



News as it breaks

Daybreak

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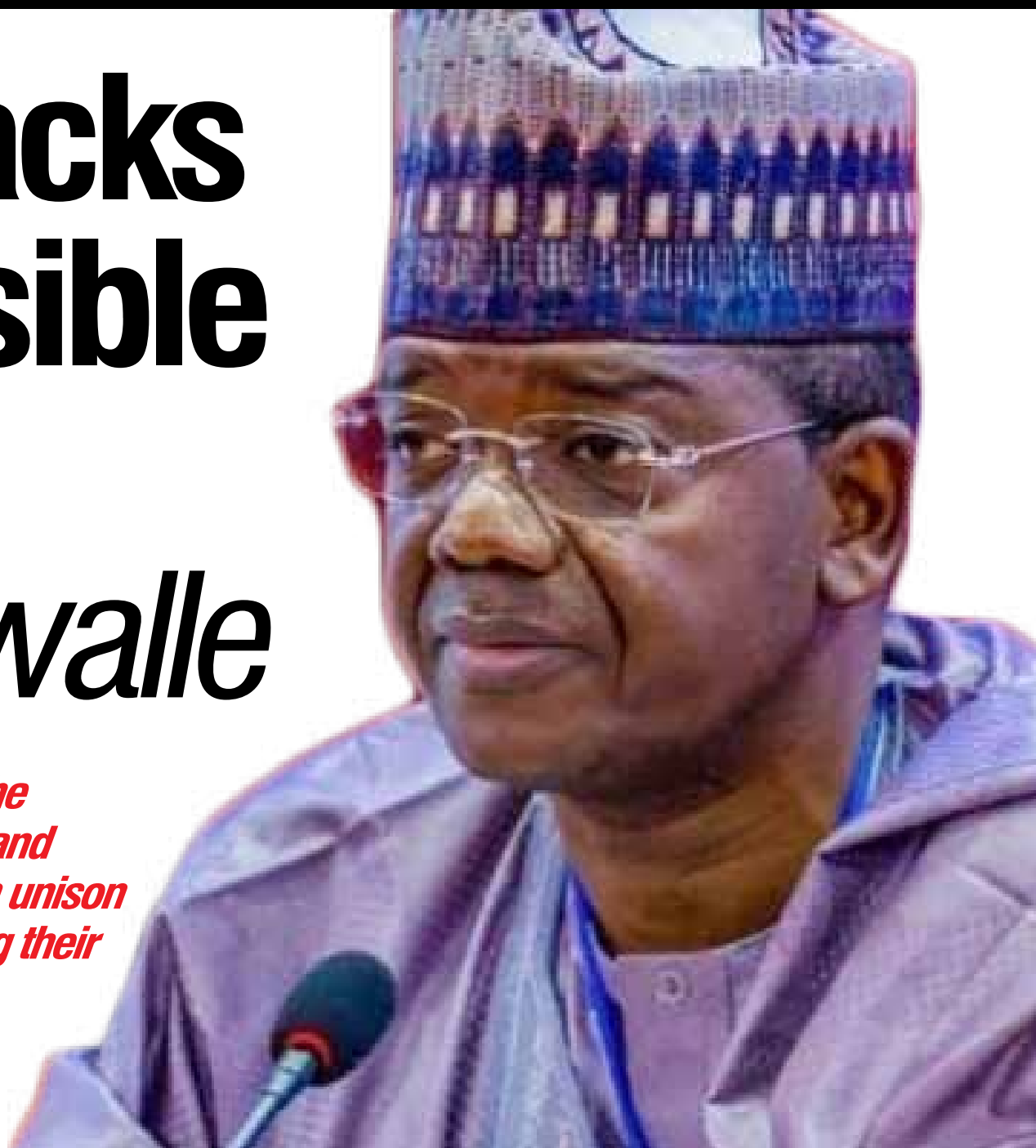
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News

North lacks responsible leaders --- Matawalle

Zamfara State Governor, Mohammed Bello Matawalle, on Sunday, said northern leaders are responsible for the insecurity ravaging the region, while noting that the region lacks responsible leadership.

Matawalle made the observation while delivering a paper titled "The Fight Against Banditry in Northwest Nigeria: Challenges and Solutions" at the inauguration of the new executives of Arewa Media Writers Association in Kaduna.

He said the northern leaders were responsible for the plight of their region, which includes horrible crimes like rape, killings of women and children, kidnapping, highway robbery and other gruesome atrocities in the northern region.

According to him, the north lacked responsible leadership to steer it through the uncharted waters, adding that the ruling elites have no vision for the region beyond gaining political power.

The governor said when he took over as governor on May 29th, 2019, the State had already been mired in a serious security crisis for over a decade, marked by banditry, livestock rustling, kidnapping among other crimes.

He said the State was in the news for bloodletting, fire, pillage, and significant displacement of people, particularly those living in rural areas, on daily basis.

Matawalle, represented by the State's Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Ibrahim Magaji, said the historic, economic, social and cultural ties between the dominant communities of Fulani and Hausa were ruptured; farming activities across the State halted, and commercial activities crippled.

He said: "With poverty on the increase and food security seriously affected by the crisis, the State was on the verge of a catastrophic social eruption capable of destabilizing our communities and the northwest sub-region.

"Shinkafi and Zurmi LGAs are the hot spot of banditry even though there is no mining activities going there.

"Rural banditry in Zamfara and other parts of the north, in my opinion, is a result of the progressive degradation of our moral standards and a culture of greed fed by an unfettered need for material goods.

"As shown in this presentation, the culture of cattle raiding by pastoralist groups is not something new. It was practiced in the days gone by to demonstrate courage



and bravery, and no violence was used."

He said the major challenges to peace efforts in the region

included reluctance by the affected states to embrace peace dialogue, which would have deprived the recalcitrant bandits currently

tormenting the people of safe corridors across the region.

He lamented that there was a lack of support from a section of politicians who wish to take advantage of the situation to achieve political gains, noting that there was a need for the federal government to key into the peace initiative so that appropriate resources can be allocated to achieved that.

He added, "We have all seen how the elites in the South-East and Southwest responded in unison to all matters concerning their regions' development.

"We have seen how they have a defined agenda and are relentless in their pursuit of regional development."

According to him, the war against banditry in the North West would remain a significant security challenge that has the potential to swallow the region and the country.

He appealed to leaders of the region to wake up from their lethargy and unite in combating the grave challenge, saying there was the need to stop politicising the situation.

Expose criminal in your midst Emir of Muri tells Fulani leaders

The Emir of Muri, Alhaji Abbas Njidda Tafida, met with Fulani leaders in his palace in Jalingo and urged them to weed out criminals amongst them.

This is coming six days after the Emir warned criminals among Fulani herders to stop their criminal activities.

The meeting, which was attended by all Hardos, Jauros and Fulani associations, was to further find a lasting solution to the criminal activities of some herdsmen.

The Emir had said during the meeting that his marching orders were not directed to all Fulani

herdsmen but to those among them who engage in kidnapping and other criminal activities.

The Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, Taraba State branch, Sahabi Tukur, who was at the meeting, said that the emir had expressed his displeasure over some herdsmen who have been linked with kidnapping.

He said the Emir, who is also Fulani, was not happy that Fulani herdsmen who were linked to kidnapping and warned that the bad eggs must be sorted out and dealt with in accordance with the law.

Sahabi Tukur added that the

Emir had further told the Fulani leaders at the meeting that they must act positively to bring sanity among all Fulani herdsmen.

"You must weed out all criminal elements among you and restore the good image of Fulani which is gradually being tarnished by activities of bad eggs that engaged in kidnapping and other forms of criminal activities," the Emir was quoted as saying.

However, Sahabi revealed that various committees would be set up to address the issue of criminal activities by some Fulani herdsmen and to restore the damaged image of the Fulani herders.

Olubadan sends delegation to Cotonou over Sunday Igboho's trial

Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Saliu Adetunji, has sent a delegation to Cotonou, Republic of Benin, to observe court proceedings in the case involving an activist, Chief Sunday Adeyemo, also known as Sunday Igboho.

Mr Adeola Oloko, Personal Assistant/Director of Media and Publicity to the Olubadan, made this known in a statement issued on Sunday in Ibadan.

Oloko quoted the royal father as stating this in his palace while exchanging views with leaders

of Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (CCII), led by the President-General, Mr Yemisi Adeaga.

The Oba, who did not disclose the identity of members of the delegation, said that they would be in court in Cotonou on Monday to observe Igboho's trial.

He said that the step taken had become necessary in order to assure those who had been besieging his palace, including protesters, that he was not folding his arms over the travails of Igboho and his aides.

"Sunday Igboho lives in Ibadan,

got married in Ibadan, reared his children in Ibadan, built houses in Ibadan and, as such, he has the rights to be protected by Ibadan traditional institution within the ambit of the law, just like any other resident of the city," he said.

Adetunji, who said that he was in constant touch with other traditional rulers in Yoruba land, including the Igboho royal crowns, allayed the fears of a repeat of Yoruba-Fulani collision of 1814.

He, however, urged people to remain calm and be law-abiding, stressing that truth would prevail.

Kano flood claims 20 lives

No fewer than nineteen persons were feared dead in Doguwa local government area of Kano after a vehicle conveying them was eroded by flood at the weekend.

Kano witnessed a torrential downpour that lasted several hours at the weekend, destroying properties estimated over N100 million.

"Human beings and domesticated animals, including birds, as well as food stuff were destroyed, as several homes submerged in the flood," Mr. Saidu, a resident, said.

Village head of Doguwa settlement, Alhaji Yusuf Umar, confirmed the incident to newsmen.

He said 15 bodies have been recovered while search was intensified to recover the corpses of the remaining four victims.

Umar narrated the vehicle conveying the dead was washed away by the flood after its engine went off in the middle of a bridge on Friday night.

He added the bridge was submerged by flood following the heavy downpour.

"The engine of the vehicle seized and the car stopped abruptly and before the driver could reignite it, the flood washed the car away with the passengers.

"We have not gotten any survivor yet. We are still searching for corpses," Umar said.

Spokesman for the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Ali Abdullahi Garko, also confirmed the incident, describing it as unfortunate.

He said the State Government had sent a delegation headed by SEMA Executive Secretary, Saleh Jili, to commiserate with families of the victims.

Masked armed security men take over Federal High Court ahead of IPOB leader's trial

Ahead of the continuation of the trial of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, the Nigerian government has deployed operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) to the premises of the Federal High Court, Maitama in Abuja.

The IPOB leader is standing trial before the Justice Binta Nyako Federal High Court, Abuja nine charges bordering on terrorism, treasonable felony, among others.

A detachment of hooded armed officers was seen stationed at the entrance of the Federal High Court with motorbikes and vehicles preventing human and vehicular movements into the area.

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, had earlier warned members of the IPOB not to show up at the Court hearing on Monday.

Also, people in various hotels in the area are being prevented from moving in and out as the officers insisted that they were on a special operation in the area and appealed to them for understanding.

EDITORIAL

The strange position of legislators over electronic transmission of election result

In the past few days the proposed amendments to the electoral act to give legal backing to electronic transfer of election result has been on the front burner of national discuss, moreso since a vast majority of legislators seems to have signaled a rejection of electronic voting to the chagrin of most Nigerias.

The pattern of voting during debate on the proposed amendment suggests that the ruling APC is against electronic transmission of result while the main opposition PDP favour it.

The general agitation for electronic voting is in clear recognition of the fact that transmission of election results remain the weakest link in election management, as reports over time indicates that it is at this point that manipulation normally takes place.

The proposed electronic transmission results simply put is to do away with the current manual process at collation centres.

All elections as we know are done at the polling booths. After the elections, the scores recieved by all the Political Parties are recorded in INEC form EC8A, also known as the booth result sheet.

The existing practice is that the results on Form EC8A will be taken to the Ward collation centre by INEC officials from the various Polling booths in the ward manually. They are usually accompanied by the booth agents of various political Parties to make sure that the scores recieved by their Political Party and others as recorded on Form EC8A are exactly what will be manually transferred to the INEC's Ward result sheet called Form EC8B.

Once this is done, the work of the Party agents at the booth levels are officially over. The Various Party agents at this stage, called Ward Party Agents takes over. Its then their duty to make sure that they accompany the INEC officials who have entered the various booth Results from Forms EC8A to EC8B to the local Government collation centres. At the local government collation centres, the various ward Results will be manually copied into the local government INEC's result sheet called Form EC8C. Once this is done, the work of the Ward Party agents are over. The local government Party agents will

take over at this stage.

The nature of the election determines where next to go. If its election for the officers of the local governments, they will proceed to the state collation centres which is the final destination. If its National Assembly elections, they will proceed to the federal constituency collation centres and senatorial district collation centres where they will enter the results on INEC's Form EC8D OR EC8E as the case may be. The Presidential elections will proceed through the states to Abuja.

There are serious concerns that the physical movement of results from the Polling booths, Ward collation centres, Local government collation centres and so on is dangerous as desparate interests may hijack the results or doctor them at any of the transit points. Cases of hijacks and manipulations have been recorded in the past. Cases of these nature are common at election tribunals.

Therefore the clamour for electronic transfer of results to remove the doubts, risks and concerns is justified

If there network coverage concerns as have been expressed by some of those kicking against it, such problem should be fixed.

Two decades after the introduction of GSM in Nigeria there is no reason why Nigeria should not have 100% network coverage.

In the alternative proven areas where there are no network coverage during elections can be identified by INEC and treated as special cases for manual transmission of result. To reject electronic transfer of result on the basis that a few communities in the country don't have network coverage is to encourage electoral manipulation and heist.

Furthermore, INEC prior to the 2019 general election has indicated that they have the capacity to transmit election result electronically and at no point have they said they lack the capacity to do this as a result of network coverage.

Futheemore, we see no reason why INEC cannot build its own, independent network that is safe, secure and has national coverage for the transmission of election result.



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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

Africa, battling a severe third wave of Covid-19 infections, will receive the first batch of 400-million doses of vaccines from Johnson & Johnson next week, the AU's special envoy on Covid said on Thursday.

So far, only about 60-million doses have been administered among a total population of 1.3-billion on the 55-nation continent.

J&J doses will be used to immunise half of the estimated 800-million people in need of the vaccine on the continent, Strive Masiyiwa, who is also the co-ordinator of the AU task force on vaccine acquisition, told an online news conference.

About six-million doses will be delivered to 27 nations that have paid their share through the end of August, Masiyiwa said. Another 18 are finalising loans from the World Bank and other global lenders before they make payment.

Deliveries will rise to an average of 10-million a month from September, increasing to 20-million in January until the order is fulfilled by September 2022, he added.

The balance of the vaccine requirements for the continent will come from Covax, the global vaccine-sharing scheme for poorer nations, as well as bilateral donations from developed nations such as the US, Masiyiwa said.

J&J, whose vaccine is administered through a single shot, will ship the doses from a facility in SA through its partnership with Aspen Pharmacare, he said.

Masiyiwa called on pharmaceutical companies to produce vaccines in Africa under licencing arrangements, rather than under contract manufacturing, which critics say prevents countries having vaccine independence.

"We want to be treated the same way as they produce in India," Masiyiwa said.

EU countries have donated less than 3% of the 160-million doses — mostly AstraZeneca shots — that they plan to give to help tame the global pandemic, an EU document shows.

The small shipments are likely to stir the debate about how wealthy countries are sharing their surplus shots while poor countries still struggle to get supplies.

The WHO has called on Western governments to donate shots to the Covax programme that it runs with vaccine charity GAVI to ensure fair and equitable distribution to the world's neediest.

Many poor countries rely on Covax for their vaccines, but it has so far delivered only 135-million shots globally and the scheme is highly dependent on donated doses. Plans to buy shots on its own were temporarily derailed by vaccine makers' production problems and export restrictions in India.

The EU has received enough vaccines to fully inoculate 70% of adults, while SA has given only 7% of its adult population one dose and Nigeria just 1%.

Africa to receive first of 400m Johnson & Johnson vaccines next week

The EU shipments are also small compared with more than 15-million doses donated by the US and shipped over the past month to countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America as part of the its pledge to give 80-million vaccines. A big portion of those have been through Covax.

The EU has committed to help inoculate the most vulnerable across the world but, like other wealthy countries, member states have so far focused on buying shots to inoculate their own citizens, contributing to a shortage of vaccines elsewhere.

EU states, with a combined adult population of 365-million, have so far received about 500-million doses from

drugmakers and expect nearly one-billion by the end of September.

But as of July 13, they had donated less than four-million shots, according to the internal document compiled by the European Commission.

EU countries have committed to sharing about 160-million doses in total, mostly without preference about their destination, the report says. The tally of shipments and pledged total have not been reported before.

Brussels has previously said EU nations plan to donate at least 100-million doses by the end of the year. There is no timeline for the target listed in the document.

Those distributed so far have gone mostly to countries and territories with a link to the donor as member states seek to boost relations with nearby countries and deepen diplomatic ties.

The EU countries have so far promised to donate almost exclusively AstraZeneca shots, the document shows. J&J is the second-most frequent choice for donations, though a large portion of pledges are for unspecified shots.

Many EU countries have set limits on the use of the AstraZeneca and J&J vaccines due to concerns about extremely rare blood clotting, reducing the capacity to use them.

Germany, the EU's largest

country, has committed to donating 33-million doses, the document says, 30-million of which are AstraZeneca and J&J. The remaining three-million have yet to be specified.

German officials said donations would begin in August and confirmed the numbers and types of vaccines to be donated.

France is by far the EU's main donor in terms of pledges. It has promised 60-million doses, mostly to Covax and largely without any preference on their final destination.

However, it has so far delivered only about 800,000 doses, half of which went to its former colonies, Senegal, Mauritania and Burkina Faso, the document shows.



ASUU Threatens To Resume Strike

University lecturers could go on another strike after the federal government failed to implement agreements reached to suspend a strike by Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

The union's chairman at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Ibrahim Inuwa, says, "Only two out of the eight items including salary shortfall and visitation panel to federal Universities have been addressed."

Inuwa explained that the other items that Federal Government failed to implement including earned academic allowance, funding for revitalization of public universities, proliferation of state universities, renegotiation and replacement of Integrated Payroll

and Personnel Information System with University Transparency and Accountability Solution.

He added that the timeline for the release of the next tranche of EAA stipulated for May 2021 has lapsed with dead silence from FGN. To avoid further accumulation of arrears of the EAA, it was also agreed that it shall be mainstreamed into the salary. This has not been implemented.

The Chairman said that the University campuses are becoming tense and restive across the length and breadth as academics are threatening to shut down activities once again, saying, "This is coming as result of the failure of the Federal Government of Nigeria to implement many aspects of

memorandum of Action (MoA) it willingly signed with ASUU that ended the last strike in December, 2020."

He further disclosed that the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF) through the IPPIS office have continued to omit their members from payment of salaries while others experience serious salary amputation.

"We are convinced this is done in connivance with the University Administration through the distortion of our members personal details. Additionally, the OAGF is not fully remitting check off dues deducted from our salaries. The ultimate goal of the OAGF appears to be doing everything humanly possible to

coerce members of ASUU to enroll into IPPIS and to kill the union finally," he said.

Inuwa noted that It is obvious to the Union that the Office Accountant General is deliberately omitting their members from payment of Salaries and withholding check of dues as a ploy for victimization and coercion to enroll ASUU members into IPPIS, "This plague has been evident across all Federal Universities in Nigeria since February, 2020. This to us is an outright act of ingratitude on the part of the Government for the sacrifices members of ASUU are making in order to establish a progressive nation. A clear case of punishing citizens for being patriotic."



Gov Ortom Upbraids Presidency Over Negative Comments on Kukah's Address to US Congress

By Isaac Kertyo, Makurdi

Benue State Governor Samuel Ortom has disclosed that the approach the Presidency has adopted in engaging Nigerians on issues would aggravate the myriad of challenges bedeviling the country.

Ortom who lampooned the Presidency for making inflammatory comments over Rev Matthew Hassan Kukah's address to United States Congress on Foreign Affairs during the weekend, argued that Bishop Kukah is not the first Nigerian to address Foreign audience regarding security situation in Nigeria.

He noted that in 2015 President Muhammadu Buhari was the candidate of the All Progressives Congress when he delivered a speech in London where he disclosed that Boko Haram has put Nigeria on the terrorists map killing more than 13,000 of the country's Nationals.

The Governor pointed out that if the man seeking to govern the country could give such statistics why would his aides now launch media attack on a clergyman who is drawing the attention of the global community to the plight of helpless Nigerians.

Ortom urged the Presidency to listen to the voices of the citizens and resist the temptation of silencing those who have genuine love for the country and are contributing for the peace and Unity of the nation.

He contended that the presidency may not be aware that Nigerians are facing harsh economic conditions and many are being killed by bandits, Herdsmen and other terrorists groups because those saddled with the responsibility of telling it the truth have refused to do so.

Again, FG Extends NIN-SIM Verification Deadline To October

The Federal Government has approved the extension of the deadline for the National Identification Number (NIN)-SIM data verification to October 31.

This was disclosed in a statement jointly signed by the Head, Corporate Communications, Nigeria Identity Management, Mr Kayode Adegoke and Dr. Ikechukwu Adinde of the Nigerian Communications Commission, on Saturday.

They said the decision to extend the deadline was made following a request by stakeholders to accommodate registration in hard-to-reach remote areas, foreigners and diplomatic missions, diaspora and address low enrolments in schools and hospitals, as evidenced by enrolment statistics.

It also followed a review of the progress of the exercise which indicated significant progress hence the need to consolidate the gains of the enrolment and NIN-SIM verification process across the

country.

"As at July 24th, 2021, there are over 5,500 enrolment systems within and outside the country and this would significantly ease the NIN enrolment process and subsequent linkage of NIN to SIM," the statement read.

"The administration of His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, has approved the extension as part of efforts to make it easier for its citizens within and outside the country, and legal residents to obtain the NIN and it is important to take advantage of the extension.

"The NIN-SIM linkage also makes it easier for the security agencies to carry out their statutory duties and the relevant parastatals under the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy are supporting them as required".

According to the statement there are now a total of 59.8 million unique NIN enrolments with an average of three to four SIMs per

NIN.

It also noted that the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, on behalf of the Federal Government, commended the Kano State government and other states that have made NINs a key requirement for school enrolments and access to other important services.

He thanked Nigerians for what he described as their patience and compliance with the directive on the NIN-SIM registration exercise so far.

Similarly, the Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission, Prof Umar Garba Dambatta, and the Director-General/CEO of that National Identity Management Commission, Engr Aliyu Azeez, have urged citizens and legal residents to make sure they use the opportunity to complete the process of enrolment and verification before the October 31 deadline.

Emotional reactions as bandits free 28 Bethel Baptist Students



Parents of the 121 kidnapped students of Bethel Baptist High School, Kaduna wept profusely when 28 of the abductees were released after 20 days in bandits' den. The parents, who could not control their emotions, as they were reunited with their frail and sick-looking children, said the last 20 days were traumatic for their respective families. One of them Mrs. Esther Joseph, who thought her only child was not among the 28 freed students, fainted severally but was resuscitated by well-wishers. Bandits invaded the school on July 5, 2021 and abducted 121 students. Six of the students were released in three batches before the current release.

The newly released students, who were of varying ages across different classes from JSS 1 to SSS 3, were looking frail. Some were limping and had to be supported by their joyous parents. Narrating his traumatic experience during his daughter's stay in captivity,

Mr. Danboyi Bege, said he almost lost his life. He said he was not sure whether his daughter was going to return alive. He said her daughter, Louis, was kidnapped the day she was to start her NECO examinations, adding that she celebrated her 16th birthday with the bandits. Bege said: "When they were abducted several thoughts went through my mind because thousands have gone and they killed them in the bush. "I was just living by the grace of God. One that usually keeps me awake in the night is whenever I think of where she is, which bush she was being kept now. I won't be able to sleep. But glory to God she is back."

Another parent, Hosea Garba Maisamari said: "It has not been easy since we received the report, even for a day. "The issue of ransom it is only the school management that can answer that but for us God has done it. He would continue his education in the school because this thing (kidnapping) happen

everywhere even in the house. Government should take precaution and address the issue." Danladi Badi was very happy after receiving his daughter, Ruth. He said: "I want to thank God because the only word on my lips now is gratitude to God who did it. Ruth was born April 8 2009 she is in JSS3. We are praying to God to grant us the release of the remaining students."

Ndas Adamu received his son, Destiny, said: "I am feeling very happy, feeling like a complete father after receiving my son. He is 10 years old. While he was away, I always prayed to God to because I believe he would live up to his name. "I don't know the process of their release maybe ransom was paid or not but I believe God did His wonders. "The God that has started the work will complete it to ensure the release of the remaining students. Our prayer would continue without ceasing, He owned all of us including the kidnappers."

Bandits shoots 2 dead in a moving vehicle on Abuja-Kaduna highway

By Gabriel Udeh, Kaduna

Bandits have reportedly open fire on a moving commercial vehicle on Abuja-Kaduna highway, killing two occupants. Those killed instantly includes the driver and a passenger of a V/Wagen car with Katsina state plate No. MKA56XA. Details about the other passengers are yet to be ascertained, eyewitness however believe that they were shot by bandits as the dead people were found soaked in a pool of their blood on their seats in the car by good samaritans playing the road. Eyewitness said the incident occurred on Saturday at daytime around 5pm.

Three kidnapped Bethel High School Kaduna killed for resisting rape

By Gabriel Udeh

Three kidnapped female students of Bethel Baptist secondary school Kaduna have been reportedly killed by the bandits.

A parent disclosed this to a spiritual father and Priest of St Mary Catholic Church, Kaduna. The priest who disclosed the information in a sermon during church service on Sunday in Kaduna.

Said they were killed for resisting attempt to be rapped.

He said one of them who vehemently resisted attempt to rape her told the bandits that she is a virgin, in the process the bandits shot three of them to dead. According to him ,the bandit, out of provocation decided to sacrificed the three students to send fears to the rest.

The Priset who prayed for the soul of the departed students and the safety of the survived ones, further confirmed that the incident occurred on Friday.

News

Nigeria's problem not religious, ethnicity

—Lai Mohammed

For the umpteenth time, the Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed has stressed that the challenges facing the country is neither ethnicity nor religion.

The minister said some elements in the country were exacerbating ethnic and religious differences to tear the country apart for their selfish reasons.

Mohammed spoke in Abuja on Saturday at the Book presentation and 75th birthday celebration of Dr Bamigboye Ogunbiyi, a re-known obstetrician and Gynaecologist.

Daybreak reports that Ogunbiyi who hail from Ilofa in Kwara state is the husband to Justice Clara Ogunbiyi, a retired Supreme Court Justice from Borno.

Unveiling the autobiography titled, "Ripples of Grace", the minister said the things that unite the country were more and significant than those things that the divisive elements were escalating for disunity.

He said the foundation for national unity had been built a long time ago by the nation's forefathers and what the people needed to do was to sustain it.

Mohammed gave three personal experiences to buttress his position including his days and that of the celebrant at the Government College, Keffi which he described as "a great model for the unity of Nigeria".

"From the book, we learnt that the celebrant attended Federal Government College (FGC), Keffi and that is why I am not surprised he ended up marrying Justice Clara from Borno.

"In Keffi, we were taught at a very young age that this country is one and the same and that religion, ethnicity and social status do not matter but rather one's academic prowess," he said.

Mohammed who said Ogunbiyi was his senior in FGC, stressed that in his time, only the very best from the 13 Provinces in the North made it to the college and not by any other consideration.

The minister noted that the school was a leveler where children of peasants mixed freely with the children of the rich, adding that Christian students fasted along with those of them who were Muslims during the Ramadan.

He implored Nigerians to emulate and revive the 'Keffi spirit de-emphasising ethnicity, religion and social status and co-exist as Nigerians."

The minister also gave another instance when he used the premises of St Andrews Catholic Church, Oro, his hometown for Ramadan lectures for three consecutive years.

"This is a shining example of religious harmony and peaceful co-existence that we know in Nigeria.

"For three years, a Church making its premises available free of charge for the annual Ramadan lecture.

"This is contrary to the acrimony and mutual suspicion that many religious leaders are promoting



Lai Muhammed

today.

"The lesson from this is that the religious disharmony that is being propagated today by some religious leaders is avoidable, and that adherents of the two major religions do not have to be enemies," he said.

Mohammed also gave a similar account when a Church in the heart of Lagos had to shift its Sunday service forward to enable Muslim faithful celebrate Sallah when the

date fell on a Sunday.

"I have been living in GRA, Ikeja, Lagos, for almost 25 years and during annual Eid-el-Fitr and Eid-el-Kabir, we, the Muslims always have our open prayers at Arch Bishop Vining Memorial Church belonging to Anglican Communion.

"There was a particular year, Eid-el-Kabir fell on a Sunday when the venue will also be used for the usual Christian service.

"With this development, we all agreed that we should come very early to pray so as not to disrupt the church service.

"To our surprise, the management of Vining Memorial Cathedral rescheduled their own Sunday service to noon after we would have left the place.

"I have not seen better example of religious tolerance in Nigeria," he said.

Speaking in the same vein, Prof. Emeritus, Nimi Briggs from University of Port-Harcourt said in spite of all the challenges facing the country, Nigeria was not a failed state and should not be allowed to be one.

Briggs who is the Guest speaker at the event said: "Several Nations have had worse experiences and have returned to the path of rectitude.

"We should be encouraged by their outcome because humans are remarkably good at meeting the challenges of their environment and Nigeria will meet and overcome its present predicaments.

"What we are experiencing these days has inherited various behavioural adaptation that proved useful to previous generations".

On his part, the Chairman of the occasion and former Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole described the celebrant as a bridge builder and an epitome of Nigeria unity.

He said besides having the best time of his practice in Kaduna and Borno, Ogunbiyi established a top-rated hospital, Nakowa Specialist Hospital in Maiduguri where he married from.

Other dignitaries who spoke glowingly of the celebrants were Borno Governor, Prof. Babagana Zulum represented by his Deputy, Umar Kadafar, Serving Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Mary Odili and former Minister of FCT, Mohammed Abba-Gana also from Borno.

In his speech, the celebrant said he was convinced that Nigeria would remain one indivisible nation where cultural, ethnic and religious diversity would be recognised, respected and harnessed.

Ogunbiyi said cross-cultural marriage should be used as a tool of national unity and one of the powerful ways national diversity could be harnessed.

"I remain a veritable example of this conviction having married a woman from Borno, a distance of more than 1,000km from my hometown, Ilofa, Kwara."

He noted that Borno where he had served for 40 years was not synonymous with Boko Haram insurgency.

Ogunbiyi testified that the people of Borno "are good, hospitable and the state is open to investors both indigenous and foreign alike."

NYSC DG tasks corps members on advocacy of environmental hygiene

From Leo Nzwaneke, Lafia

Brig. Gen. Shuaibu Ibrahim, Director General, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has urged corps members across the country to advocate the importance of environmental hygiene to their host communities.

He stated this at the flag off of the 2021 NYSC National Environmental Sanitation Exercise held in Lafia, Nasarawa state capital on Saturday.

Daybreak news reports that the theme of the 2021 exercise is "Environment/Good Hygiene: Panacea for good health and Long life."

In his address, the NYSC DG represented by Mr Abdullahi Jikamshi, Coordinator of the scheme in Nasarawa state said environmental sanitation has been recognized globally as one of the key requirements for prevention of diseases and their escalation to epidemic proportion.

He said given the importance of environmental sanitation, corps members are expected to advocate the importance of constant sanitation and good hygiene to members of their host communities so as prevent outbreak of diseases that can be easily prevented.

"Efforts must be stepped up to enlighten the general public, especially rural dwellers on the

health risks of poor hygiene with particular focus on the prevention of contamination of food, water and the entire environment," he said.

He explained that the call to action will promote cooperation and reduce indifference, making reference to the robust response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic with awareness creation, vigilance, and community policing becoming everyone's business.

"We can no longer be indifferent to anything that will be detrimental to public health and safety," he said.

Ibrahim noted that during the nationwide medical outreaches recently conducted on the platform of NYSC Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers (HIRD), most ailments diagnosed and treated were as a result of poor hygiene.

"They include chronic diarrhoea, dental caries (tooth decay), head/body lice, ringworm, dysentery, typhoid, polio, scabies trachoma, Hepatitis A and malaria amongst others.

"Therefore, efforts must be made to save many more lives by empowering the people with adequate information on good grooming and environmental hygiene," he said.

He then listed the focus of the sensitization efforts to the corps members to include: regular environmental sanitation on a fortnight basis, proper disposal

of human and animal waste, protection of food and water from contamination, good grooming on regular basis.

Others are community policing to enforce clean environment and proper waste disposal, regular hand wash and need to avoid frequent touch of the eyes, nose and mouth to minimize the spread of viruses, bacteria, germs, and infections.

"The public will be further educated on: decontamination of food due to exposure, disinfection of the environment, handling of toxic materials, susceptibility and risky habits, how best to handle bush burning and tree planting to support health ecosystem," he said.

The NYSC DG added "It is heart warming that communities benefitted from the NYSC HIRD. We will not rest on our oars as we continue to offer health and other services including environmental protection."

In an interview with newsmen, Jikamshi reiterated the NYSC DG's stand that the exercise was not just for the corps members to come out for sanitation but to go back and sensitize their various communities on the importance of exercise.

"The aim of this exercise is also to sensitize the communities that keeping our environment clean is keeping our bodies healthy. After the HIRD medical outreach conducted in the state recently, we collected

statistics.

"What we discovered is that most of the ailments treated are ailments that with a clean environment won't be there. We have corps members in all the communities in Nasarawa state, especially you can find a secondary school.

"So if the corps members can take the message down to their host communities, definitely, the entire state will be covered and environment friendly and clean," he said

He then revealed that the exercise was being carried out in all the local government areas and development areas of the state simultaneously.

According to report, the corps members swept and cleared wastes in the markets and at motor parks in Lafia metropolis.



NYSC DG, Brig. Gen. Shuaibu



Igboho



Bichi



Malami

Igboho Sues DSS, Malami for N500b

The embattled Yoruba nation campaigner, Sunday Adeyemo a.k.a. Igboho yesterday made good his threat to sue the federal authorities over the July 2 raid of his Sooka, Ibadan residence by operatives of the Department of State Security (DSS).

Igboho filed a suit at the Oyo State High Court, Ibadan, against the DSS and the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Abubakar Malami (SAN), seeking N500 billion damages.

He is praying the court for an order for the enforcement of his fundamental human right.

The suit was filed on a day one of his counsel dismissed as untrue speculations that a Beninese passport was found on the activist.

Besides, a Federal High Court in Abuja yesterday ordered the Department of State Services (DSS) to produce before it on Thursday, July 29, 2021, 12 associates of Igboho who were arrested during the July 2 raid of his Ibadan residence.

Igboho's suit, according to his lawyers, derived from the fundamental human rights (Enforcement Procedure Rules 2009) and under the inherent jurisdiction of the court as preserved by Section 6 of the 1999 Constitution.

During the security raid of the plaintiff's residence, two of his aides were shot dead while 14 others were arrested. The DSS has paraded the suspects and ammunition which they allegedly recovered from the house.

But the embattled campaigner, who is currently standing trial in Cotonou, Benin Republic, denied that he kept ammunition in his house, saying the armed law enforcers must have come with the said ammunition.

In the suit, Igboho, through his lawyer Chief Yomi Aliu (SAN), is seeking orders declaring the invasion as a violation of his fundamental human right, and destruction of his property as a violation of his fundamental right to peacefully own property and wealth.

He wants N500 billion as compensation.

The sum was described as "exemplary and/or aggravated damages for breaching the applicant's fundamental rights in the course of illegal and/or malicious invasion of his residence situate, lying and being at Igboho Villa, No.1, Dalag Street, Off Soka Bus Stop, Soka Area, Off Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Ibadan."

Igboho is also asking the court for a declaration that it was "oppressive, malicious, arbitrary and grossly unconstitutional for the 2nd & 3rd respondents to invade" his residence lying and being at Igboho Villa, 1, Dalag Street, Off Soka Bus Stop, Soka Area, Off Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Ibadan "without announcing who they were and ask the applicant to open his gate but rather shot their way through killing two people including an elderly Imam doing Tahjud (night vigil), shooting at cars thereby destroying them and not sparing animals like cats and dogs in total violation of the intendments of the Fundamental Human Rights' provision in CFRN, 1999 and African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement), Act, LFN 2010 protecting the dignity of human person, sanctity of human life and privacy of citizens and their homes."

The plaintiff urged the court to declare that the respondents' resolve in preventing him from "propagating his belief in association with other like minds in creating a Yoruba Nation and/or Oduduwa Republic for his Indigenous Yoruba People and hunting him with gun with a view to arresting him dead or alive when he has not called for war in achieving same is against his fundamental rights to freedom of thought, conscience and association since campaign for self-determination is recognised by Nigerian Law and international treaties of organisations to which Nigeria belongs."

He prayed the court for an injunction restraining the respondents from arresting, harassing or disturbing him in any way that can violate his fundamental human rights.

Igboho had, soon after the raid, demanded an apology from the DSS and payment of N500 million as damages for destroying his Ibadan residence during the midnight raid.

His lawyer had, in a statement entitled 'Illegal and Grossly Unconstitutional Invasion' declared that his client has "always preached peace and warned his followers never to have recourse to violence, saying that 'it is God and alale (ancestors) that will fight for Yoruba Nation.'"

He said: "There is nowhere in the civilised world that a citizen who had no prior invitation by security agent or had resisted arrest will be so invaded with his rights to dignity of human

persons, ownership of property and sanctity of life trampled upon during the invasion.

"No demand to enter was made but rather they shot their way into the house allegedly killing seven people, though a DSS spokesman admitted killing two people."

Igboho arrested with Nigerian, German passports, says lawyer

One of Igboho's counsel, Ibrahim David Salami, yesterday dismissed as untrue speculations that a Beninese passport was found on the activist.

Salami told BBC Yoruba in Cotonou that only Nigerian and German passports were found in his possession at the time of his arrest last Monday while on his way to Frankfurt.

Earlier reports had suggested that Igboho was being quizzed by the Beninese authorities partly on account of that country's passport he carried at the time of his arrest.

"No Beninese passport was found on Sunday Igboho when he was arrested," Salami said.

He added: "What was found on him were Nigerian and German passports."

"His wife had her German passport at the point of arrest."

Following the bloody raid on Igboho's Sooka residence, the Department of State Services arrested and detained 13 of Igboho's associates, adding that during a "gun duel," it had killed two of Igboho's supporters later identified as Adogan and Alfa.

DSS had presented seven AK-47 rifles allegedly recovered during the raid on Igboho's house on July 1, as well as three pump-action guns, 30 fully charged AK-47 magazines, 5,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, five cutlasses, one jack-knife, one pen knife, two pistol holsters, a pair of binoculars, a wallet containing \$5, local and international driving licences in his name, ATM cards, a German residence permit No. YO2N6K1NY bearing his name, two whistles, 50 cartridges and 18 walkie-talkies.

Others were three charm jackets/traditional body armour, two laptops, one Toshiba and one Compaq laptop, Igboho's passport and those of his aides.

Hearing in Igboho's case in Cotonou is scheduled to resume on Monday.

The Court on Thursday evening ordered that he be remanded in the custody of Brigade Criminelle in Cotonou pending the submission of charges by the Nigerian government.

Bandits attacks Divisional Police Hqtrs in Kaduna

By Gabriel Udeh, Kaduna

Heavily armed bandits have launched an attacks on a Divisional Police Headquarters on Maraban Jos in Igabi local government area of Kaduna State.

A statement signed by spokesman of Kaduna State police command Asp Muhammed Jalige averred that one Inspector and two Special Constabulary personnel sustained varying degrees of injuries during the attacks and are currently receiving medical treatment. Police also disclosed that some of the Bandits left with bullets wound from gun duel.

"On the 23th July, 2021 at 2300hrs, there was an attack on Maraban Jos Divisional Police Headquarters where bandits in large number came in three Sharon utility vehicles and in their desperate attempt to override the personnel on duty shot sporadically in order to gain access into the Divisional amoury but met professional and stiffer resistance

from the personnel on duty.

"The gun duel between the bandits and the Station Guards lasted for some minutes however; the superior and tactical fire power of the Police forced the bandits to retreat of which some have sustained fatal bullet wounds. "The Operatives were able to secure the amoury, the entire Station and other adjoining facilities at the Division.

Sadly, one Inspector and two Special Constabulary personnel sustained varying degrees of injuries and are currently receiving medical treatment. Investigation into the incident has since commenced using the available evidence recovered from the scene as effort is geared towards apprehending the fleeing hoodlums.

"In view of the above incident the Commissioner of Police Kaduna Command issued a stan directive to all Officers of the Command to ensure that proactive measures are emplaced to protect all Police facilities in the state and forestall the repeat of the ugly incident", it stated.

Passengers escape death as plane crashes in Ilorin Airport

Many passengers, including some highly-placed Nigerians, narrowly escaped death after an aircraft belonging to Air Peace crashed around 9.30am on Friday morning upon landing in Ilorin from Abuja.

The plane had tyre burst and a bang which affected the cabin with luggage falling on passengers. It

was gathered with the impact of the crash, the plane could not taxi to the tarmac.

The incident has forced authorities of the airport to close the runway of the airport and cancel all flights.

No official statements have been released from the Federal Aviation Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and other aviation regulatory agencies.

28 Abducted Bethel Baptist Students Regain Freedom

28 more abducted students of the Bethel Baptist Secondary School in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State have regained their freedom.

The students were found inside the Tsoho Gaya Forest in Chikun Local Government Area of the state in the early hours of Sunday.

It is not clear whether the bandits released them for ransom or they were rescued by security operatives or escaped by themselves.

Three of the students were rescued by police operatives some days ago at a location also in Chikun Local Government Area and were later taken to a police medical facility for medical checks.

121 students of Bethel Baptist secondary school in Chikun local government area of Kaduna state were abducted from their hotels by bandits on July 8.

The bandits later demanded a ransom of ₦60 ransom for the release of the students.

Armed kidnappings for ransom along highways, and from homes and businesses now make almost daily newspaper headlines in Africa's most populous country.

But mass school abductions have soared this year, with almost 1,000 students kidnapped, according to UNICEF. Most are released after negotiations but many are still being held in forest hideouts like the Bethel pupils.

The list of missing from Bethel makes heartbreaking reading: 121 names, the oldest 19, the youngest just 10. Most are under 15.

"I am a mother and I would not like anybody to take my child away from me for one day. Imagine the trauma," Hassana Ayuba, whose daughter Judith was taken.

"The children are harmless, the children did not offend anybody."

The attack has devastated the tightly-knit, religiously faithful community. At the school, parents hold daily hours-long prayers and vigils and call for President Muhammadu Buhari to help free the children.

By Zhong Sheng



Perspective

Politics over lives - primary reason for Washington's failure in pandemic control

Everyone knows that origin-tracing of COVID-19 is a matter of science. However, Washington is still resorting to politics, trying to blame others for its own incompetence in pandemic control by slandering other countries.

Unfortunately, passing the buck brings not a single change to the fact that the U.S. public is paying a huge price for the inaction and misconduct of the White House.

The U.S. always brags that it owns the richest medical resources and the strongest medical care capability in the world, but its performance in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is awfully terrible, which makes it the country that sees the most confirmed cases and deaths in the world.

Even American experts believe, upon in-depth analysis on the control work of the U.S., that it was some U.S. politicians who set politics above science and private political gains above people's health that led to the failure of the pandemic control in the country. The situation could've not been so bad if the White House coped with the virus respecting science.

American epidemiologist and former head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention William Foege called the failure of the U.S. in pandemic control a "slaughter."

When the earliest cases of the novel coronavirus were just reported, the then administration in the White House not only ignored scientists' warning, but also concealed information about the virus and even released fake messages to misguide the public. It called the virus a "flu," claiming that the virus has low infection and fatality rates, and said that "One day it's like a miracle, it will disappear."

Under such circumstances, the "golden window" period for infectious disease prevention and control was wasted.

An article published on New York Times in July 2020 commented that then American leader's "preference for following his gut rather than the data cost time, and perhaps lives." Even though the pandemic was spreading

recklessly in the U.S., making the latter a global "leader" in the number of confirmed cases and deaths, the U.S. government was still taking down the importance of wearing masks out of political calculation.

In an editorial, the New England Journal of Medicine criticized that American leaders have largely chosen to ignore and even denigrate experts, which made the country fail at almost every step and turned a crisis into a tragedy.

Till today, political game and party conflicts are still hindering the pandemic control of the U.S. Recently, the daily numbers of confirmed cases, patients hospitalized and deaths resurged in the U.S., which health experts

say has a close relation with some politicians who encouraged the public to reject vaccination.

The Milwaukee Independent stressed in an article that political struggles have turned the response to the pandemic into a war against objectors, which would only waste lives, delay progress in controlling the pandemic and exacerbate the pain.

CNN said in a recent report that the consistent efforts of U.S. political leaders to extract political interests from the pandemic continue, and the attention-grabbing actions of some politicians would only add to the suffering of American people.

During the test of the once-

in-a-century pandemic, some American politicians have placed politics, votes, and capital above the lives and health of the people, which fully indicated that the so-called democracy and human rights are totally worthless to them. This is clear to both the Americans and the international society, and can never be covered by blame game.

Professor of medicine David Hayes-Bautista at UCLA pointed out that there should have been less deaths in the U.S., but the inaction of the government led to a tragedy.

According to a poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, most of the U.S. citizens believe the U.S. government shall be held accountable for the crisis.

The consequences of some U.S. politicians ignoring science and resorting to political manipulation and blame game are shouldered by American citizens. At present, the pandemic is still rampant around the world, but these politicians are still applying their same old tricks.

How many evil consequences will they bring? What an explanation can the White House give to the American citizens and the international society? But one thing is certain that Washington will eat his own bitter fruits of its evil practices.

(Zhong Sheng is a pen name often used by People's Daily to express its views on foreign policy.)



Lagos NURTW generates N123bn annually – Report

The Lagos chapter of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, locally called agberos, generates about N123.08bn annually, which could service the annual budget of Nasarawa, Niger, and Yobe states put together, a statistical report by the International Centre for Investigative Report has shown.

The data, which was released on Thursday, showed that the money was realised through levies on passenger vehicles, motorcycles and tricycles.

Other sources of income not included in the report were money levied on hawkers, articulated vehicles, and persons who visited certain markets to buy goods.

The report recorded a total of 75,000 buses; 50,000 tricycles; and 37,000 motorcycles.

It showed that on a daily basis, N3,000, N600, and N1,800 were levied on buses, motorcycles, and tricycles respectively.

These levies sum up to N82.1bn for buses; N8.1bn for motorcycles; and N32.9bn for tricycles yearly; making a total of N123.078bn

yearly.

Speaking on how the union could generate such money, a close associate of the NURTW who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said, “It is a highly connected and well-organised syndicate.

“Take Idumota, for example; some agberos work in the office, others work on the streets; some work in the morning, some are constantly on afternoon shifts.

“Some also have days that they work. Although, there is a fixed price, the rule of the game is that the agberos charge the drivers based on the amount they charge the passengers.”

He added that in Idumota, there were over seven chairmen who get deliveries from the boys that work on the streets.

“The boys have delivery targets, which is the reason they act rudely to drivers and passengers alike,” he added.

He narrated further that to work with them, one must know one NURTW chairman or another renowned hoodlum on the street.



MC Oluomo

He mentioned the case of a young man who went to Badagry to get diabolic fortifications so that he could be effective on the job.

A passenger, Emmanuel Francis, expressed concerns over the activities of NURTW members.

He urged the Federal Government to regulate their activities.

When contacted, a spokesperson for the Lagos Internal Revenue Service, Monsurat Amasa, said she could not comment on the amount the NURTW generates, but added that as a part of the informal sector, the body pays taxes to the government.

Nigeria's Secret Police Operatives Take Over Federal High Court, Abuja Ahead of Nnamdi Kanu's Trial

Kanu is standing trial before Justice Binta Nyako for charges bordering on terrorism, treasonable felony, illegal possession of arms, among others levelled against him by the Nigerian government.

Operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) have taken over the premises of the Federal High Court, Maitama in Abuja ahead of the trial of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu, on Monday.

Kanu is standing trial before Justice Binta Nyako for charges bordering on terrorism, treasonable felony, illegal

possession of arms, among others levelled against him by the Nigerian government.

A detachment of hooded armed officers was seen stationed at the entrance of the court with motorbikes and vehicles preventing human and vehicular movements into the area.

The operatives took over the surroundings of the court and the Ministry of Justice building, down to Abia State Government's liaison office, preventing people from accessing the area.

Those who lodged in hotels in the area were prevented from moving in and out of the hotels as the officers insisted that they were on a special operation in

the area and appealed to them for understanding.

The situation, however, led to an altercation as some affected persons engaged the operatives and insisted on going to their hotel rooms.

It is not clear if the operatives will allow those working in the area to have access to their offices on Monday.

Meanwhile, supporters of the detained IPOB leader have vowed to storm the court to show solidarity with their leader.

Kanu has been in DSS custody since he was abducted in Kenya and extradited to Nigeria, after his brief appearance before Justice Binta Nyako on June 30.



Cholera Kills 325, Afflicts 14,343 In 6 Months

Cholera has claimed 325 lives in six months with 14,343 suspected cases reported in 16 states.

The latest cholera situation report of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) showed that the affected states as at June 27 were Benue, Delta, Zamfara, Gombe, Bayelsa, Kogi, Sokoto, Bauchi, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Kebbi, Cross River, Niger, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Nasarawa.

The report said there was an increase in the number of new cases in the last two weeks of June, adding that “Zamfara with 191 cases, Bauchi 2163 cases, Kano 891 cases, Kaduna 129 cases, and Plateau, 82, account for 95.2% of 3,543 cases reported in the last two weeks.”

Findings by Daybreak revealed that the cases and deaths have been rising and spreading to more states since then

For instance, fatalities from cholera in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have risen to 60, the FCT Minister of State, Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu said

yesterday.

According to the NCDC, cholera is an acute diarrhoea disease caused by a bacteria called vibrio cholera. It is a potentially life-threatening, and primarily a water-borne disease.

The bacteria is transmitted mainly through the faeco-oral, that is by the ingestion of contaminated food or water and its transmission is closely linked to inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

Symptoms of cholera include nausea and vomiting, dehydration which can lead to shock, kidney injury and sudden death, the passage of profuse pale and milky, watery stool (rice watercoloured), and body weakness.

It could also come with intense thirst and decrease in urine quantity, with or without abdominal pain, and with or without fever.

Doctors say many affected persons may not manifest symptoms or may develop a milder form of the disease but will still remain carriers spreading the disease.

Court orders DSS to produce detained Igboho's aides in court

A Federal High Court, Abuja, has ordered the Department of State Services (DSS) to produce the 12 detained associates of Yoruba nation activist, Sunday Adeyemo, aka Sunday Igboho, before it on July 29.

Justice Obiora Egwuatu gave the order after Counsel to the applicants, Pelumi Olajengbesi, moved the ex-parte motion marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/647/2021 dated July 7 and filed July 8. Egwuatu also ordered the Nigeria's secret police to come and show course why the applicants should not be granted bail.

The judge also granted the plea of

the applicant, through the affidavit of urgency filed, on why the matter should be heard expeditiously irrespective of the imminent court vacation.

Daybreak recalls that at least a dozen of Igboho's associates were arrested and detained by the DSS on July 1 after a raid on Igboho's residence in the Soka area of Ibadan, the Oyo State capital.

The DSS also said that it “gunned down” two of the activist's associates during a “gun duel” which Igboho narrowly escaped.

He was later declared wanted for allegedly stockpiling arms, an allegation he denied.

Sunday Igboho reportedly seeks asylum in Benin Republic

Yoruba nation agitator, Sunday Adeyemo popularly known as Sunday Igboho, has reportedly filed for asylum in Benin republic.

Igboho was arrested on Monday, July 19, while he and his wife, Ropo, were making plans to fly to Germany. He was charged and arraigned in court for attempting to fly with a fake Beninese passport.

A source who is close to the agitator says he has filed for an application to be a political refugee in Benin republic.

“He (Igboho) was already at the airport with a passport. The immigration officers suspected his passport to be fake and so they stopped him. A passport was allegedly forged for Igboho in the Benin Republic for the purpose of the Germany trip.

At the airport, they discovered he was the one. Igboho has already applied for asylum in Germany and he hopes to file a similar application in Benin Republic in the coming days,” the source stated.

By Farooq A. Kperogi

In Nigeria, once lies and historical myths take roots, they are almost always impossible to uproot. But the stubborn persistence of lies is no reason to give up on correcting them. Find below 10 oft-repeated lies with the most staying power in Nigeria.

1. That the Nigerian government banned history in secondary schools.

In the last few years, the claim that the Nigerian government “banned history” from the national curriculum has become a hackneyed, predictable refrain, and is often uttered in moments of displays of historical ignorance, especially by young people. But this refrain is both dishonest and inaccurate. History was never a mandatory subject at any point in Nigeria’s history. It was always optional before it was discontinued in 2012 because of progressively dwindling student enrollment.

History and government were offered as alternatives to each other for students. That is, you enrolled in either history or government but not both. Most students chose government, which caused the ministry of education to discontinue offering history.

Nevertheless, even the secondary school history curriculum that students were taught was deficient, poorly focused, and incapable of nurturing the sort of historical knowledge that is indispensable to national self-fashioning. At some point, in fact, history and government curricula were barely distinguishable.

2. That Futa Jallon in Guinea is the “ancestral home” of the Fulani.

This fallacy is popular in southern Nigerian intellectual circles. But linguistic evidence shows that the provenance of the Fulani is traceable to what is now Senegal. In his 1971 article titled “West Atlantic: An Inventory of the Languages, their Noun-Class Systems and Consonant Alternation,” Emeritus Professor David Sapi, son of famous linguist Professor Edward Sapi, found that the closest language to Fulfulde in the world is Serer, Senegal’s third largest ethnic group (after Wolof and Fulani). Serer is a Niger-Congo language like most languages in West Africa. (Léopold Sédar Senghor, Senegal’s first president who is famous for Negritude, was Serer).

Linguists have also found a smattering of Berber words in Fulfulde, which gave rise to the theory that the Fulani are the product of the ethnic fusion of North African Berber and Serer people around Senegambia. The Fulani populated Futa Jallon only in the 17th century and met the Jalonke people there.

3. That Wole Soyinka had a third-class degree from the University of Ibadan.

There are two lies in this claim. The first lie is that Soyinka got a Third-Class degree. No, he earned an Upper Second-Class honors degree. The second lie is that he graduated from the University of Ibadan. He actually graduated from the University of Leeds in the UK.

He started his undergraduate studies at the then University College, Ibadan, but transferred to the University of Leeds after only two years at Ibadan. He spent another two years at Leeds to earn his BA in English Literature. Soyinka and his classmates at the University College Ibadan have repeatedly denied that he graduated from Ibadan and that he earned a Third-Class degree. But the



Top 10 Popular Nigerian Lies with Enormous Staying Power

lies have taken firm roots and are now impossible to uproot.

4. That the American government predicted Nigeria’s break-up in 2015.

That’s a big fat lie. It’s true that a few private US think factories predicted that given the potentially contentious outcome of the 2015 election, there was reason to expect that Nigeria could be consumed by fratricidal in-fighting that could dissolve the union.

The most widely shared view on this was contained in a project by two Air War College students. Students in the school were given various world scenarios that could impact crude oil delivery to the US. They were then required to come up with strategies to get around this. One of the scenarios was the break-up of Nigeria. In other words, Nigerians created a “fact” out of a fictional, hypothetical college project.

5. That America calls itself “god’s own country.”

As I’ve pointed out in previous columns, America’s motto isn’t “God’s own country.” It is “In God we trust.” “God’s own country” is an old American English expression for one’s place of birth— or for a beautiful, forested rural area. The “country” in the expression refers to “rural area,” not a territory occupied by a nation.

It was usual in the past for rural, wooded small towns in America to welcome visitors with the inscription

“Welcome to God’s own country” on their signposts, which in modern English would be “welcome to our beautiful small town.” Some small towns in Texas (and elsewhere in the American South) still have those signs. Perhaps, that’s what caused Nigerians to assume that America’s motto is “God’s own country.”

6. That Sokoto calls itself “born to rule.”

At no point in history has Sokoto ever called itself “born to rule.” As I pointed out in my January 10, 2015 column titled “The Stubborn, Undying ‘Born to Rule’ Falsehood in Nigeria’s Political Discourse,” “Sokoto State’s official license-plate catchphrase from the beginning was and still is ‘Cibiyar daular usmaniyya,’ which is Hausa for the nucleus or the navel of the Usman Danfodio caliphate. The English version of the slogan has been rendered as ‘Seat of the Caliphate,’ which I think is a great idiomatic translation.”

7. That Usman Danfodiyo brought Islam to Nigeria.

No, he didn’t. The presence of Islam in Nigeria, as I pointed out previously, preceded the Usman Danfodio jihad by several centuries. What Danfodio did was to reform Islam where it already existed. And this happened only in the 19th century. The earliest record of Islamic presence in northern Nigeria (in the ancient Kanem- Borno Empire to be specific) dates back to the 9th century, that is, just two centuries away from the

birth of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula.

In Hausaland, Islam had been widespread since at least the 13th century, and in Borgu, Nupe land, Yoruba land, etc. from about the 14th century.

8. That northern Christians resisted Danfodio’s attempt to convert them to Islam.

This is a fusion of distinct historical memories. Usman Danfodio’s jihad did not seek to convert non-Muslims to Islam. Jihadists used non-Muslim areas as sources for slave labor. Since Islam forbids the enslavement of fellow Muslims, it wasn’t in the interest on the jihadists for surrounding non-Muslim areas to be converted to Islam. That would stop the source of cheap slave labor.

So, it would make more sense for northern Christians (who weren’t Christians at the time) to say their ancestors resisted slave raids. Their more modern ancestors resisted Ahmadu Bello’s attempts to convert them to Islam.

9. That the rise of the Alimi ruling dynasty in Ilorin is a direct outgrowth of the Usman Danfodio Jihad. Insights from the late Professor Abdullahi Smith’s writings (which are distilled from translations of the travel notes of Arab travelers who witnessed events in nineteenth-century “Nigeria”) tell us that the Ilorin jihad wasn’t a direct offshoot of the Usman Dan Fodio jihad.

Alimi, the progenitor of the current ruling family in Ilorin, was an itinerant Fulani preacher in Yoruba land whom Afonja volitionally invited to Ilorin. Afonja wanted Alimi to be his spiritual guardian (or “Alfa”) to ward off what he thought were the machinations of the Alaafin of Oyo with whom he was locked in long-drawn-out supremacy battles. After settling in Ilorin, many of Alimi’s Yoruba students from different parts of Yoruba land decided to follow him to his new home.

In time, Alimi grew so popular that Afonja feared that he would eclipse him, so he asked Alimi to leave, which caused frictions. This upheaval was coeval with, perhaps even inspired by, but was by no means the direct consequence of, the Usman Dan Fodio jihad. There is no greater evidence for this than the fact that Alimi and his disciples were not given the “flag” of the Sokoto Jihad until after at least three visits to Sokoto. They weren’t given the flag because they weren’t directly connected to the Sokoto jihad.

10. That money from the North funded oil exploration in the South. Northerners cherish this mysterious claim. But not a dime of northern Nigeria’s money contributed to oil exploration in the Niger Delta.

When oil was discovered in commercial quantities in Oloibiri in 1956, Shell bore the financial burden for the exploration. Other Euro-American oil companies later joined in oil exploration. It wasn’t until 1973 that the Nigerian federal government acquired 30 percent shares in oil companies. By 1973, Northern Nigeria had ceased to exist because it had been divided into states.

In any case, the South earned more money from palm oil, coal, and cocoa than the North did from groundnuts and cotton. If the colonial government of the 1950s were interested in using government funds to explore oil in the South, it would use the South’s money, not the North’s. But neither colonial governments nor immediate post-independence regional and federal governments invested in oil exploration.

Business & Economy

CBN to launch digital currency on Independence Day

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has announced that it will be announcing its own digital currency on October 1, 2021.

Nairametrics reported that the CBN alongside stakeholders picked Independence Day as its launch date.

According to the publication, CBN's IT Director, Rakiya Mohammed at the conclusion of the 306th Banker's Committee meeting, disclosed that the apex bank has been conducting research in regards to digital currencies since 2017 and may conduct a proof of concept before the end of this year.

The project name is tagged Project GIANT and it will use the Hyperledger Fabric Blockchain. Nigeria's central bank further revealed that the importance of eNaira includes Macro management and growth, cross border trade facilitation, financial inclusion, monetary policy effectiveness, improved payment efficiency, revenue tax collection, remittance improvement, and targeted social intervention.



Emeifele, CBN Governor

Nigerian banks are safe – CBN

The Central Bank of Nigeria has reiterated the resilience, safety and soundness of Nigerian Deposit Money Banks and other financial institutions under its supervision.

A statement on Saturday said that the Acting Director, Corporate Communications Department of the Bank, Osita Nwanisobi, said this in Abuja ahead of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting on Monday and Tuesday.

It stated that he said the Nigerian banking system had proved to be very sturdy in spite of the global challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, in response to certain false and unfounded

stories circulating in the social media attacking the soundness and safety of some Nigerian banks.

According to him, routine bank examination and stress test for financial institutions operating in the country indicated that no Deposit Money Bank licensed by the CBN was currently under any form of financial distress, adding that the banks had adequate capital to absorb unexpected losses that may arise.

In line with the bank's resolve to ensure adherence to prudential standards, Nwanisobi said the CBN continued to monitor the activities of banks in order to ensure that no individual or institution

breached the laid down guidelines.

He advised the banking public to disregard any report alleging insolvency in the Nigerian banking sector.

Nwanisobi reiterated the desire of the bank to prioritise financial inclusion as a measured approach to increase the number of adults included in financial services provided by banks in Nigeria.

He urged members of the banking public to take advantage of the services provided by the banks, particularly the intervention programmes initiated by the CBN, to enhance their economic status and contribute to overall national development.

World Bank says 50% of Nigerian youths want to leave the country

An increasing number of young Nigerians are looking to leave the country in search of a brighter economic future, according to the World Bank.

This was disclosed by the World Bank in a study titled "Of Roads Less Traveled: Assessing the Potential for Migration to Provide Overseas Jobs for Nigeria's Youth," which was released this week on its website.

Nigeria placed third in West Africa among the nations polled, trailing only Liberia (70 percent) and Sierra Leone (60 percent) in terms of respondents who would relocate permanently to another country.

Niger Republic was the lowest placed country in the study, coming

in at 10%.

"With rising migratory pressures created by poor employment conditions, Nigerians are increasingly choosing to migrate through irregular means," the Bank stated.

It went on to say that Nigerians were the largest group of migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa coming in Europe in 2016 and 2017, with almost 40,000 landing in Italy in 2016, with over 90% arriving by sea.

"A greater proportion of Nigerian migrants arriving in Italy were women (32 percent) than migrants from the rest of SSA (24 percent)," the banks stated

Part of the report also revealed

that while the number of asylum seekers from Nigeria has declined in recent years, this does not translate as decreased demand for migration from Nigeria. The drop in migration levels from Nigeria and other Sub-Saharan African countries to Europe is a result of tighter border control policies supported by the EU in transit countries such as Libya and Niger.

"However, the underlying economic and demographic factors that create migratory pressures are unlikely to subside in the near future, with other potential irregular routes being reported through Sudan and Chad to Libya" it noted.

Nigerian stocks leap higher on investors' rush for energy, consumer goods shares

Nigerian stocks heaped up further gain on Friday, swelling 0.21 per cent and deriving drive from investor exuberance for the shares of United Capital and those of energy and consumer goods firms notably Total, Oando, Ardova, Guinness, Unilever, Cadbury, Vitafoam and Dangote Sugar.

Also supporting gains was the

sweeping effect of a string of positive earnings news of firms like Cutix, United Capital and Total.

Tier 1 lender, Zenith, announced an interim dividend plan Friday, the same day its board endorsed its half-year audited financial report, which is to be issued anytime from now once the central bank's nod is in place. Zenith's shares gained 0.81 per cent following the news.

Market breadth, a measure of investors' sentiment in the market, was broadly positive, with 30 gainers emerging relative to 11 laggards.

The all-share index lifted 82.38 basis points to 38,667.90 points, while market capitalisation rose to N20.147 trillion.

Year to date, the index is down by 3.98 per cent.

Fintech CEO: With Nigerian foray into CBDC, all eyes still on inflation

This week, Rakiya Mohammed, IT Director for the Central Bank of Nigeria, announced during a webinar that the nation should launch its central bank digital currency by the end of the year, a project which has been under consideration since 2017. Across the region, both Ghana and South Africa have been working on CBDCs, and the Central Bank of Nigeria particularly noted that the country "could not be left behind..."

"In many ways, this is indeed a race. I've often called the battle to build a functional CBDC this generation's Race to Space,"

Richard Gardner, CEO of Modulus, a US-based developer of ultra-high-performance trading and surveillance technology that powers global equities, derivatives, and digital asset exchanges. "Perhaps more than any other country, Nigeria cannot afford to fall behind other regional players."

"While regulators talk about the digital currency as a tool to increase growth and lessen the burden of cross-border transfers, not to mention the upside to providing better financial access to the unbanked population, the reality is that Nigeria is plagued

with an inflation rate that is roughly 18%. I don't think that it would be overstating the issue to call inflation both a public health risk, as well as a national security risk, for the country," Gardner said.

"We've seen Nigeria take a hard line on cryptocurrencies, and it isn't any wonder why. Hard working Nigerians are desperately in search of a way to store value. They want their savings to afford them the same buying power next month as it does today. They've turned, en masse, to cryptocurrencies in order to protect themselves from sky-high inflation. That investment in

cryptocurrencies, however, has only further weakened the position of the Naira. They're in a tough position, for sure," opined Gardner.

Modulus is known throughout the financial technology segment as a leader in the development of ultra-high frequency trading systems and blockchain technologies. Over the past twenty years, the company has built technology for the world's most notable exchanges, with a client list which includes NASA, NASDAQ, Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, Barclays, Siemens, Shell, Yahoo!, Microsoft, Cornell

University, and the University of Chicago.

"There are lots of good reasons for countries to invest in building up their technology infrastructure and beta testing their own CBDC, but it can definitely be argued that few countries need to employ their CBDC more quickly than Nigeria. With a CBDC, they're hoping that their populace will move away from cryptocurrencies, in favor of their own digital currency, but I don't know that we'll see that play out. The reality is that the country will still be dealing with crippling inflation."



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Politics

Court orders DSS to produce detained Igboho's aides in court

A Federal High Court, Abuja, on Friday, ordered the Department of State Services (DSS) to produce the 12 detained associates of Yoruba nation activist, Sunday Adeyemo, aka Sunday Igboho, before it on July 29.

Justice Obiora Egwuatu gave the order after Counsel to the applicants, Pelumi Olajengbesi, moved the ex-parte motion marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/647/2021 dated July 7 and filed July 8. Egwuatu also ordered the Nigeria's secret police to come and show course why the applicants should not be granted bail.

The judge also granted the plea of the applicant, through the affidavit of urgency filed, on why the matter should be heard expeditiously irrespective of the imminent court vacation.

Daybreak recalls that at least a dozen of Igboho's associates were arrested and detained by the DSS on July 1 after a raid on Igboho's residence in the Soka area of Ibadan, the Oyo State capital.

The DSS also said that it "gunned down" two of the activist's associates during a "gun duel" which Igboho narrowly escaped.

He was later declared wanted for allegedly stockpiling arms, an allegation he denied.



Ogun Govt Orders Restricted movement Ahead of LG Poll

As the people of Ogun State go to the polls on Saturday to elect new Chairmen and councillors, the Ogun State Independent Electoral Commission (OGSIEC) has announced that movement would be restricted from 8am to 2pm tomorrow.

Consequent upon this, the Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, TRACE, vowed to enforce the restriction order on vehicular movement, in collaboration with other security agencies.

According to a release from the office of the

TRACE Corps Commander/Chief Executive, Cdr. 'Seni Ogunyemi, "all Area Commanders, Divisional Commanders, Unit Commanders and Head of Squads, have been put on red alert to synergize with other services in the scope of their command structure to ensure orderliness during and after the election period."

The TRACE officials were asked to scan, track and locate suspicious movement and provide adequate information on same, as witnessed on locations and on roads.

They are also to place on standby, rescue equipment, for quick response to emergency

traffic challenges before, during and after the election.

It is also the duty of the traffic officials to ensure that vehicles with voting materials get to their locations at the right time without hindrance.

TRACE urged the general public, particularly the voting public, to respect and uphold the rules and regulations guiding their movement and restricting vehicular movement to guarantee a hitch free and credible Local Government Election in the State.

Igboho risks 21 years imprisonment over Fake travelling documents

Sunday Adeyemo, a.k.a. Sunday Igboho may face 21 years imprisonment over the Beninese passport he tendered before his aborted trip.

Igboho and his wife, Ropo, were arrested on Monday at the Cadjehoun Airport in Cotonou.

The secessionist, wanted in Nigeria, was said to have presented a fake travelling document to Immigration officials in Benin.

On July 9, the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) announced that Igboho had been placed on stop-list.

NIS alerted Nigeria Police, Department of State Services (DSS) and National Intelligence Agency (NIA) that he was making efforts to acquire a new Nigerian passport as part of plans to flee.

As the authorities uncovered his strategy, Igboho, it was gathered, made arrangements for unofficial Beninese passport.

Igboho and Ropo were stopped on their way to Germany after security operatives discovered gus real identity.

In an interview with BBC Yoruba, a lawmaker in Benin, Mr. Tolulase said the situation is not looking good for the agitator.

The legislator explained that though Benin is a small country, the laws are strictly enforced.

"On this passport issue, take me for instance, I'm from Benin but married an Ijebu woman. We have five kids. She gave birth to two in Nigeria, three in

Benin.

"Only the three have Beninese passport, the two others and my wife do not have. She can only apply if we marry legally in Benin.

"Even after the court wedding, the passport is not issued immediately. She will wait for some years and must go through the processes.

"The first thing you must have is National Identity Card. Now, if you're not a citizen, the only way you can get a passport is if you legally marry a Beninoise.

"You can see it's not easy. So, if you procure a fake one, you'll be uncovered because you don't have a National Identity Card. The details are linked.

"The card must have a family name. About three to five of your relatives must confirm to the government they know you and your early years.

"It is after they testify that the court will issue the card, which can then be used to apply for a passport. If such is doctored, the punishment is 21 years imprisonment. It's a serious offence.

"And it's not just the owner of the fake passport that will be prosecuted, all those who know about it will be charged to court.

"On Chief Sunday Igboho, the Beninese government will carry out a detailed investigation that will expose everyone involved in his passport obtainment", Tolulase said.

Meanwhile, lawyers for the Yoruba Nation advocate are fighting against his

extradition to Nigeria where he may face treason charges.

The federal government, its agencies and South-West governors remain silent on Igboho's ordeal.

Igboho's supporters within and outside Nigeria are calling for his unconditional release, insisting self-determination isn't a crime.

President, Women Arise and Centre for Change, Joe Okei-Odumakin, has appealed to the Beninoise government not to repatriate Igboho.

She said Igboho cannot be assured of safety or justice in Nigeria and "will come to grief if he is extradited under the prevailing circumstances".



Igboho

Ebonyi 2023: There will be 'fight' over my successor if – Gov. Umahi

Gov. David Umahi of Ebonyi, on Sunday, has said there will only be bickering over the choice of his successor in 2023 if he decided to act alone.

Umahi stated this at Christ Embassy Church, Abakaliki, during a special thanksgiving service to mark his 58th birthday.

The governor therefore expressed confidence that anytime he called leaders in the state to choose his successor, there would not be any fight.

"There will, however, be fight when I

single-handedly choose the person who will succeed me.

"Anyone who wants to manipulate me should first manipulate God because He is the one that is protecting me," he said.

According to him, all genuine successes come from God, adding that anyone seeking to succeed him must depend on Him.

"When you put all your faith in God and help the needy, you will have less time for distractions.

"Everything happening in the state in terms of infrastructural development,

among others, is not through man's power but that of God," he said.

Umahi thanked God for allowing him to witness his 58th birthday and commended those who honoured him during the celebration.

"I testify that prayers and the wonderful support from my family, religious leaders and well-wishers, among others, have made me achieve success in life.

"We are committed to completing all on-going projects in the state and massively empowering our people before leaving

office," he said.

Mrs Eunice Oyeyemi, who presided over the church service, urged people to impact positively in the lives of others for a better society.

"People should appropriately utilise the opportunities to live fulfilled lives on earth," she said.

The service was attended by dignitaries, with prayers offered for the governor, his family, the state and the country.

Inside China

China, Africa to strengthen cooperation in protecting world heritage



Photo taken on July 7, 2021, shows actresses performing Min Opera, national-level intangible cultural heritage of Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian province, at a waterside pavilion in Sanfangqixiang, a historic and cultural area in Fuzhou. (Photo by Xie Guiming/People's Daily Online)

By Wan Yu, People's Daily

A five-year plan was preliminarily formed to boost capacity building for China and Africa regarding world heritage conservation and management at a side event of the ongoing 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that kicked off on July 16 in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China's Fujian province.

The plan is aimed at establishing platforms for more direct exchange of knowledge between Chinese and African experts and scholars in the field of world heritage as well as custodians of world heritage sites so that the two sides can intensify exchange and sharing of experience, jointly carry out capacity building activities, and elevate the level of world heritage protection and management together.

The side event, which took place on July 19 under the theme of "Capacity Building for World Heritage Conservation and Management-Towards Future Cooperation Between Africa and China", was attended by more than 150 people, including officials from the UNESCO, representatives of international organizations, and Chinese and African experts and scholars.

Before formulating the five-year plan, participants in the event reviewed the fruits of cooperation between China and Africa in the field of world heritage since 2019, and discussed the current situation of capacity building concerning the conservation and management of world

heritage in Africa and China.

As the home of the world-famous Great Pyramids and the Sphinx, the lofty Mount Kilimanjaro on savannas, and the amazing ancient stone towers of the Great Zimbabwe ruins shrouded in forests, Africa is a continent endowed with rich and colorful natural and cultural resources. However, due to multiple factors, including social and economic development, Africa has long lagged behind other regions of the world in applying for UNESCO World Heritage status, as well as the management and protection of its world heritage.

There are 12 countries in Africa that still don't have any heritage recognized as world heritage by the UNESCO, and 22 of the 53 properties included on the List of World Heritage in danger by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO are located in Africa, according to Souayibou Varissou, executive director of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF).

At the side event, Varissou called for increasing financial support for the AWHF to improve Africa's capability to protect world heritage.

The 44th session of the World Heritage Committee tries to give priority to Africa in policy formulation, capacity building, international aid, and upstream procedures, in a bid to enhance the representativeness and improve the balance of world heritage, said Tian Xuejun, director of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and also chairman of the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Upholding the idea of the China-Africa community with a shared future, China

attaches great importance to its cooperation with Africa in protecting world heritage, held the UNESCO-Africa-China Forum on World Heritage Capacity Building and Cooperation, and supports efforts to carry out training in risk management and protection of world heritage for custodians of world heritage sites in African countries including Uganda, Benin, and Tanzania, Tian said.

Greater efforts need to be made and more strength pooled to put into practice UNESCO's Global Priority Africa resolution, which demonstrates the status and role of African countries in the cause of world heritage protection, Tian stressed, adding that China will continue supporting African

countries in protecting world heritage, assist with talent cultivation in developing countries, and carry out talent cultivation programs for world heritage protection.

Africa urgently needs to strengthen capacity building regarding application for UNESCO World Heritage status, and the management and monitoring of world heritage, said Mechtild Rössler, director of UNESCO World Heritage Center.

Rössler thanked China for its tremendous efforts to help protect world heritage in Africa through platforms of UNESCO, and is looking forward to more new results of the cooperation between China and Africa in world heritage protection.

World heritage in Africa is an integral and distinctive part of the world heritage system, said Lyu Zhou, director of the National Heritage Center of Tsinghua University as well as a professor of the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University.

World heritage in Africa is underrepresented on the existing UNESCO World Heritage List, which not only needs Africa to constantly enhance capacity building concerning application for UNESCO World Heritage status, but also requires the world to realize more deeply the uniqueness of Africa's history and culture, Lyu said.

An identification and interpretation system that accords with the characteristics of Africa's world heritage should be established to demonstrate the cultural value of the world heritage in Africa, Lyu added.

Muhammad Juma, chief of the Africa Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Center, gave a systematic introduction to capacity building efforts in Africa at the side event, and pointed out that capacity building in the future should be oriented to the needs of management organizations of world heritage sites, people who work in the field of world heritage, stakeholders in relevant communities, and researchers of colleges, universities, and research institutes.

Juma also invited China to share its experience in applying for UNESCO World Heritage status and protection and management of world heritage.



Photo taken on June 13, 2020, shows a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) doctor explaining TCM acupuncture and moxibustion to a group of visitors led by Edwin Limo, counselor of the Embassy of Kenya in China at Sanxitang Pharmacy, a time-honored TCM pharmacy in east China's Zhejiang province. Acupuncture and moxibustion of TCM was listed as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage on Nov. 16, 2010. (Photo by Lyu Bin/People's Daily Online)

Inside China



Photo shows the splendid scenery of the Chaka Salt Lake, a popular tourist destination in northwest China's Qinghai province. (Photo/Official website of the Chaka Salt Lake)

Ecological protection in NW China's Qinghai province boosts tourism development

By Jia Fengfeng, Liu Yurui,
People's Daily

Driving westward along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway for two hours from Xining, capital city of northwest China's Qinghai province, one can arrive at the Qinghai Lake, a famous tourist destination in Qinghai, which ripples and sparkles in the sun.

Amazed by the magnificent scenery of the Qinghai Lake, Wang Xuan, a tourist from east China's Anhui province, couldn't help but press the shutter release. "The Qinghai Lake is definitely worth visiting," Wang said.

Due to climate change, human activities and other factors, the Qinghai Lake once suffered from serious ecological degradation, when biological resources declined sharply, the surrounding grasslands underwent desertification and degradation, water level fell continuously, and water area kept shrinking.

To tackle the problem, the local government set up a nature reserve at the Qinghai Lake, blockaded the lake for fish breeding, and incorporated the conservation of the lake into the construction of China's nature reserve system centered around national parks.

After years of efforts, Qinghai Lake finally started to see improving ecology and yield increasing ecological and social benefits.

"I'm really happy that the Qinghai Lake I knew when I was little has finally come back," said Li Chaowei, head of a criminal investigation and law enforcement police team in charge of husbandry-related cases in Gonghe county, Hainan Tibetan autonomous prefecture, where the Qinghai Lake is situated.

Li and three of his fellows are responsible for patrolling the 186-kilometer shoreline on

the south bank of Qinghai Lake. "Less than three incidents of illegal fishing in the lake are now reported a year," Li said, who noted that the amount of naked carp in the Qinghai Lake exceeded 100,000 tons by the end of last year, an increase of nearly 40 times from the beginning of the 21st century.

During this year's May Day holiday in China, Qinghai Lake received 45,000 tourists, registering a tourism income of nearly 5.17 million yuan (about

\$798,633).

Farmers and herdsmen in Qinghai have become increasingly aware of the importance of ecological conservation, and understood more deeply that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

The clear Chaka Salt Lake, also a popular tourist attraction along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway, attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. It looks like a fairyland against

the blue sky and white clouds, and is known as the "mirror of the sky" in China.

Bayin village, which is located near the Chaka Salt Lake, has brought villagers a better life by boosting tourism.

To draw tourists, Bayin village has comprehensively improved its living environment and infrastructure. Now the village has flat and clean roads, spacious and lively squares, and bright and tidy hotel rooms.

"Decorating the garden can not only attract more visitors, but bring pleasure to myself," said Shen Deping, a local villager, while planting flowers in a garden in front of her home.

Taking advantage of the Chaka Salt Lake, farmers and herdsmen in Bayin village, once a poor mountainous village, has started to run B&Bs, with the total number of hotel rooms in the village reaching 328. To provide better travel experience for tourists, Bayin has pooled resources to hold training courses on cooking, B&B management, and Mandarin.

Not only has Bayin village got a brand new look, but residents in the village have adopted a new mindset and shown great enthusiasm for making their hometown better.

"Whoever did a poor job in keeping their houses clean would be too embarrassed to make a speech at the villagers' meetings," said Shen, who has just been reelected as president of the women's federation of the village.

"As villagers compete and cooperate with each other in improving tourism products and services, they have forged better neighborly relations," Shen noted.

"We will continue to take the opportunity provided by the Chaka Salt Lake, push ahead with the unified management of B&Bs, and perfect the services to make local people more prosperous," said Zhao Fuchang, an official stationed in Bayin for poverty alleviation.



Photo taken on May 20, 2021 shows birds swimming in Qinghai Lake, northwest China's Qinghai province. (Photo by Xu Xinghan/People's Daily Online)

Politics

Traditional rulers sabotaging peace efforts in Zamfara – Governor

Governor Matawalle says traditional rulers aiding illegal activities of vigilante groups were provoking reprisal attacks by bandits.

The Governor of Zamfara State, Bello Matawalle, has accused some unnamed traditional rulers of sabotaging his government's peace efforts in the state.

The governor, at a meeting with the heads of security agencies in the state on Thursday, said the traditional rulers were not playing their expected roles in the fight against banditry.

He said this has led to the recent deterioration of insecurity in the state.

The meeting was also attended by religious clerics, traditional rulers and journalists at the Government House in Gusau.

Mr Matawalle said some traditional rulers were aiding the illegal activities of outlawed vigilante groups in their domains, which he said was provoking reprisal attacks by bandits.

The governor also condemned a statement by the chairman of the state's traditional rulers' council, the Emir of Anka, Attahiru Ahmad, in which he challenged the state government to allow citizens to bear arms for self defence, since the government had failed in protecting the citizens.

The governor said "it is discouraging to have a respected personality like the state chairman Council of Chiefs to grant an interview with journalists to challenge the efforts of the government and security operatives."

Mr Matawalle said security is a collective responsibility and

not that of the government alone.

He said if the residents and traditional leaders are not interested in his administration's dialogue with the bandits, he would withdraw from it.

Responding, however, Mr Ahmad said he was quoted out of context.

He said he only appealed to the authorities to protect citizens across the country.

In October 2019, a committee set up by the governor to proffer solutions to banditry in Zamfara said some traditional rulers were colluding with bandits, and recommended to the governor to dethrone them.

The committee, headed by a former Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Muhammad Abubakar, also disclosed the bandits had collected over N3 billion as ransoms from families of abducted persons in the state.

The committee said 4,983 women had been made widows, 25,050 children orphans and 190,340 persons displaced by bandits from 2011 to 2019.

While receiving the report, the governor promised to implement the recommendations of the committee.

"I would like to make it clear that personal relationship, sectional, geographical, religious and ethnic interests will have no role to play in the decision I will take with regard to recommendations of the committee, especially those that relate to the recommended sanctions and disciplinary measures," Mr Matawalle said.

Years later, the governor has not implemented the major recommendation of the committee which was sanctions against those indicted in crimes across the state.



Prepare Prisons, Build Mortuaries For Us— IPOB Members Tell Malami

Members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) have vowed to storm Abuja, the nation's capital for the trial of their leader, Nnamdi Kanu at the Federal High Court, Abuja on Monday.

The group also told the Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami (SAN), to prepare more cells and mortuaries should he want to detain or kill its members, as they prepare to flood the court to show solidarity with their leader.

The group's spokesperson, Emma Powerful, disclosed this to SaharaReporters on Sunday while speaking about his expectations regarding Kanu's trial, which is expected to commence on Monday.

He, however, cautioned the members of IPOB and Kanu's supporters to behave appropriately and obey the law.

"You should expect Biafrans in Abuja tomorrow and nobody can stop us or prevent us from being

in court tomorrow. Nnamdi Kanu is our leader and we cannot afford to abandon him because he did not abandon us.

"IPOB members should move to Abuja and those living in Abuja must be there to show solidarity with our leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, and for Nigeria to know that he is our own.

"Malami and his co-conspirators should prepare to kill all of us tomorrow, and every IPOB member must behave well.

"This is to show the world that we are coming, (and) for this court to know that we are disciplined and cultured. Our leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, has laid the foundation of IPOB well and we must follow his teachings," Powerful said.

Kanu, the leader of the most popular pro-Biafra group, will continue his trial on Monday at a Federal High Court in Abuja after he fled Nigeria in 2017. He is being prosecuted on allegations bordering

on terrorism, treasonable felony, illegal possession of arms, among others levelled against him by the Nigerian government.

He has been in the detention of the Department of State Services (DSS) since he was abducted in Kenya and extradited to Nigeria, after his brief appearance before Justice Binta Nyako on June 30.

According to Powerful, the Nigerian government is inflicting pain on IPOB members through its actions.

He, however, vowed that the group will not keep quiet until the world hears and comes to its aid.

"We will be there tomorrow. Let Malami clean his prisons and mortuary for our people tomorrow. The world will see them tomorrow. You cannot beat a child and force the child not to cry, that is what they are trying to do to us and we must cry until the world hears us. Nnamdi Kanu remains our leader, no other person," Powerful added.

2023: APC Cabals Plot Consensus Candidate To Thwart Tinubu's Presidential Bid

Opposition forces within the All Progressives Congress are reportedly considering the consensus method in choosing its presidential flag bearer in the forthcoming 2023 general elections in order to drown the presidential ambition of a former Lagos State Governor and National Leader of the party, Bola Tinubu.

Top sources in the party said the plot became imperative because of Tinubu's seeming supremacy among other presidential aspirants which put him in a commanding position to emerge as the party's candidate.

Sources, however, revealed that the main obstacle to him is his health which is outside the control of men.

According to Vanguard, the APC Caretaker/Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee Secretary, Senator John Akpanudoedehe, had proposed the use of consensus as a way of fencing

off what he described as moles from the opposition Peoples Democratic Party.

But pro-Tinubu forces have vehemently opposed the gesture, especially in Ekiti where Senator Tola Adeniyi, chairman of the South West Agenda for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu 2023 (SWAGA) raised his opposition last Thursday.

The proposal for consensus in choosing party officials and candidates according to other party sources followed the realisation by those opposed to the former Lagos State governor that he, (Tinubu), could not be easily stopped in a free and fair contest.

Tinubu, it was gathered, has made strong inroads into North-West and North-East states with heavy delegates' count.

Sources say that the Tinubu camp is especially strong in Kano, Katsina, Kebbi and Borno states that are

known to be rich in delegates.

A party source was quoted as saying, "The constitution of the APC provides that serving and former members of the National Assembly are statutory delegates and this means that all former lawmakers from 1999 are automatic delegates.

"You can see that Tinubu is very strong in Kano, Katsina, Sokoto and Borno and these are states that have a rich base of delegates for the convention and most of them are aligned towards Tinubu."

It was gathered that the Tinubu camp is doing well in the South-South especially in Akwa Ibom and Delta states.

However, the strong challenge he has in Akwa Ibom is Akpanudoedehe, the secretary of the CECPC who was until recently, famously known to belong to his camp.



Inside FCT



FCT Minister of state Dr Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu during extension of support to indigent family with multiple births at the National Hospital Abuja recently

Minister supports triplet's family in Abuja

Stories by Ephraim Joshua

Federal Capital Territory Minister of State, Dr. Ramatu Aliyu, on Friday extended support to an indigent family with multiple births at the National Hospital Abuja.

Aliyu who visited the triplet at the In-born Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the hospital made a cash donation of N250, 000 to the couple, baby clothing, diapers and assorted toiletries for the upkeep of the babies.

The minister who was conducted round the hospital by the Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Aisha Umar, also stated that the FCT Administration was profiling eligible families that deserve support from government in line with the mandate of FCT Social Development Secretariat.

"The FCT Administration, through its Social Development

Secretariat, has a policy for supporting indigent families with multiple births, especially the less privileged ones. But with economic down-turn, the policy was set aside temporarily, but it's being revisited.

"We are here in my private capacity. I am here today as a mother and as a human being. Hopefully when we resume on Monday after the break other families will be profiled for visitation which will be carried out by the Gender Department of the SDS to ensure only deserving families are visited," she stressed.

She also disclosed that beneficiaries of the welfare policy of the administration had hitherto abused the process, thus depriving eligible families.

Her words: "Actually most of the time government discontinues processes like this because they are being abused by indigent and citizens and we have seen situations

where beneficiaries abuse such supports, piling up bills and depriving eligible families. So now we want to follow due process and ensure that only deserving families with multiple births and indigent families benefit from this support of the Federal Capital Territory Administration.

"In the past we have seen situations where supports such as shelter are provided for those categorised as the poorest of the poor and could not afford shelter for themselves. By the grace of God under this administration we are revisiting that but for now I am here in my capacity as a mother and a human being to support some indigent families".

One of the beneficiaries and father of the triplet, Evangelist Advocate Tommy, expressed gratitude to FCT Minister of State for her kind gesture, praying for God's guidance and favour upon her.

Labour Party Councillorship candidate promises basic infrastructure in Kuje

The councillorship candidate of the Labour Party LP, for Gaube Ward, Kuje Area Council, FCT, Comrade Fanimi Oluwabusayo, has promised to give priority to education and basic infrastructures if elected.

Oluwabusayo who made the call in an interview with Newsmen in Kuje, promised to be accountable and responsive to the needs of the people with priority to education and infrastructures.

According to him, education is the foundation and key to all human development, adding that he would also intensify on poverty alleviation programmes with specific focus on youth employment and empowerment.

"No nation develops without a very sound and solid educational

policy and programmes because education develops the total man.

"I am also believing that if we give our people real and solid education and opportunity for empowerment; especially empowerment that is linked to agricultural development, then we will make our people self-sufficient.

"People can never develop without a solid foundation in education, and that is why I am coming, and really prepared to give my people the real education programme that will develop the area," he said.

The candidate also said there was need for every administration to initiate policies and programmes that would stimulate economic growth and development as well as job creation for the youths in the country.

However, he expressed confidence of clinching the ticket of the Labour Party if given the enormous goodwill of the electorates, saying that he would create policies that would enhance youth development in the council.

"We all know that the future belongs to the youths who are ingenious, innovative and industrious, they are also the bedrock for development if empowered.

"I want to also state that if given the opportunity to serve, I will be accountable and responsive to the problems confronting the people in the area," he said.

He said he would not only increase youth empowerment, but will also ensure rapid development of the area if elected, among other programmes within the period of his administration.

Cholera outbreak: Death toll hits 60, as suspected cases rise to 698 in Abuja within 72 hours

Federal Capital Territory Administration has revealed that suspected cases of Cholera have risen from 604 to 698 in The nation's capital city, within 72 hours, as death toll leaps from 54 to 60.

FCT Minister of State, Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu, who revealed this at the continuation of community sensitization on cholera and other severe acute diarrhoea diseases outbreaks in Pyakasa and Gwagwa respectively, also said

Gwagwalada area council records 220 suspected cases with 9 deaths, Kuje area council records 23 suspected cases with 4 deaths and Kwali area council records 37 suspected cases with 3 deaths.

Represented by the Ag. Executive Secretary of FCT Primary Health Care Board, Dr. Iwot Ndaeyo, the Minister noted that Abaji area council records 3 suspected cases, no death, Abuja Municipal Area Council AMAC, records 281 suspected cases with 22 deaths, while Bwari Area Council records 134 suspected cases with 22 deaths.

Aliyu, however, vowed that this ugly trend was unacceptable in the Federal Capital Territory, adding that the administration would not fold its hands and watch residents die helplessly over preventable diseases.

According to her, "We must take every necessary steps to curb further spread", just as she urged FCT residents and critical stakeholders to publicize the message of cholera disease prevention, proper sanitation with practice of hand hygiene in their respective communities.

In his remarks, chairman of Abuja Municipal Area Council AMAC, Hon. Abdullahi Adamu Candido, affirmed the commitment of his council to forestall continuous spread of the disease to adjoining and other communities

He added that the Primary Health Care Department of the council had embarked on sensitization tour to all the four chiefdoms in AMAC so as to enlighten the traditional rulers and their councils about the cholera outbreak and preventive measures.

His words: "On our part as an area council, we swung into action immediately we received the news of the outbreak and its confirmation in June. We quickly mobilized our health personnel in all our primary healthcare facilities for prompt responses. Following the recommendations from the outbreak report, we provided funds for quick purchase of drugs, infusions and other treatment materials/ consumables in addition to the ones we received from the FCT Public Health Department.

"The Disease Control Unit of our Primary Health Care Department through Disease Surveillance Notification Officers have been working tirelessly in different communities of the council including hard-to-reach fields in order to trace and report cases at the primary healthcare facilities for free treatment".

Candido, therefore, commended the professional competence, commitment and zeal of the council's health workers and the Health and Human Services Secretariat of the FCTA in combating this life-threatening disease.





Inside FCT



Candido, AMAC



Gabaya, Bwari



Chiya, Kwali

FCTA, Council Chairmen debunk claims of dispute

The six Area Council Chairmen in the Federal Capital Territory and the leadership of Area Council Services Secretariat have debunked claims of disputes between the councils and the FCT Administration, saying all offices in the territory have been operating in accordance with their constitutional mandates.

The reports claimed that the Area Council Chairmen take decisions without recourse to the office of the Minister of State who supervises the activities of the councils and other auxiliary matters or FCT representatives at the National Assembly who oversight the FCT Administration.

However in a swift reaction, both the authorities of the area council and the FCT Area Council Services Secretariat have described the allegations as mischievous and a deliberate attempt to pitch the area council chairmen against the office of the FCT Minister of State and representatives of the National Assembly.

A joint press statement issued by the six area council chairmen and FCT Area Council Services Secretariat stated that mischief-makers and political detractors are bent in ensuring that they sow seeds of discord between the office of the Minister of State and the council chairmen.

The chairman, Abuja Municipal Area Council, Abdullahi Adamu Candido, who signed on behalf of the council chairmen said; "our attention has been drawn to a news item trending in both traditional and social media platforms orchestrated by some disgruntled characters. Ordinarily, the authorities of the area councils would have ignored the entire report and remain taciturn, but silent is consent.

"The publication is a desperate attempt to plant seed of discord between Her Excellency and the council chairmen and must not be allowed to stay. We will not take

her motherly love for granted. We are very loyal to her and have never had it so good till her coming. Therefore, nobody should disturb this peace.

"If reporters or media organisations have personal issues with any chairman, they should go and settle their matters, and not drag other council's chairmen into it by discrediting the entire body. We should be rational on issues and not be laced with emotions or ignorance on matters that oftentimes we know nothing about.

"We are, therefore, calling on our people to disregard the malicious publication aimed at overheating the system. We will not be deterred in carrying out our constitutional mandates of providing welfare and security to our people."

The council authorities also pledged their loyalty to representatives of the National Assembly who oversight the activities and workings of the FCT Administration, stressing that no amount of cheap blackmail would deter them from working for the common good of rural communities.

According to him, "We are not just loyal to Her Excellency, the FCT Minister of State, Dr Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu, but also to

our esteemed representatives at the National Assembly. As area council heads, we cannot work in silos if we must deliver dividends of democracy to our residents."

The Acting Secretary FCT Area Council Services Secretariat, Mrs Omolola Olanipekun, also discredited the report, affirming that both the Area Council and the secretariat are having a harmonious relationship

in driving the policies of the administration.

"To state the obvious, the secretariat is amazed at the immeasurable phew of the reporters and its sponsors in conjuring events and hallucinating conversations that are not related to the subject matter. They could be best described as an indefatigable genius in dishing out tissues of

lies.

"And to set the records straight, let me state categorically here that, we enjoy a harmonious relationship with the six area councils in the territory. We advise them to please carry out their individual background checks on the activities of these revered bodies with the able supervision of the Honourable Minister of State," she added.



Abdulraman, Abaji



Abdullahi, Kuje

FCT Natives condole with Chikum Chieftdom over demise of Barde, SA Gbagyi of Kaduna

President Abuja Original Inhabitant Youths Empowerment Organisation AOIYEO, Amb. Isaac David has condoled with people of Chikun Community and the Emirate Council of Kaduna state over the death of their traditional ruler, His Royal Highness Danjuma Shekwogaza Barde, the SA Gbagyi of Kaduna state.

The AOIYEO President in a

condolence message, described the demise as a great loss to Kaduna State's traditional institutio.

The message was contained in a statement personally issued by the AOIYEO President Amb. David on Wednesday in Abuja.

"Though his demise is painful, his legacies of service, love and compassion remain indelible as he has impacted

the younger generation to continue in his footsteps.

"We sympathise with the entire Kaduna state, as well as the Kaduna Emirate Council over the demise of the traditional ruler" he said

Amb. David prayed to God to grant the soul of the deceased eternal rest, comfort the Chikun Traditional Council and the family and the Gbagyi nation at large.



Late traditional ruler, His Royal Highness Danjuma Shekwogaza Barde, SA Gbagyi of Kaduna

Entertainment



BBNaija's Stars, Erica and Laycon finally reconcile

Former BBNaija housemates, Laycon and Erica have settled their differences.

Erica made this known in a new video on her Instagram page.

Recall that the duo had the biggest fight of the 'lockdown'

edition which led to Erica's disqualification.

After the altercation, the hatred between the two ex-housemates lingered even during the reunion show in June.

Although Erica had during the reunion said she doesn't care about Laycon, the duo have now

reconciled.

They were spotted in a video hanging out together on Friday.

In the video, Erica said she was cool with Laycon.

She captioned the video, 'We are cool.'

Laycon also hailed Nigerians in the footage.

The Singer and actress also followed each other on Instagram.

Meanwhile, a new season of Big Brother Naija will be airing on Saturday, July 24th, 2021.

The winner of the new season will walk away with N90 million worth of prizes.

I Can't Do Without You Guys: Emmanuella Tells Fans to Celebrate Her As She Turns a Year Older

Nigerian comedian Emmanuella was all smiles as she announced her birthday to her fans and followers on social media. Emmanuella turned a new age on Thursday, July 22, and she celebrated herself.

Describing her new year as a glorious one, the funny girl noted that God has been faithful to her. She urged her fans to forget the past and look forward to the future as the best things were yet to come. Emmanuella then told her fans to celebrate with her as she can't do without her them.



DJ Cuppy and Brother Fewa Wear Matching Designer Costumes As They Go Swimming, Teaches Him to Use Water Gun

It is so beautiful to see that Fewa Otedola is surrounded by so much love. Recently, DJ Cuppy visited her parent's home in London and she decided to swim with her baby brother Fewa.

The Gelato crooner shared a photo online and it showed her wearing the same Fendi costume with her younger brother Fewa. According to her, Fewa is also offending with Fendi.

She also shared another video showing her teaching Fewa how to use a toy gun. Cuppy demanded a high-five as soon as Fewa re-did and got what she taught him.

When the musician got home, she seemed to have removed her wig and dropped it somewhere. One of her dogs Dudu carried the wig and the other one Poms joined in as they ran away with it in their mouths. Cuppy's voice was heard as she ran after them and told them to drop her wig. When she finally collected the wig, Dudu faced Poms and started to fight him.



Esther Wins The Voice Nigeria Season 3

Vocal powerhouse Esther Benyeogo has won the third season of The Voice Nigeria, ahead of Eazzie, KPee and Naomi Mac.

Esther was coached by Darey.

She battled against three top finalists, coming out victorious and grabbing the N10 million cash, a car, and a record deal with Universal Music Nigeria

Her winning was preceded by the shock elimination of Naomi Mac, who many thought was her closest rival from the top 3 contestants.



Entertainment

Tonto Dikeh returns to Nollywood in new Tchidi Chikere directed movie

The movie titled 'Beggars Children' also stars Angela Okorie.

Tonto Dikeh is back! The star actress has returned to Nollywood after a nearly 4-year hiatus.

The actress is currently on the set of 'Beggars Children' directed by legendary home video filmmaker Tchidi

Chikere.

Produced by Benedict Johnson, the film also stars Angela Okorie and Doris Ogala.

Dikeh last starred in Pascal Amanfo's 2017 movie 'Celebrity Marriage'.



Comedian Ali Baba Shakes Table, Calls Out Women who Bought Houses in Banana Island by Dating Married Men

Veteran comedian Ali Baba has taken to social media to call out women who are quick to condemn and describe others as being promiscuous. In a video that was shared on his Instagram page @alibabagcf, the popular comedian said some Nigerian women were condemning ladies that were at Obi Cubana's mother's burial in Oba.

According to the comedian, some of these critics were dating military governors, civilian governors and other big men during their heydays and were able to acquire mansions at choice areas in Lagos and set up businesses.

In his words: "Let me say this, most of the women who are online, some of them that come out here to speak, we just ignore some of them. If we start mentioning names, some of them will not last in their husband's house."

He recounted how he went to visit a governor at

a hotel sometime back and saw a woman with the latter. According to the comedian, that same woman was one of those abusing ladies that went to Oba, Anambra state.

Ali Baba said these women don't contribute to important issues on social media but are quick to condemn others and attack celebrities on social media.



BBNaija 6: 'Shine Ya Eye' season launches with 11 male housemates

Much to the dismay of fans, Big Brother Naija season six began 30 minutes later than scheduled due to technical difficulties.

This season tagged 'Shine Ya Eye' had Ebuka Obi-Uchendu with the introductions as is the norm with previous seasons.

The new season spots astonishing new changes including an all-new decor for some of our favourite rooms in the house, a games room and a magnificent executives lounge.

Introducing housemates

The new season kicks off with the promised

twist introducing 11 male housemates.

Boma is the first housemate to join the house. The proudly South-South born 34-year-old contestant is a mixologist, model and former footballer.

28-year-old Engineer, artiste and self-proclaimed 'Woman wrapper' Saga is the second housemate to join the house.

Yousef and Pere are the third and fourth housemates to join the male contestants filled house.

The next housemate is Enugu born businessman **Whitemoney**. 34-year-old Niyi follows closely. The happily married father of a 3-year-old son is 6ft6, the

tallest housemate so far.

Yerins is the seventh male housemate to join the house. The medical doctor says he is a polymath and didn't miss an opportunity to show off with a fun fact about house flies.

Jay Paul describes himself as a complete entertainer and is the eighth housemate to join the house. 24-year-old pageant winner Emmanuel follows closely as the ninth housemate.

Sammie and Cross join as the tenth and eleventh season six housemates.

Ladipoe performs

The singer started his performance with his hit single 'Feeling'.

I Promise to Give You the World: Obi Cubana Tells Wife, Designs Bed With Rose Petals in Cute Video, Many React

Nightlife entrepreneur Obi Cubana and his wife are having a beautiful time in the Maldives as they have been updating their followers with photos and videos on social media.

Recently, the entrepreneur's wife Eby shared a video showing how her husband is spoiling her in the beautiful city. In the video, Eby opened a door and it showed a pool below the room she shares with her husband. The camera panned towards their room and Obi Cubana was spotted beside a bed. Lovely flowers were spotted on the bed with a love-shaped decoration. As



soon as Eby spotted it, she gushed with love and Cubana was heard saying, "I promised to give you the world. The world is yours."

"Heei God! Auntie u pple oppress for Naija, we go UAR, still yet now you are stepping On our necks from the international! JK I love love."

Diplomatic Corner

The US is heading “in the wrong direction” on the coronavirus pandemic as infections surge among the unvaccinated, a top health expert has warned.

Dr Anthony Fauci said the Delta variant of Covid-19 was driving the spike in areas with low vaccination rates.

He said health officials were considering revising mask guidance for vaccinated Americans to curb cases.

Offering booster jabs to vulnerable people was also under review, he said.

The coronavirus situation in the US is becoming “a pandemic among the unvaccinated”, Dr Fauci, the chief medical adviser to US President Joe Biden said.

More than 162.7 million people - or 49% of the population - have been fully vaccinated in the US, official data shows.

The US had been a world leader in jab uptake until April, when vaccination rates started to drop off.

Vaccination rates are particularly low in southern states, where fewer than half of residents have received their first dose in some cases.

Meanwhile, daily coronavirus infections are on the rise again after numbers fell in May and June.

The resurgence has added to the more than 34 million cases and 610,000 deaths recorded so far in the US.

The trend has been attributed, in part, to the rapid spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant of Covid.

The sharpest increases in Covid cases are in states with lower vaccination rates, such as Florida, Texas and Missouri.

Earlier this week, US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said 99.5% of Covid deaths were occurring among unvaccinated people.

In his interview with CNN, Dr Fauci said local leaders in areas with low vaccination rates needed to do more to encourage people to get jabbed.

He said he was “very heartened to hear” the Republican governors of Arkansas and Florida promoting vaccinations in their states. Both leaders

Covid: Fauci says US heading in wrong direction as cases rise



have been critical of Dr Fauci’s advice in the past.

As the nation’s top infectious disease expert, Dr Fauci has been a key adviser to President Biden and his predecessor, Donald Trump, through the pandemic.

Dr Fauci said he was involved in discussions to change mask guidance issued by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As it stands, the CDC says people who are fully vaccinated can “resume

activities that you did before the pandemic without wearing a mask”.

Dr Fauci said local governments could issue their own rules under the current CDC guidance.

But he noted that some local governments had reinstated indoor and public mask requirements to curb rising infections.

In Los Angeles County, masks are now required indoors for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

Afghanistan curfew imposed as Taliban militants advance

The Afghan government imposed a month-long curfew across almost all of the country on Saturday in a bid to stop the Taliban from invading cities.

Apart from the capital Kabul and two other provinces, no movement is

allowed from 22:00 to 04:00 (17:30-23:30 GMT).

Fighting between the Taliban and Afghan government forces has increased over the past two months as international troops pull out of the country.

The militant group is thought to have captured up to half of all territory.

It has moved swiftly in the wake of the US withdrawal, retaking border crossings and other land in rural areas.

BBC Afghanistan correspondent Secunder Kermani says

there are concerns that with peace talks moving slowly, the focus of fighting will increasingly turn to more heavily populated urban centres.

The Taliban - a fundamentalist Islamist militia who were pushed out of power by the US invasion nearly 20 years ago - has also seized key roads as it seeks to cut off supply routes.

Its fighters have been closing in on a number of major cities, but have not yet been able to capture one.

The interior ministry said the new curfew was “to curb violence and limit the Taliban movements”, adding that Kabul, Panjshir and Nangarhar were exempt.

As the Taliban continues to advance, fierce clashes have taken place this week outside the city of Kandahar.

In response, the US launched airstrikes against militants in the area on Thursday. But with US operations in Afghanistan officially ending on 31 August, there are concerns about the months ahead.



Gym instructor shot dead for allegedly sleeping with a married woman

A tragic incident occurred in the wee hours of Thursday July 22, as a gym instructor was shot dead at Tantra Hills in Ghana.

An eyewitness confirmed that the gym instructor is suspected to have been killed because of his alleged affair with another man’s wife. It was alleged that he was shot dead by unknown men who arrived at the house between 2am to 3am.

It was further reported that people who know him, were heard whispering that they warned him to stay away from the woman since it could land him in trouble but he failed to listen to them.

Sports



Akwa United close in on NPFL title with Jigawa Golden Stars win

The Promise Keepers now know that three points from their final three league games will be enough for them to emerge as Nigerian champions.

Akwa United are on the verge of securing the Nigeria Professional Football League title for the first time in their history after defeating Jigawa Golden Stars 3-0 on Sunday evening.

Goals from Friday Ubong, Charles Atshimene and Wisdom Fernandon handed the Promise Keepers victory over the visitors at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium.

Unbeaten in their last two league outings, Kennedy Boboye's team welcomed Gilbert Opana's men to Uyo with the ambition of extending their run of form.

In the keenly contested affair, the hosts had to wait until the closing stages of the first half to take the lead through Ubong.

The hard-fighting visitors entered the second half full of hope, but they were pegged back in the 52nd minute courtesy of Atshimene's effort.

A minute prior to full-time, substitute Fernandon – who replaced Ikechukwu Nwani in the

65th minute – sealed the win with a cool finish.

With this result, Boboye's team are now on the cusp of emerging as Nigerian kings - needing three points more to be certain of securing the trophy, with three games left.

For second-placed Nasarawa United, they defeated Sunshine Stars 4-0 at the Lafia Township Stadium.

The 18-year-old Silas Nwankwo was the star of the game as he found the net twice against his former team.

Still basking in the euphoria of their 1-0 Aiteo Cup quarter-final triumph over Kano Pillars, Owena Whales conceded first in the 11th minute as Nwankwo Salu Suleiman opened the scoring.

Six minutes later, the striker completed his brace as the Akure-based outfit were made to pay for some poor defending. That took his tally of the 2020-21 season to 18 goals.

Aliyu Abdullah made it three for Nasarawa United in the 23rd minute before Chigozi Obasi made it four in the 39th minute of the goal-laden first half.

Deji Ayeni's team put up an

improved performance in the second half, however, that could not prevent them from returning home with heads bowed low.

While Bala Nikyu's Nasarawa United would be hoping to beat Akwa United to the league title, Sunshine Stars dropped into the relegation zone having accrued 35 points from 38 matches.

Elsewhere, Kano Pillars bounced back from their disappointing 2-0 loss at Enugu Rangers by beating Abia Warriors 1-0 with Rabi'u Ali's second-half penalty settling the encounter.

NPFL RESULTS IN FULL

Adamawa United 1-1 Enugu Rangers

Akwa United 3 - 0 Jigawa Golden Stars

Enyimba 2 - 1 MFM FC

Heartland 0 - 0 Kwara United

Kano Pillars 1 - 0 Abia Warriors

Katsina United 2 - 0 Dakkada FC

Nasarawa United 4 - 0 Sunshine Stars

Plateau United 0 - 0 Lobi Stars

Rivers United FC 2 - 0 Ifeanyi Ubah United

Warri Wolves FC 1 - 0 Wikki Tourist

NPFL top scorer Nwankwo: My runs and goals are almost like Ronaldo

The 18-year-old who has been an integral part of the Solid Miners' resurgence desires to play with the Red Devils. Nasarawa United's Silas Nwankwo believes he plays like Cristiano Ronaldo and reveals Marcus Rashford and Paul Pogba are the players he would most like to line up with in future.

Born on December 12, 2003, the red-hot attacking sensation currently leads the goalscoring chart of the Nigerian Professional Football League having accrued 16 goals so far.

Still in the nascent stages of his career, the prolific striker has plenty of years left in his career and he discloses that sharing a locker room with the England and France internationals would be a welcome addition to his footballing bucket list.

In addition, Nwankwo is a genuine Manchester United supporter and he states he attempts to copy the characteristics of a Red Devils legend who has won the Ballon d'Or on five occasions.

"I like Cristiano Ronaldo so much and if you see some of my goals, runs and other things, you can see that they are almost like his," the 18-year-old told Goal.

"I try as much as possible to emulate him. When you read his stories about how he attained greatness, you would agree with me that they are inspiring enough to motivate any footballer who aspires to achieve great things."

He (Ronaldo) is also one of the

reasons I love, and still support Manchester United, and God willing, I hope to represent the Red Devils someday.

"Moreover, my biggest ambition is to play alongside [Marcus] Rashford and [Paul] Pogba at Old Trafford."

As it stands, Bala Nikyu's men are currently second in the Nigerian elite division log and they have a realistic chance to emerge as champions should closest challengers Akwa United and Kano Pillars falter in their remaining games.

Nasarawa United are also on course to win the Aiteo Cup having reached the semi-finals thanks to Nwankwo's winner against Gombe United.

They square up against Sunshine Stars in the last four and the youngster has set his sights on punishing his former team for not believing him.

Article continues below

"It's going to be a difficult match, but I will show them [Sunshine Stars] what they are missing in a young talent," he continued.

"Most clubs in Nigeria don't believe in young talents. But this season, the coaches are already seeing what the young ones can do."

"By God's grace, I am one of those who are sounding this message clear and I promise to give it my all against my former team."



Lingard's future and loans needed for the kids

Goal has three takeaways from a high-scoring friendly at Loftus Road.

In an ideal world for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer his Manchester United side would convincingly win all of their pre-season friendlies and the whole squad would come through unscathed fresh for the new season.

Queen's Park Rangers spoiled that ideal outcome on Saturday, however, as they beat United 4-2 through a second-half attacking onslaught. But with more minutes for every member of the Red Devils' outfield squad it was still a worthwhile trip for Solskjaer's side with the start of the Premier League campaign just three weeks away.



Sports

Man Utd nearing Varane deal with Real Madrid

Manchester United are closing in on an agreement to sign Real Madrid defender Raphael Varane, Goal can confirm.

While the two sides were not close to agreeing terms at the start of the week, much work has been done to bridge the gap, with a deal now expected to take place for between €45m (£39/\$53m) and €55m (£47m/\$65m).

Varane has been one of Man Utd's top summer transfer priorities since they completed a deal to sign Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund.

There has been significant progress towards Man Utd and Real Madrid agreeing terms over recent hours and it is hoped that the negotiations will continue to develop over the course of the next week.

Previously, there was a sense that both clubs were playing a game of chess. United wanted to use their advantageous position in the deal – Varane only has a year left on his contract and wants to leave – to put pressure on Madrid, who are also struggling financially.

Nevertheless, the relationship between Real Madrid and Man Utd is very good and this has helped to smooth talks in recent times.

Madrid, who saw club legend Sergio Ramos walk away for nothing to Paris Saint-Germain earlier this summer, made Varane a new contract offer prior to Euro 2020, but this was turned down by the defender, who did not even return to ask for more money. Instead, he was content to agree personal terms with Man Utd, with whom he is set to sign a five-year deal.

Indeed, Varane is keen to leave Madrid as a 'gentleman' out of respect for the club and president Florentino Perez. He has joined up with the team for pre-season as expected but did not travel to Glasgow on Sunday for a friendly with Rangers.

All the signs are pointing to a deal with Man Utd being concluded.



Juventus schedule new talks over €40m Locatelli in bid to agree deal with Sassuolo

The Bianconeri are determined to finalise a transfer for a man who played a key role in Italy's run to European Championship glory

Goal can confirm that Juventus have scheduled fresh talks with Sassuolo in a bid to agree a deal for Manuel Locatelli.

Locatelli emerged as Juve's number one transfer target after an impressive 2020-21 campaign at Sassuolo, which he followed up by helping Italy win their sixth major title at this summer's European Championship.

The 23-year-old has also been strongly linked with Arsenal, but would prefer to move to the Bianconeri and play in the Champions League, with Juve set to reopen negotiations with his current club.

Juventus have already seen a two-year loan offer with the option

to buy Locatelli outright for €30 million (£26m/\$35m) rejected by Sassuolo.

Goal has learned that the club will only consider a permanent agreement and want at least €40m (£34m/\$47m) for the midfielder, who is under contract at the Mapei Stadium until 2023.

Bianconeri officials will meet with Sassuolo's again on either Wednesday or Thursday to try and thrash out terms, with both parties eager to reach a compromise as their respective preparations for the 2021-22 campaign continue.

It has been reported that Juve will only be able to meet Sassuolo's asking price by including a senior player in the deal, with Radu Dragusin and Nicolo Fagioli being mooted as potential makeweights.

However, Fagioli's agent Andrea D'Amico has ruled out the possibility of his client heading to

Sassuolo, while also claiming that Arsenal have already bid €40m for Locatelli.

"Juventus would like to sign Locatelli and Arsenal have already offered €40m," D'Amico said last week. "But I can ensure you that, as of today, Fagioli has not been included in the deal."

Locatelli broke into Sassuolo's senior squad in 2019, and has since made 99 appearances for the club, scoring seven goals.

The Italy international has also recorded 11 assists, with his stellar performances in 2020-21 helping the team secure an eighth-place finish in Serie A.

Locatelli has also won 15 caps for his country, with five of those outings coming at Euro 2020, where he also scored two goals to take his overall tally at international level to three.

Lukaku is not for sale, Inter CEO Marotta says amid interest from Chelsea and Man City

The Nerazzurri have said the prolific Belgium striker is not up for sale

Romelu Lukaku is not for sale this summer, according to Inter CEO Beppe Marotta.

Since scoring 24 goals in 36 games for the Nerazzurri as they picked up the Serie A title last term, Lukaku has been linked with a move to some of Europe's biggest clubs.

In total, he has thrived at San Siro since arriving from Manchester United in 2019, netting 64 times for the Milanese outfit, while his four goals in five Euro 2020 matches for Belgium were also eye catching.

Speaking ahead of a friendly with Pergolettese, Marotta said: "From our side, we can yes absolutely, Lukaku is not for sale. Lukaku is an

important piece on the chessboard available to Simone Inzaghi."

Chelsea are the club who have been most heavily linked with a summer swoop for Lukaku, even though Borussia Dortmund sensation Erling Haaland appears to be their primary target.

Haaland, though, could only be signed for an extortionate price.

Inter are in a difficult financial situation and will need to sell players this summer, with even the sale of Achraf Hakimi to Paris Saint-Germain earlier this month only going some way to alleviating their concerns.

Nevertheless, this has given them some breathing space with regards their top players and it gives them greater muscle to keep their most prolific hitman.

Manchester City have also been

linked with a move for Lukaku, with Pep Guardiola's side only boasting Gabriel Jesus as a natural centre forward in their ranks.



Milan ready to sell Castillejo

Milan are ready to sell Samu Castillejo - according to Calcio Mercato.

The 26-year-old has been linked with La Liga duo Espanyol and Valencia, with the Rossoneri willing to let him go for around €8 million.

Castillejo still has two years on his contract and would like to stay with Milan, but they are want to cash in on the winger to raise extra funds for new signings.

Pulisic eager to 'hit the ground running' for Chelsea in 2021-22

The United States international is aiming to be in top physical condition by the time the new season kicks off on August 14

Christian Pulisic says he's eager to "hit the ground running" for Chelsea in 2021-22 as he continues to benefit from his first full pre-season campaign at Stamford Bridge.

Pulisic moved to Stamford Bridge from Borussia Dortmund in 2019, but missed the first part of the Blues' pre-season schedule that year.

The United States international was also unable to fully prepare for the 2020-21 campaign due to an injury, but he finally has the chance to get into top physical condition this summer after joining the squad's training camp in Ireland.

Isco won't be offered new Real Madrid deal

Spanish midfielder Isco won't be offered a new contract at Real Madrid - according to AS.

The 29-year-old is due to become a free agent in 2022, and is open to leaving Santiago Bernabeu this summer despite seeing Carlo Ancelotti return to the club for a second spell in the managerial hot seat.

Isco was restricted to just 10 starts in all competitions for Real under Zidane in 2020-21, and has been linked with a move to the Premier League.

Chelsea target ex-Man Utd keeper Romeo

Chelsea have identified former Manchester United goalkeeper Sergio Romero as a transfer target - according to ESPN.

The Blues may look to bring in the 34-year-old on a free transfer following his departure from Old Trafford earlier this summer.

Juventus and Granada are also interested in Romero, who is currently training in Argentina ahead of the new season.

BRITONS hugged themselves and celebrated Monday, July 19, 2021 "Freedom Day" as the eclectic Boris Johnson government eased COVID-19 restrictions. That day, a dark sturdy man with tribal marks was led away from the Cadjehoun Airport in Cotonou, Benin Republic.

He had lost his freedom, and an uncertain future awaited him. The arrest or capture of Sunday Adeyemo, alias Sunday Igboho, led to a tussle among the Benin Republic authorities, the Nigerian Government that saw him as a prized trophy, and his lawyers and supporters who want him freed to continue his journey to Germany.

It was Sallah eve and supporters of the Buhari administration who hail his skewed sense of nationalism, celebrated this human 'gift' at a public holiday period which despite the severe pains of economic deprivation and unprecedented insecurity, promised to be a time to feast and drink.

Usually in short supply at festivals is common sense, and this was no exception. Otherwise, revellers celebrating the arrest of Igboho should have realised that it would be no solution to the slide into disintegration that threatens our beloved country as the political elites have viciously mismanaged our ethno-religious, political and cultural diversity.

Igboho is a product of the frightening inability and failure of the Muhammadu Buhari administration to protect lives and property, and the resultant resort of the victims to self-help. Ironically, the Nigerian Ambassador in Benin Republic, retired Lieutenant-General Tukur Buratai who is prancing that country to get Igboho extradited, is the same man who as Chief of Army Staff between July 2015 and January 2021, could not protect Nigerians from attacks by terrorists and bandits. The National Assembly had to join other Nigerians to get him removed from office for incompetence, only to be rewarded with an ambassadorial posting.

Igboho is not the only prized dissident the Buhari group had been after. On June 29, 2021, it effected an extraordinary rendition of Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra, IPOB, from Kenya. Kanu claimed he was abducted in Nairobi and tortured for a week before being bundled to Nigeria.

Both men had their homes invaded by heavily armed Nigerian security forces who killed and maimed people found on their premises. So clearly, the aim was not to bring them to justice; the modus operandi seemed to be their physical elimination.

I am not sure any rational human being would blame them for subsequently putting a distance between themselves and their dear native land. In Nigeria, Igboho and Kanu would be like rats

BACKPAGE COLUMN

BY OWEI LAKEMFA



Sunday Igboho



Nnamdi Kanu

Spare your enemy, he might become your saviour

trying to make a case in a gathering of cats; both men face an uncertain future, but so do their captors, fellow Nigerians and the country itself.

In South Africa, the then ruling White minority regime was quite afraid of the growing demand for Black majority rule. Most Whites were convinced that they could be wiped out. Then, they uncovered irrefutable evidence of a plot to overthrow the government by force of arms.

They arrested the brains behind the plot, recovered documents and arms and gathered credible witnesses. With these, between October 9, 1963 and June 12, 1964, they put the suspects on trial in what became known as the Rivonia Trial. The state demanded the death sentence.

The evidence was overwhelming and indisputable; so despite the death sentence that awaited them, the nine suspects saw no need putting up a defence. In mentally

preparing themselves for the death sentence, they picked one of them, Nelson Mandela, to speak for them stating for posterity why they decided to embark on armed struggle.

In his four-hour submission which came to be known as the "I Am Prepared To Die" speech, Mandela famously declared: "During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against White domination, and I have fought against Black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

However, the White establishment thought wisely that while it would be easy to hang the men, a time might come when they would need credible people

with whom to negotiate an agreement and save the country from mindless massacres. So rather than the death penalty, it imposed life imprisonment. A quarter of a century later, when violence peaked and it seemed there was no way out of a likely genocide, the Apartheid regime reached out to Mandela and his colleagues, and the country worked its way towards a negotiated settlement.

Turkey by 1999 had witnessed a 14-year armed uprising by the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party, PKK which demanded the creation of a Kurdish homeland in south-eastern Turkey. By that time, some 30,000 Turks had been killed in the conflict. Then the Turkish National Intelligence Service and the American Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, in February 1999, intercepted the PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan, in the streets of Nairobi, Kenya where Nnamdi Kanu was abducted 22 years later – while being escorted by diplomats from the Greek ambassador's residence to the airport.

The extraordinary rendition of Ocalan threw Turkey into days of ecstasy. The case against Ocalan was air tight; he had established the PKK in 1978, built it into a formidable armed group which began a bloody secessionist war in 1984 and led the rebel forces until his capture.

But rather than sentence Ocalan to death and send him to the hangman, the Turkish authorities gave him a life sentence. When the Turkish government thought the best way out of the civil war was to negotiate with the Kurds, they went to Ocalan in prison, and he secured a ceasefire in the country, leading to peace talks.

East Timor was a Portuguese colony until 1975 when revolt by the populace forced the colonialists to leave. However, in December 1975, neighbouring Indonesia invaded East Timor and annexed it as a province. This resulted in a bloody armed resistance by the Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor led by Xanana Gusmão. In 1992 Gusmão was captured, but rather than kill him, the Indonesians sent him to prison.

When seven years later, Indonesia needed a ceasefire and political settlement, it reached out to the Gusmão. Eventually, independence was agreed and in the April 2002 elections, the 'terrorist' Gusmão was elected East Timor's founding President.

Only fools rejoice at the prospect of eliminating their perceived enemies because your worst enemy might become your saviour; Nnamdi Kanu and Sunday Igboho might turn out to be the very persons needed to negotiate Nigeria out of strife and disintegration.