100 square kilometres in Lagos, which leads to a suffocating mix of air pollution, single-use plastic pollution and solid waste in the city's streets causing respiratory problems, floodings and other illnesses among the locals.

On the effect of pollution in Lagos, the lending bank said, "The causes of the pollution are many, and the pollution

has many effects on the environment. It is estimated that at least 30,000 people die every year in Lagos due to pollution."

It added, "Air pollution in 2020 in Lagos was responsible for over 30,000 premature deaths and more than half were infants of less than one year old."

The bank further warned about the economic costs of exposure to lead aerosol in Ikorodu, which are estimated at an additional \$300-\$600m or

\$400-\$600 for every resident of that LGA.

The Environmental Officer of the General Hospital, Ijeda, Mrs Rita Ehinmetan, urged members of the public not to relent in cultivating the habit of cleaning the environment to make it habitable for everyone and future generations.

She emphasised the need to guard and protect the environment jealously for the health and wellbeing of all human beings, plants, and animals.

Customs intercepts 10,865 kegs of petrol at Seme

The Nigeria Customs Service, Seme Command, said it impounded 10,865 jerrycans of Premium Motor Spirit with a Duty Paid Value of N65.6 million from January 2022 to date.

The Customs Area Controller, Seme Command, Comptroller Bello Jibo, gave the figures

during a media briefing on the handing over of seized illicit drugs and suppression of smuggling activities on the petroleum product.

Jibo noted that this was in a quest to ensure the safety and well-being of Nigerians, most especially in the fight against drug trafficking.

The Comptroller handed

over 100 cartons of gabadol/tramadol 120mg; 2.8kg and 306 parcels of cannabis sativa; 132 packets of tramadol capsules; 77 packets of tramadol; and several other illicit drugs to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, and the National Agency for Food Drugs Administration and Control.

Jibo said, "The continuous surveillance of the beaches and creeks by our men, has yet recorded another huge interception of 1,600 jerry cans of petroleum product, 30 litres each."

The arrest was said to have been made in the late hours of Tuesday, June 7, 2022, along Seme-Badagry waterways.



Inside FCT

Aliyu Fetes 350 Orphans In Abuja To Mark Democracy Day

Stories By Joyce Babayeju

As part of activities to mark the 2022 Democracy day, FCT Minister of State, Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu, celebrated with over 350 orphans and vulnerable children drawn from 47 registered orphanage homes across the six area councils.

At the ceremony held at the Gwako orphanage home in Gwagwalada, the minister said the hangout with the orphans and the vulnerable in the FCT underscores the importance the FCT Administration places on the welfare and well-being of all residents of the Territory irrespective of one's status, challenges or background.

Aliyu also reassured the children that despite the demands of office, the Administration through the Social Development Secretariat has reached-out to vulnerable children in the territory, while encouraging the children to pray fervently for Nigeria in view of the forthcoming general elections.

"Next year, Nigeria will be going to the polls to elect a new president and other leaders, kindly pray that God will crown for us a good leader that will serve the entire nation selflessly and address the mirage of problems we are currently facing as a nation," she charges.

Earlier the FCT Permanent Secretary, Mr. Olusade Adesola, who was represented by the Director of Human

Resource Management, Malam Bashir Mohammed, said the singular act of hanging out with orphans re-established the already known motherly, passionate and ever caring attributes of the Minister of State.

Olusade emphasized the importance of June 12 in the annal of the nation's political history, stressing that it was a date that Nigerians from all walks of life rose up in unison to vote the preferred candidate of the election.

On her part, Secretary FCT Social Development Secretariat, Hajia Hadiza Mohammed Kabir, noted that children, no matter the circumstances of their birth, are heritage from God Almighty, adding that they are source of joy to parents and the hope for future generation.

Kabir stressed that no people or nation can continue to exist and thrive without children, noting that the choice of hanging out with the vulnerable children was apt and meaningful.

According to her, "so, a democracy day hangout with children is to create the awareness that we are their equals regardless of the social strata that may seemingly exist".

The highpoint of the occasion was the cutting of 52nd anniversary birthday cake of the FCT Minister of State and dance competition among the vulnerable children.



FCT Minister promises support for NYSC activities

The FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello has promised that the Administration would support the activities of the National Youth Service Corps in the territory

Bello stated this when he received a delegation from the NYSC HQ led by the Director General, Brig. Gen. M.K Fadah on a courtesy visit to the FCTA.

Malam Bello who described Brig. Gen. Fadah as very capable and competent, commended him on his appointment as the 19th head of the NYSC, as he affirmed FCTA's support for programmes aimed at the realization of the mandate of the NYSC.

He further directed the upward review of the number of corp. members accepted by the FCTA for the one-year mandatory service to the nation while stressing that under his watch, no youth corp member has ever been rejected.

He said, "All my life I have never rejected any corp member. So, we will take in more numbers but we are not going to keep them in the city. We are going to post them to the Area Councils".

The NYSC DG had appreciated the Minister's kind support during orientation exercises and acceptance of corps members posted to the FCTA.

He also solicited for the support of the FCTA in the renovation of the FCT orientation camp hall and the overall success of the upcoming NYSC orientation exercise.



Lugbe mob attack: FCT Minister condemns citizen Ahmad Usman's killing

FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello has condemned the Lugbe mob attack that killed Citizen Ahmad Usman on Saturday 4th of June, 2022.

The Minister emphasized that no one had the right to take the laws into their hands, no matter the circumstances or perceived level of provocation.

Bello who condemned the attack in strong terms stressed that the FCT Administration will not tolerate any form of mob attacks on any residents of the Territory or the break down of law and order.

He called on the security agencies to ensure that all those who participated in this heinous act are apprehended

and prosecuted.

The minister reminded residents that the Federal Capital Territory, was founded on the premises of national unity, peace and love for country and fellow countrymen. The action of the mob at Lugbe clearly negates all of these principles and will not be tolerated, he affirmed.

Meanwhile the Minister has assured residents of their safety at all times and urged them to go about their lawful affairs without fear of molestation.

He also called for their cooperation in securing their communities by reporting to the security agencies whenever suspicious persons or actions are identified.

Qatar Charity commends FCT minister for developmental strides in Abuja



The Executive Chairman of the Qatar Charity, an international charity organisation Yusuf Ahmad Al-Kuwari has commended the FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello for turning the territory into a developmental strides in Abuja.

Yusuf Ahmad Al-Kuwari gave the commendation at the groundbreaking ceremony of 10 projects being executed by Qatar Charity in the Gaduwa District of the FCT.

He also commended the Minister for creating the enabling environment for well-meaning individuals and organisations to contribute their quota towards the growth and development of the Territory.

The Executive Chairman equally commended residents of Abuja, especially those in Gaduwa District for their cooperation with his organisation.

He stressed that his organization was happy to collaborate with the FCT

Administration and residents of the Gaduwa community for the projects.

The FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello also commended Qatar Charity for siting the projects in the nation's capital.

He said, "Let me also use this opportunity to convey the sincere appreciation of the Administration and the entire residents of the FCT to Qatar Charity for these laudable projects, which will not only

bridge service gaps in the FCT, but also create jobs for our teeming populace."

Qatar Charity has executed projects such clinic, secondary school, an orphanage, a shopping plaza and a 15,000 litres solar borehole.

Other projects include staff quarters, children's playground, a green area, a bakery and 1000-capacity mosque.

The Minister who was represented at the ceremony by his Chief of Staff, Muhammad

Bashir Mai-Bornu, also reiterated his appeal for the siting of the Qatar charity's African headquarters in Abuja.

He said: "I had proposed the establishment of African headquarters of the Qatar Charity in Nigeria, preferably in Abuja and a collaboration between the FCTA and the Charity for a world class hospital and other such projects in Abuja.

He expressed optimism that Qatar Charity will accede to

his request in the near future and pledged the FCTA's continuous support while also thanking them for the ongoing construction of an housing estate for widows and orphans in the Wassa District of Abuja.

Also speaking at the event, Chairman, of Gaduwa community association Alhaji Usman Bukar also commended the FCT Minister, for the projects saying that they will have positive impacts on the residents of the area.

Area Council Chairmen, Councilors sworn in today

The Federal Capital Territory Administration said that the new Chairmen of Area Council and the Councils would soon be sworn in.

This following the new judgement of the FCT High Court on Friday 10th June, 2022 delivered Justice Ibrahim Mohammed in respect of

postponement of one year term elongation.

The new judgement effectively clears the way for the swearing in of the newly elected political officers.

A press release issued from FCTA made available to Daybreak today reads, "We want to reiterate that as a law-abiding organization,

the FCTA will equally obey this new judgement just as it had complied with the earlier hairmen shall accordingly be inaugurated at 10:00hrs prompt on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. Further provided in due course.

Residents are once again reminded that the FCT is a creation of law and all actions

of the FCT Administration are guided by the rule of law and this case will not be an exception.

The FCTA extends its appreciation to all stakeholders for their patience and support in this regard and enjoins all residents of the Territory to remain calm and abiding in their daily activities.

Entertainment

“He’s having the best time of his life and his bank account is well loaded” Don Jazzy hails Crayon

Music executive and record producer, Michael Collins Ajere professionally known as Don Jazzy has offered some form of encouragement to upcoming artistes.

The Mavins CEO advised them to keep up their hustle.

Don Jazzy opined that their career hasn’t picked yet doesn’t mean one isn’t who he is.

Using one of his label artiste as an example, Don Jazzy pointed out how Crayon is having the best time of his life.

Don Jazzy revealed that Crayon’s account is loaded as he has several projects underwork.

“Dear artists pls keep up the hustle. It hasn’t picked yet does not mean that you are not who you are. See my boy Cray na. @crayonthis is having the time of his life. Trust me y’all

haven’t seen anything yet sef. His bank is loaded as fuck. More jams coming. Follow him and watch his space #MAVIN”.

Don Jazzy is known for hyping several celebrities.

Our correspondent recalls Don Jazzy had eulogised Burna Boy after he sold out Madison Square Garden, New York.

The singer proudly sold out his ‘One Night In Space’ concert which successfully took place on Thursday at the O2 Arena Paris’ Accor Arena, Amsterdam’s Ziggo Dome.

Reacting, Don Jazzy took to Twitter where he admitted that Burna was indeed a giant, he wrote:

“Oluwa Burna na Giant you be true true ooo. Congrats on every every. “I tap from your blessing for myself and everybody that wishes you well. Keep making us proud bro.”

Kizz Daniel replies lady who told him to prove rumour mongers wrong by giving her N100k

Famous Nigerian singer Oluwatobiloba Daniel Anidugbe popularly known as Kizz Daniel has replied a lady who told him to prove rumour mongers wrong by giving her money.

The ‘Buga’ crooner was asked by a lady on Twitter who said she heard rumours that he is stingy, to prove his critics wrong by ‘dashing’ her N100k.

“Vado I hear rumors that you are stingy kindly prove them wrong and dash me 100k”, she requested.

Replying, Kizz Daniel disappointed the lady as he affirmed the rumours, telling her not to worry because he is truly stingy.

‘No worry I am stingy, I prove nothing wrong’. He replied.

See conversation

Our correspondent Kizz Daniel finally gotten his much deserved accolades after his song became the most shazamed song in the world.

The singer took to his Instagram story to express his joy over the record breaking achievement.

For those who don’t know, Shazam is an app that identifies any song within minutes. It tells one the title, year released, artist’s name and everything to know about a song.

Bearing this in mind, Kizz Daniel’s hit song with Tekno, Buga has become the most shazamed song in the world.

This new achievement means Kizz Daniel’s song is globally known.

James Brown receives accolades as he steps out for an award event looking dapper, bags an award

Nigerian crossdresser, James Brown has caused a stir online as he ditched his feminine wears for a male outfit at an event.

The crossdresser turned heads as he attended the Trendupp awards 2022 looking dapper in male traditional attire with his cap.

Reacting to it, Nigerians praised him for returning to his look.

According to many, he looks way better when he is dressed as himself.

To crown it all, James Brown won an award, the Force of Online Sensational 2022. He beat reality star, Maria Chike Benjamin, singer Portable, Isreal DMW and others to

clinch the award.

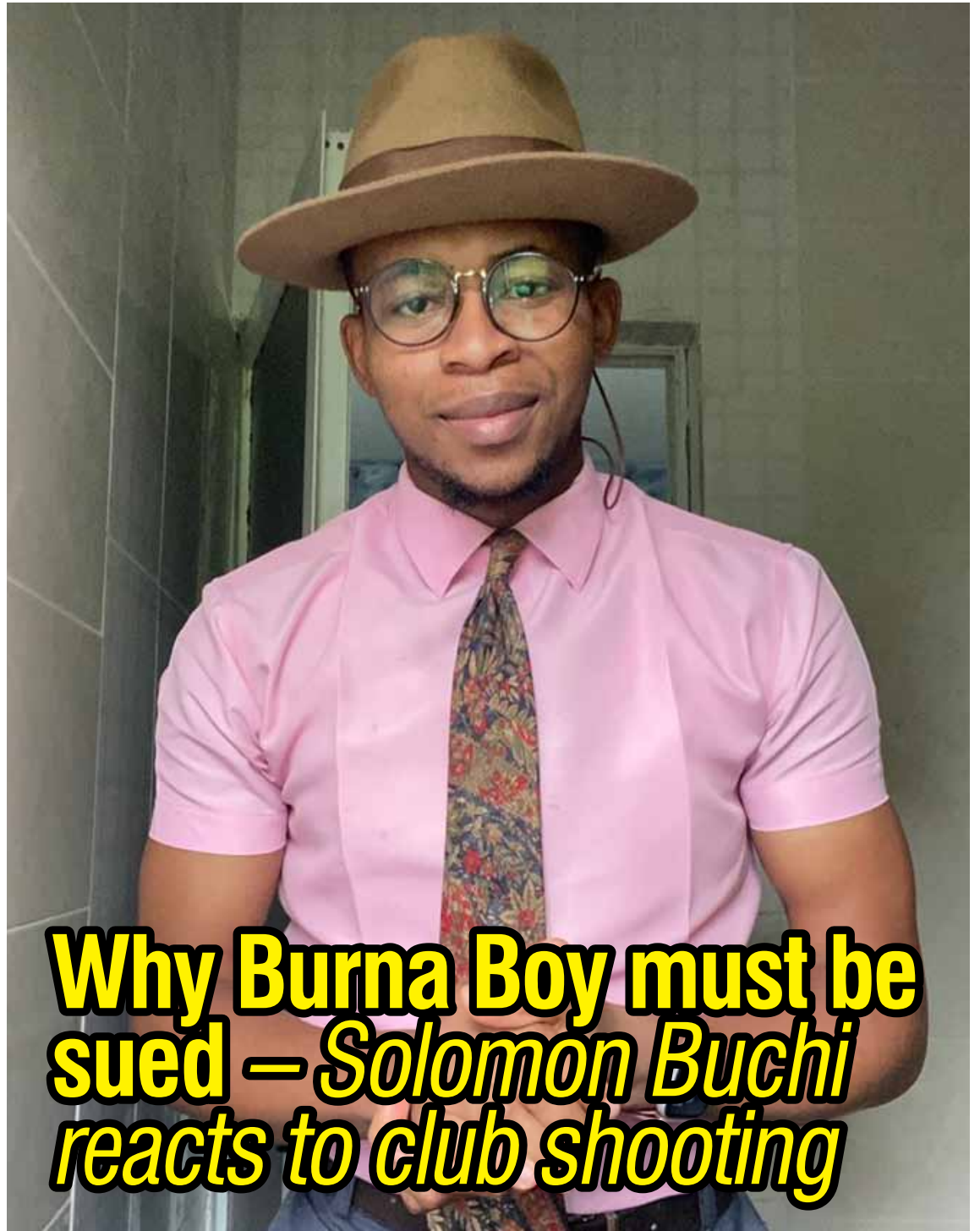
Our correspondent recalls days back James Brown had caused a stir online with his risque outfit to an event.

The crossdresser who returned from the UK where he was studying had made headlines with his outfit to an event.

James Brown stepped out in style for a wedding and was the centre of attention with his risque outfit to the event.

James Brown wore a transparent outfit which showed his undies and set tongues wagging.

His outfit didn’t sit well with many as they slammed him.



After news made rounds that award-winning singer, Burna Boy’s security team allegedly shot two persons at celebrity barman, Cubana Chief Priest’s club, life coach, Solomon Buchi has reacted.

Our correspondent earlier reported that Burna Boy got into trouble after his security team took laws into their hands by shooting two men at the club for confronting him.

The singer’s security team were later detained by the Lagos State Police Commissioner’s Special Squad for attempted murder.

Reacting, Solomon Buchi urged the victims to sue Burna Boy.

According to Buchi the victim and his wife can sue and ask for

N700m for damages because he is the richest.

“The man and his wife should sue BURNABOY and ask for 700m Naira for damages. He is the richest nau. He can afford it. Great music but Unruly behavior!”, he wrote.

In another post on Twitter, Buchi urged the singer to come out and clear the air so that the music industry will not be a facade for gangsterism and ruggedness.

He wrote

“Burnaboy has been in the news a few times about his boys shooting at clubs. The last one, it’s reported that his security allegedly shot two people. And what’s sad is that he doesn’t address these things. Let him come out and speak.

“Yes, Burnaboy is a great musician. You can’t take it away from him, but music is more than music. You can’t be singing against autocratic leaders and your security folks open fire on unarmed citizens.

“Burnaboy please come out and speak. Let the music industry not be a facade for gangsterism and ruggedness. If this was in the US or UK, he won’t be walking around free. He should address this!!!!

“I remember when him and Shatta Wale were beefing themselves and he said that he has the opportunity to kill Shatta. He said really disturbing things. I mean, both of them did, but I’m talking about him here. Giant of Africa, this is not right.”

Entertainment



“Dear artists, please keep up the hustle” Don Jazzy admonishes upcoming artists

As far as the Nigerian music industry goes, Don Jazzy is one man whose influence and contributions run far and wide. The Mavins boss has displayed a commitment to encouraging and lending a helping hand to emerging artists and in his latest effort, he has a word of advice for them.

On his Twitter page on Sunday 12th June 2022, Don Jazzy posted a word of encouragement for upcoming artists telling them to keep up the hustle. “Dear artists, please keep up the hustle, It hasn’t picked yet does not mean that you are not who you are” he tweeted.

The tweet was inspired by the recent success of Mavin’s act Crayon who seems to be finally getting his due. “See my boy Cray na. @crayonthis is having the time of his life. Trust me y’all haven’t seen anything yet sef.” Don Jazzy boasted about the Mavins’ signee whose stellar hook on ‘Overdose (Overload)’ has had fans raving about his talent.

Don Jazzy wants upcoming acts to learn from the resilience and patience of Crayon who despite his proven talent had to wait for a while before he started enjoying the success and recognition he very much deserved.

While countless upcoming artists for who the tweet was intended do not have the huge resources Crayon has enjoyed in the Mavins, the tweet will nevertheless serve as a morale booster to upcoming artists waiting for their time in the limelight.



“There is no love in marriage....” Helen Paul says she can’t give husband her ATM

Nigerian comedienne, Helen Paul who was recently promoted to the position of a professor at the Heart International Bible University, USA, has revealed that she can never let go of her ATM not even to her husband.

Helen Paul while eulogizing her husband on Instagram moments ago, revealed that

there is no love in marriage but her husband, Femi is her love and home and that she loves how he lets her have his ATM card even though she can never let go of hers.

She further appreciated him for being so mindful of her.

“There is no love in marriage. Love is in people, and people put love in marriage. You are

my home @femi_bams You are so conscious and mindful of me. I have never heard you call me Helen or mama Gbenro, but sweet names. (Sweetheart etc) Na me just spoil dey always call you with your name and children name. I can never let go of my ATM, but you let go of yours. Once in a while o... (Special guy)Lol I am really

trying to be romantic, and my playful nature is not allowing me o... I love you sha. @femi_bams” Helen Paul wrote on Instagram.

Our correspondent recalls that when Helen Paul officially became a Professor weeks ago, her husband, Femi Bamisele also bagged a Doctorate degree in law.

Drama as Mercy Aigbe and Lagos socialite, Lara Olukotun fight dirty at an event; Iyabo Ojo pitches tent with Lara

Nollywood actress, Mercy Aigbe has been alleged to have engaged in a brawl with Lagos socialite and actress, Omolara Olukotun who is behind the famous brand, Larrit Shoe Village (LSV).

The entrepreneur, Mercy Aigbe and Iyabo Ojo were at an event when Larrit flared up and threw a bottle at Mercy who screamed in fear.

Iyabo Ojo who has reconciled with Larrit following their messy feud in 2018, couldn’t do anything to save the situation.

Surprisingly, Iyabo Ojo who was sitting beside

Larrit couldn’t stop her from hurting Mercy Aigbe, who is also her close friend.

Iyabo Ojo was just drinking and smiling as they exchanged words.

Though, the cause of the fight isn’t known, Gistlover who broke the news promised to keep the public updated on what led to their bitter fight.

The post reads, “Watch the moment Larrit throw Mercy Aigbe igo orobo (bottle) at the party before the proper fight come happen come happen earlier today. Na like this I want dey throw



people igo orobo now, you talk, you collect, you talk, igo orobo ontop your head, no time. Even Iyabo wey like vawulence run when she see

deal life Bottle, anybody go collect bottle for head. Mood till the end of this year by God’s grace. I come in peace. Full details of the fight later”.

By Jibrin Ibrahim

I feel for President Muhammadu Buhari. Having earlier told APC governors that he would like to decide his successor as they the governors had done, when the chairman of the party announced that the president's choice was the Senate president, the next line in the script was to have been that party leaders and governors would embrace the decision and hug Ahmad Lawan. The actors had not read their lines, and what happened next was an instant and total revolt and rejection.

My overriding impression of the APC Special Convention is that the presidential aspirants spent too much of their time singing praises to their beloved President Buhari. So, did the governors in the period leading up to the primaries. They pledged loyalty to him again and again and again. When, however, it came to the one thing the president wanted – to be succeeded by his obedient Senate president, Ahmad Lawan, they all revolted and openly refused.

The outcome of the Special Convention is that Muhammadu Buhari is now officially a lame duck president.

The “unkindest cut of all” was received from Jagaban of the World, the man who has clearly outgrown Borgu, and who a week before the primaries went to Abeokuta, Ogun State and heaped the president with insults and insinuations. To be fair to him, given his role in the victory of the APC in 2015, he has had a sense of entitlement to being the next president and then he got the intelligence report that he was about to be dumped, hence his anger. After Tinubu's Ogun diatribe, the APC chairman, Abdullahi Adamu promised severe retribution. What Ahmed Tinubu got, however, was not retribution but the presidential ticket of the party on a golden platter, with seven aspirants withdrawing for him, while President Buhari watched with a smile that was no smile.

A flustered President Buhari had to come out on Monday afternoon and tell 14 APC governors of the Northern states that he had “no preferred candidate,” and had “anointed no one,” and was determined to ensure that “there shall be no imposition of any candidate on the party.

This is the correct and proper position he should have stood by from the very beginning but as we know very well from the arena of real politics in Nigeria, every politician in power dreams of installing his preferred candidate on the people. The overriding message from the side of the president and his team is the lack of planning and strategic thinking.

The winner, the Jagaban of the World scored 1,271

votes to win the presidential primary of the ruling APC by a landslide.

He defeated 22 other aspirants in the race. We must not forget that each of the 23 aspirants paid N100 million to be in the contest. At the venue of the primary, seven of the 23 aspirants stepped down for Tinubu, while one stepped down for Vice President Osinbajo.

I do not know whether there was strategic thinking on the side of the winner. What is clear is that Tinubu had two huge assets – knowledge of what Nigerian politicians are looking for and I am not allowed to say that it is money. Secondly, in addition to having a very deep pocket, the time had come for him to reap from a thirty-year programme of investing in promoting and placing

politicians that had political IOUs to him. Tinubu's political investments had matured and he could reap the profits. The winner, the Jagaban of the World scored 1,271 votes to win the presidential primary of the ruling APC by a landslide. He defeated 22 other aspirants in the race.

We must not forget that each of the 23 aspirants paid N100 million to be in the contest. At the venue of the primary, seven of the 23 aspirants stepped down for Tinubu, while one stepped down for Vice President Osinbajo. Only 14 aspirants, therefore, took part in the primary proper.

While Tinubu won with 1,271 votes, ex-Transport minister Rotimi Amaechi came second with 316 votes. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, who gave the most inspirational

speech, came third with 235 votes, while Senate President Ahmad Lawan, the former Chosen One, came fourth with 152 votes. It is interesting that four aspirants who had paid N100 million to be allowed into the contest could not generate a single vote during the convention – Bakare, the senior pastor of the Citadel Global Community Church, Lagos; Rochas Okorochoa, the senator representing Imo West Senatorial District at the National Assembly and former governor of Imo State; Jack Rich who described himself as being of poor parentage but built himself and made money; and one Ikeobasi Mokuolu, who told delegates he had come to praise the great achievements of President Muhammadu Buhari. Don't ask me why he paid N100 million to get

two minutes to say Buhari is the greatest of the greatest. There are aspects of Nigeria's political life that we, mere political scientists, do not understand. We can only guess that maybe investment in contesting might open doors to certain forms of pay off that might not be evident to us.

The biggest loser in the contest was Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, who contested in the primaries, as a good and supportive pillar to President Muhammadu Buhari, who he said had achieved so much. The problem with his pitch was that Nigerians know that the president has achieved so little and is generally perceived as a failure.

In the greatest understatement of the year, the winner of the primary election and the Jagaban of the World declared in his acceptance speech that he did not ‘expect to win’ the party's presidential primary.

He said he holds ‘no grudges’ against members of his party who worked against his candidature: “The competition is now over. Those who did not support me, you have nothing to fear. I hold no grudges and grievances. Let us each agree to join hands in defeating PDP and beat back their retrogressive understanding of Nigeria.” I wondered whether the statement means all those who worked against him will go to jail if he becomes president. Time will tell.

The biggest loser in the contest was Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, who contested in the primaries, as a good and supportive pillar to President Muhammadu Buhari, who he said had achieved so much.

The problem with his pitch was that Nigerians know that the president has achieved so little and is generally perceived as a failure. The irony is that in the first phase of the Buhari/Osinbajo duopoly, when the vice president had opportunities to be acting president while his boss was in hospital, he had shown himself to be very competent and much better at governance than his boss. Alarmed, the cabal around the president caged him successfully and opportunities to show his capacity disappeared. The vice president's campaign strategy made Nigerians forget his earlier demonstrations of competence and the option of his coming out to expose his boss would have simply precipitated a crisis in Aso Rock. Maybe Senator Kashim Shettima was right that the vice president is too nice and decent a person to be a Nigerian leader. I however totally reject Shettima's advice that he should be selling ice cream and popcorn. He is young enough to still have a decade of active politics before him.

Daybreak Issues

APC primaries and the emergence of a lame duck president



By Farooq A. Kperogi



Perspective

5 Key Takeaways from the APC Convention



I was fed up with the unendingly immature political melodrama and indiscipline of the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential primary and national convention on June 7, which spilled over to June 8, but here are five key takeaways from it.

1. It exposed the inner circle of the Muhammadu Buhari regime as a weak, nerveless, internally incoherent, and disorganized junta. For years, Buhari's inner circle, also known as the Aso Rock cabal, was united in its common resentment of Bola Ahmed Tinubu and its determination to scupper his bid for the APC presidential nomination, but it had neither the strategy nor the unity of purpose to execute its plans.

The cabal was factionalized and sometimes even at odds with Buhari himself. Its members couldn't agree on a candidate. Even Buhari himself wasn't consistent in whom he wanted to lend support to. He endlessly vacillated between a slew of options—Rotimi Amaechi, Timipre Sylva, Ibikunle Amosun, and later Ahmed Lawan—and fixed his gaze wherever the wind blew.

The last person to talk to Buhari got his blessing, which led to a situation where scores of people thought they were his favored candidate.

At the last minute, a source told me authoritatively, Mamman Daura, Babagana Kingibe, Ibrahim Gambari, and APC chairman Abdullahi Adamu convinced Buhari to back Senate President Ahmed Lawan. "It's Lawan or the party breaks," he said. "Wallahi tallahi Ahmed Lawan Buhari ke so. Ka ji na rantse [I swear to God it's Ahmed Lawan that Buhari wants. I swear to you.]"

I kept this information to myself because I couldn't verify it from another source. A day later, Jaafar Jaafar, publisher of the digital-native Daily Nigerian newspaper who became famous for his videographic investigative reporting of Governor Abdullahi Ganduje stuffing dollars in his babbar riga, posted a social media update that partly aligned with what the source had told me.

"I [learned] that Mamman Daura, 82, Babagana Kingibe, 76, and Abdullahi Adamu, 75, mooted the idea of fielding Ahmad Lawan as the 'consensus' candidate, jettisoning [the] party's power shift arrangement and damning the stability and unity of the country," he wrote. "I'm concerned about APC's decision on its presidential ticket because the party took a political loan on behalf of all Northerners. It's time for payback. Tossing away power shift will deepen mistrust and enmity between North and South."

Kingibe later called Jaafar to say he wasn't in on the push to adopt Lawan as the presidency's consensus candidate. Kingibe, of course, is notorious for being extraordinarily slippery and truthless.

In spite of all the coercive and symbolic resources at their disposal, neither the cabal nor Buhari could defeat Tinubu. And it wasn't for lack of trying. This says more about the ineptitude of the regime's upper echelon than about Tinubu's matchless political machismo.

2. The conduct of the convention right from its planning to actual voting brilliantly capsulizes the crying incompetence with which the Buhari regime has ruled these past seven years.

From the planning of the convention to its sudden postponement; from the botched consensus plan to the fractious infighting among APC's National

Working Committee members, governors, and the Aso Rock cabal; and from the subpar voting to the party's inability to conduct the convention within the time frame it specified in its programme of event, we see a party and a government that are dismally incompetent, that just desire power without the slightest interest in governance.

Even after manipulating INEC to accede to its unfair rescheduling of its convention, by early Tuesday there was still uncertainty about whether the convention would hold. If they could, APC would have asked INEC for another adjournment of their convention.

Incompetence is supposed to be the Buhari regime's special asset, but it has shown itself repeatedly as being incompetent at even being incompetent.

3. In spite of its awful planning and conduct, the APC primary election had a redeeming feature, and that was the praiseworthy solidarity among northern governors to support their southern counterparts in insisting that the ticket of the party go south.

That represents the best example of what ethicists call "enlightened self-interest," that is, unselfish concern for others that ultimately benefits the ones who give it. It's a paradoxical kind of selfishness that I call altruistic selfishness.

Had northern governors supported the APC party chairman's endorsement of Ahmed Lawan as the consensus candidate and sidestepped a primary election, APC would have died a natural death, Bola Tinubu would have transmuted into a more dangerous Sunday Igboho, the foundations of the

country would have been shaken, and there might be no country for the elite to exploit.

A couple of people close to a few northern governors confided in me that the governors were mortified by the prospect of a northerner becoming the party's candidate because it would do irreparable harm to reputational capital of northerners as "trustworthy" people, especially considering that several of them had railed against Goodluck Jonathan for dishonoring the gentleman agreement they had had with them to complete Yar'adua's term and hand over to a northerner in 2011.

4. The fourth takeaway flows from the third, and it is that it was northerners, not southerners, who elected Tinubu as APC's nominee. There's a state-by-state breakdown of how delegates voted at the convention doing the social media rounds. It was compiled by a certain Otunba Sanni Aridunu who claims to be the director of the Oyo chapter of "NABT Mobilization."

I haven't verified it and actually wonder how anyone can know for a fact who voted for whom at the convention, but since it hasn't been challenged up to the time of writing this, I'll rely on it for now. From that list, Tinubu got more votes from the Northwest alone than he did from the Southwest, Southeast, and Southsouth combined.

We can also speculate from the list that Governor Kayode Fayemi's decision to stand down as a contestant and endorse Tinubu had no effect on the outcome of the election. Only 5 delegates from Ekiti State voted for Tinubu; Osinbajo got 48.

5. The convention also aggrandized the limits and dangers of Yemi Osinbajo's overt religionization of politics. Osinbajo thought his most potent strategy to ascend to the presidency was to weaponize religion in the most vulgar way possible. But it was precisely his strategy that incinerated him quickly.

Had he transcended the easy lures of toxic religious particularism, particularly because he is a pastor in a religiously fractured country, he might have been APC's presidential nominee today. He was the choice of many northern Muslim governors until I exposed his RCCG bigotry and theocratic fantasies with incontrovertible empirical fidelity.

Smart politicians don't do anything to call attention to a strength that can be a major political liability. Former U.S. president George W. Bush, for example, is the scion of "old money" who went to elite prep schools and graduated from Yale University. His father had been president 8 years earlier, and Americans hate political dynasties.

If he wanted to sound "polished" and "cultivated" during his presidential campaigns, he could, but he would risk calling attention to his privilege and thereby alienating people he wanted to appeal to.

What did he do? He spoke with a drawl, intentionally mangled his grammar, and came across as a little stupid. No one talked about his political dynastic privilege.

In several polls that asked American voters whom between Bush and Al Gore (who was from a middle-class background) they'd like to have a beer with Bush won by wide margins. Bush successfully deflected attention from his privilege and came across as an ordinary, approachable, folksy guy.

Not Osinbajo. Up until the last day of the election, his minions were still playing self-destructive religious politics. They trended Christian religious memes on social media to support him, sent text messages to delegates that said Tinubu would run with a Muslim running mate, etc.

This caused him to lose even more delegates on election day. I know this because I communicated with some delegates who told me they would switch the "sympathy votes" they had planned on giving Osinbajo to other candidates.

Tinubu and Atiku are Close Friends

Abubakar Atiku and Bola Tinubu will be opponents in next year's presidential election, but they are very close personal and political friends who're more alike than unlike.

Tinubu told American diplomats in Lagos in 2003, in cables exposed by WikiLeaks in 2011, that his decision to go into partisan politics was inspired by Atiku.

"Tinubu praised Vice President Atiku Abubakar, whom he has known for many years," the Consul General wrote in cables WikiLeaks brought to light in 2011. "Elaborating on his knowledge of the VP, Tinubu said he has known and understood the VP even before his entry into politics. Atiku is a detribalized politician who knows where he is going and how to build bridges to get there."

The Consul General also wrote that, "Tinubu credits his going into politics to Atiku's personal encouragement."

You wouldn't guess that going by the way they and their agents tore at each other—or at least pretended to—in the 2019 presidential election and the way they may fight each other in the coming weeks and months.

Sports

Idigba zone wins 3rd Aburo Gomina football tourney in Ilorin

Idigba zone Football Club has emerged Champions of the third edition of Aburo Gomina football tournament played on Sunday at Adeta Primary School pitch in Ilorin west Local Government Area of Kwara.

Idigba zone defeated defending Champions, Kuntu zone 1-0 to clinch the title for the 2022 edition.

The Championship, which was organized and sponsored by a Chieftain of All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ilorin West, Mallam AbdulMajeed AbdulWahab, is aimed at celebrating the third year in office of Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq and to support his second term ambition.

The final game, witnessed by a mammoth crowd and football lovers within and outside the community, was meant to appreciate the milestones

and achievements of Gov. AbdulRazaq.

Speaking to journalists after the game, the Sponsor of the Competition, Mallam AbdulMajeed AbdulWahab commended stakeholders for their support.

He said the championship was also aimed at discovering football talents from the grassroots to complement the efforts of the present administration in the area of football development.

Our correspondent reports that in the novelty game earlier played preceding the final, Aburo Gomina friends walloped Samba Boys 3-0.

Football stakeholders in the state, including the Executive Chairman of the Kwara State Sports Commission, Malam Bola Magaji, Administrator of Kwara Football Academy (KFA), Mallam Bako Ibrahim, watched the event.

La Planet Sport Academia lifts Kwara Governor's Cup

La Planet Sport Academia on Sunday added another title to their trophy's cabinet after clinching Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq U-23 Youth Soccer Competiton.

Coach Sheriff Jimoh-led side defeated Flash Bombers FC 4-3 on penalties after playing out a 1-1 draw in the regulation time.

A tough soaked encounter, it was all a great display of soccer artistry at the final of the tournament played at the football pitch of Government Day Secondary School, Karuma, Ilorin.

Our correspondent reports that Aliu Ferinyaro had in the first half sent the fans to a wild jubilation when he handed Flash Bombers a lead from a long range free kick.

Muhammed Abdullahi complemented the effort of the determined La Planet Sport Academia as he netted the equalizer from the spot.

The tournament, organized by Morrow International Football Competiton, was aimed at honouring the giant strides of Kwara State Governor, Malam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq.

Earlier, Champion FC defeated Gambari United FC 2-0 in the third place final of the tournament which had 20 teams on its fixtures.

Among many other dignitaries who witnessed the grand finale on Sunday were the Executive Chairman of Kwara State Sports Commission, Malam Bola Mogaji and Nigeria Pillar of Sports, Chief Agu Ejidike.

Our correspondent reports that La Planet Sport Academia is reputed for winning one of the most prominent pre-season tournaments in the country including the Amapro football championship in 2020.

In 2021, it won Kwara State Football Association Super League, AGF AbdulRazaq Football Tournament and YSFON U-17 football competiton.

While one of its products, Abdulgafar Opeyemi is currently plying his trade with FK Kauno Zalgiris, a Liuthania-based elite league side, another graduate of the Academy, Abdulganiyu Suleiman is currently making waves with ABS Ilorin FC in the Nigeria National League (NNL).



Switzerland's Seferovic scores in 1st minute to defeat Portugal

A first-minute strike by striker Haris Seferovic earned Switzerland a 1-0 victory over Portugal on Sunday as Murat Yakin's side grabbed their first win in this year's Nations League.

Seferovic put Switzerland ahead 57 seconds into the clash at Stade de Geneve with a close-range header after defender Silvan Widmer set him up with a precise cross inside the area.

Inaugural 2018/2019 Nations League winners Portugal levelled through forward Rafael

Leao in the 18th minute but his effort was disallowed for offside.

Portugal's efforts intensified following halftime with Bernardo Silva's powerful strike from the edge of the box in the 63rd minute and Diogo Jota's superb header in the 78th minute.

But the Portuguese still did not manage to get on the scoresheet.

Switzerland, who were beaten 1-0 at home by Spain last time out and lost their opening three matches, claimed their first victory in 2022 from six games

played.

Fernando Santos' side, unbeaten so far in this year's competition, were without the rested Cristiano Ronaldo, Joao Moutinho and Raphael Guerreiro who did not travel with the rest of the squad.

Portugal dropped to second place in Group A2 on seven points while Spain, who beat the Czech Republic 2-0 in the other game, moved to the top with one point more.

Switzerland remain bottom on three points.

Liverpool agree 75mn-euro deal for Benfica striker Nunez

Liverpool have reached a deal with Benfica to buy the Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez for an initial 75 million euros (£64 million), the Portuguese club said on Monday.

The transfer could eventually rise to 100 million euros, Benfica said in a statement, eclipsing Liverpool's club-record £75 million paid to Southampton for Dutch centre-back Virgil van Dijk in 2018.

Nunez scored 26 goals in 28 league appearances last season in Portugal.

The 22-year-old, who was left out of Uruguay's squad for Saturday's 5-0 friendly victory over Panama, was expected to begin a medical on Monday which could take two days to complete.

Personal terms are not anticipated to be a problem, with the player having expressed his desire to play for Reds manager Jurgen Klopp despite interest from Manchester United.



Nunez is set to sign a reported six-year contract with Premier League and Champions League runners-up Liverpool, who have been in talks with Benfica for several weeks.

He netted in both legs of Benfica's Champions League quarter-final defeat against Liverpool in April, earning praise from Klopp.

Nunez is likely to arrive at Anfield as a direct replacement for Sadio Mane after Bayern Munich stepped up their pursuit of the Senegal forward.

Liverpool have rejected two offers from the Bundesliga champions and are holding out for a fee in excess of £40 million for Mane, who has one year left on his contract.

Sports



Nigeria beat Sao Tome and Principe 10-0 and break highest-ever win record

Nigeria have recorded their biggest international victory, beating Sao Tome and Principe 10-0 in an Africa Cup of Nations qualification match on Monday.

Napoli striker Victor Osimhen, who is a target for Arsenal this transfer window, scored four goals, with three of those coming after the half-time interval.

Terem Moffi, who plays his

club football for Lorient in France, recorded a brace, with Moses Simon, Oghenekaro Etebo, Ademola Lookman and Emmanuel Dennis all scoring once.

Nigeria's previous record win was a 10-1 victory over Benin — then known as Dahomey — in Lagos on November 28, 1959.

The victory means Nigeria sit top of African Cup of Nations qualification group A after

winning their opening two fixtures.

They began their campaign with a slightly more modest victory, beating Sierra Leone 2-1 at home.

Nigeria will be hoping to reach the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, which is scheduled to take place in Ivory Coast between June 23 and July 23 next summer. Senegal are the reigning champions.

Don advises clubs, associations to teach footballers, referees basic CPR, health emergency techniques

Orthopedic and Sports Physiotherapy lecturer at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Dr. Oluwaseun Fapojuwo, has said that most death on the football pitch are preventable if all footballers are taught how to perform basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) emergency procedure on their stricken team mates before the arrival of a doctor.

Speaking on ways athletes can avoid injuries from sporting activities at the draw ceremony of Mike Okonkwo Football Championship in Lagos, Fapojuwo said in most developed countries, upcoming footballers learn the rudiments of football and professionalism as well as general safety and health tips from experienced doctors.

He said most deaths occur because players, referees and even coaches were not taught how to handle simple health issues or emergency situations on the pitch.

According to Fapojuwo: "Every Nigerian player needs to be

taught how to perform basic CPR procedures. Two events happened overseas and the other in Nigeria. The one in Nigeria led to death, while in the incident abroad the player was saved.

"This is the case of Christian Eriksen, a Danish player, who collapsed while playing for his country. He was saved before the doctors got to the pitch because his teammates knew what to do. They performed CPR on him and he regained himself before he was taken to hospital.

"Also in a German league game, a referee saved Super Eagles Striker, Taiwo Awoniyi's life when he collapsed on the pitch. He was restored to life immediately by the centre referee.

"In Nigeria's case, the late Chineme Martins of Nasarawa United FC died of respiratory issues while playing a league game because the players on the pitch didn't know how to perform CPR on him.

"It is not that the western world have special equipment to save players' lives. It is simple basic knowledge that all the players on the pitch, including referees, know, that reduce deaths on the pitch abroad. Nigeria can also reduce the risk of players' death by educating them on health issues."

He added that players should also ensure they eat the right food and engage in the right exercise during walk outs to help their body resist dangers associated with sports.

"In sports, we cannot run from injuries, but athletes can have limitations to injuries if they take the right diet, abstain from performance enhancing drugs, get to understand the age limitations of the sports they are engaged in. "Going for regular tests will also help athletes to avoid injuries. Safety in sports is very important because athletes cannot give their best when they are not 100 fit."

England fans turned on Southgate — they will take some winning back

This was meant to be the night when the England team were reunited with their adoring public, the first home game away from Wembley in front of a full crowd for three years.

Instead, it became the night when the public finally turned on Gareth Southgate. Losing 4-0 at home to Hungary is one thing, but what will stick in the memory from is the sight and sound of thousands of England fans singing "You don't know what you're doing" at Southgate repeatedly during the second half. Or when they booed the replacement of Bukayo Saka with Harry Maguire. Or when they called for Southgate to be sacked on Wednesday morning. Or when they booed him again when he tried to front up and applaud the crowd after the final whistle.

Or, most memorable of all, at least from this seat in the press box, the fan in the retro England shirt who stormed out in the second half, leaving with the parting shot before he vanished into the concourse: "Fuck off Southgate, you negative bastard."

Welcome to the new phase of the Southgate tenure. It is worth being explicit about how unfamiliar this was, and at odds with everything we have seen over the last six years. Not just the scoreline, because anything can happen in a low-stakes, end-of-season game like this. But the way the crowd turned on Southgate, blamed him specifically, and called for his head was still a surprise. This was vicious, toxic and personal and directed at one man. It felt like everything that Southgate and his players had built over the last six years was turning

sour.

The underpinning of the whole Southgate era up until Tuesday night had been his relationship with the fans. Before Volgograd or Samara, before Eric Dier's penalty or Kieran Trippier's free-kick, before Seville or any of those thrilling Wembley wins from last summer: Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany and Denmark. Before any of that there was a hope that Southgate could reconnect this team and their public, and give the fans a team they could be proud of again.

For almost six years, Southgate has done this better than anyone could have expected. He has not just grown into the role, but far beyond its normal scope. He is not only a coach or a manager but a national father figure, a spokesman for the soul of the game, and (at least until this week) one of the few unifying figures in the country.

The humble waistcoat is now synonymous with him. So is "Whole Again", the Atomic Kitten single that sold millions of copies when Southgate was still playing for Aston Villa. Even early on Tuesday evening, England fans congregating outside the pubs of Wolverhampton were still singing it.

So what changed over 90 minutes? Were the England crowd that invested in their Nations League campaign? Do they feel so humiliated by the prospect of England being relegated down to the B groups for the competition's next version? Is our national pride so fragile that we need to replace Southgate with someone who will drag the team back into the top flight?





After a long voyage, all the political parties have concluded their special conventions and primaries, and they now have presidential flag bearers representing the parties at the polls next year. The past two weeks have been a protracted season of tension, permutations, and intrigues. The dramas that brought the two presidential candidates to victory were captivating and pulsating. There were no apparent upsets as the two presidential candidates from the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are political heavyweights and they represent the culmination of what Nigerian politics has been in the past two decades.

The symbolisms of both of their candidature are not lost on us – the triumph of the political godfathers, the super rich and high-powered stakeholders in our political firmament. Whether their candidacy is what Nigerians expected or not, whether the process of choosing them was “dollarised” or not, whether their ages would be a factor in their efficiency on the presidential job or not, one of them would likely become the president come May 2023, barring any miracle.

The theatre of presidential politics offers us the rare opportunity to reflect on our politics, our stunted development, and the future of our country. Like most Nigerians, I have conducted a post-mortem on the presidential primaries of the two major political parties in Nigeria, borne out of my critical and sober reflection on all the political theatricals, actions and inactions of significant actors and institutions involved in the primaries. I want to share my five takeaways from the special conventions of the two major political parties.

First, I believe that Nigerians were interested in the primaries because they wanted the parties to choose a candidate who deeply understands the myriad of Nigerian problems and can articulate solutions to them, whilst galvanising all Nigerians to realise our collective aspirations as a people. Most people were disappointed because the primaries did not adequately showcase any candidate, so that Nigerians could start making sense of who he is and what he represents. The profiles, service records, programmes and manifesto speeches of the aspirants did not count for much for the delegates who decided the presidential nominations.

These attributes mattered to the public but not to delegates in their worlds. It was all about schemes, scams, and personal interests. A negligible number of delegates voted on the basis of their conviction about the competence and service record of the aspirants. Throughout the consultation and nomination processes, except for an insignificant number of aspirants, no one spoke about how to solve our most pressing socio-economic problems in Nigeria.

Second, the primaries were auctions of some sort. What was at stake was who would be the highest bidder for an estate worth more than \$411 billion – the size of the Nigerian economy in 2019-2020. The leading aspirants, going by what transpired at both conventions, were ready to offer a paltry \$100 million for this piece of estate, making it the cheapest auction ever conducted anywhere in the world. If we go by the stories of some delegates who alleged that some aspirants offered them between \$5,000 and \$20,000 each, a quick calculation will give you a vivid idea of the bid of leading aspirants in both political

Backpage Column

Dakuku Peterside

Time to rethink Nigerian politics and party nomination processes

parties. Similar things happened on a smaller scale in the fringe parties.

A lot has been said and written about the “dollarisation” of the presidential nomination processes. It beggars belief that the presidency is for sale to the highest bidder at this stage of our political development. We discussed within and outside the venue of the primaries (on social media, traditional media, and the public sphere) about offering dollars as inducement to delegates to vote for a candidate, as if it is a normal thing to do.

This action is a crime and, if proven, should have severe consequences for both the givers and the receivers. But not in Nigeria, where anything goes. Where is our collective conscience and morality? How do we want to be taken seriously as a country by other nations when the most important political office in the country is bought or sold to the highest bidder? How do we expect good leadership from a foundation of corruption and crass hedonism? Why must we be mercantile about our national leadership and development?

Third, these primaries showcased elitism and elite dominance of the political system and structures. Major stakeholders, including the delegates, are of the elite class or their cronies, and they were there to do the bidding of the privileged class. It was a gathering of the political elite to struggle to control state power. We noticed different factions jostling for control. The gang of the governors was prominent in both the PDP and APC primaries. Governors who control fiefdoms were directly or indirectly in control of delegates from their states, barring a few renegades who refused to be directed by the governors and voted either on the basis of personal conviction or the dictates of the candidates that had paid in dollars.

In these primaries, we saw the political elite’s insensitivity, manipulation and greed displayed in gargantuan proportions, and even state governors were not exempted. The level of personal greed was embarrassing, and there was no room for principles or conviction. Only a handful in the elite political class could restrain their greed, even for money they do not need.

Fourth, loyalty, morality and friendship are meaningless in Nigerian politics. The only thing that matters is shifting interests. We saw politicians who had been long-time allies work at cross-purposes and those who had conversely been at each other’s throats for ages collaborate for personal gains and unfounded promises. Alliances and counter-alliances were formed and broken. Politicians slaughtered personal relationships at the altar of political expediencies. Primordial sentiments and attachments led to friends and counterparts

betraying each other.

At long last, we saw ethnic feelings dictating the choices made by some without considering what is best for Nigeria and the public that the delegates were representing. Advocates of zoning felt hard done and cried wolf in both primaries, although the Northern Governors Forum of the APC, in a heroic act, displayed unusual patriotism when the group insisted on the presidential ticket of the party going South. It may take time for the wounds created during these primaries to heal, and it may take time to rebuild trust and harmony among party members who felt betrayed and used by the system.

Fifth, delegates did not vote for aspirants based on the issues of interest to the people they were supposed to represent. The welfare, interest and progress of the ordinary persons did not matter. Everything was purely a transactional enterprise. Most Nigerians watching the primaries from home felt betrayed by the lack of sincerity of some aspirants who, at the last minute and when it mattered the most for them to sell their presidential aspirations to Nigerians, jettisoned the aspiration altogether and “en mass”, in some instances, engaged in the endorsement of other aspirants, thereby changing the equation of the selection process.

These primaries illustrate the dire state of our politics and the need for a review of the whole democratic process. The monetisation and dollarisation of our politics leave a sour taste in the mouth of every democratic person. Although we have faulted the process, only time will tell whether the products of these processes will deliver Nigeria from this state of quagmire, and raise the hopes and aspirations of many hopeless Nigerians who have given up on the country. The candidates of the two major political parties, who are wealthy political juggernauts, have been part of the orthodoxy, have planned for the presidency for many years, and have fought hard to clinch the tickets of their parties. We sincerely hope they have the elixir to Nigeria’s problems.

At the end of my review, these past conventions or presidential nomination processes revealed everything wrong with our politics – the weak ideological foundation of the parties, the attitude of our people to a democratic culture, the influence of poverty or the lack of economic empowerment on political choices, the absence of citizenship rights and responsibilities in our politics, the vanishing moral values and desperation of the elite to hang on to power as the only means of survival and wealth in an economy that is very hard to create wealth privately within.

The whole charade and shenanigans of the political class and their desperation to grab power at all costs are linked to poverty and hopelessness in the land, as poor people pay little or no attention to issues. Most ordinary Nigerians suffer from physical and material deprivation, whilst our political elites are afflicted by moral and mental poverty, as seen in their attitudes and behaviours in the presidential nomination of the two major parties.

We cannot continue this way as a nation, and I hope subsequent primaries will see significant improvements in the identified areas. It is time to rethink our politics, party nomination process, the basis of our choices as individuals and the future of our country. Still, I congratulate the presidential candidates of all the parties for winning the slot of their parties.

I look forward to an issue-based campaign devoid of sleaze, mudslinging, ethnic and religious chauvinism, and campaign monetisation. We must get it right this time because we cannot afford to gamble with our collective destiny.

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