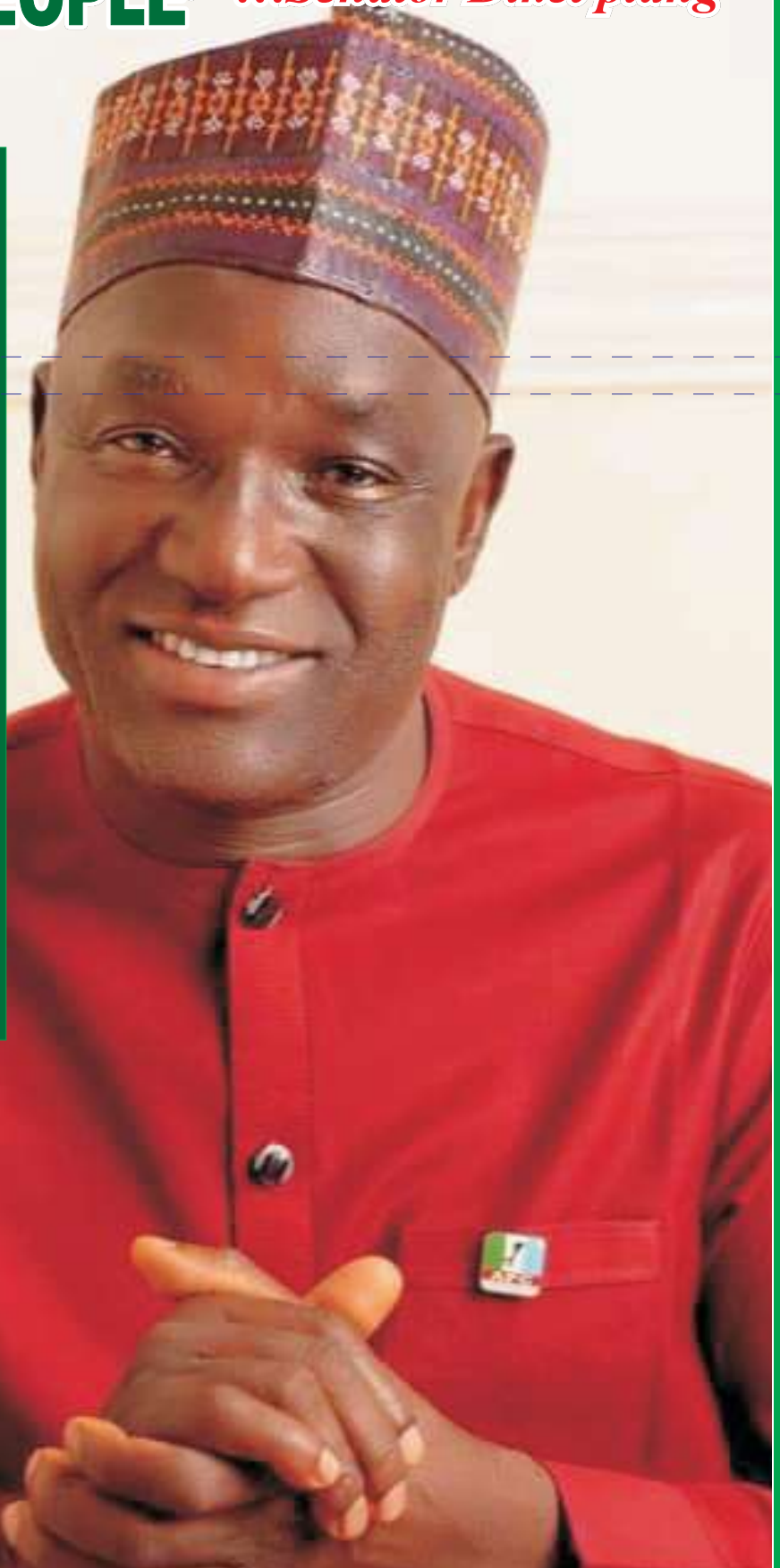


'MY SERVICE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS A CONTRACT OF TRUST BETWEEN ME AND MY PEOPLE' ...*Senator Diket plang*

Distinguished Senator Diket Plang, a first-time lawmaker representing the people of Plateau Central Senatorial District Plateau State is an experienced politician who has served meritoriously in both appointive and elective positions in plateau state. He is currently the Chairman Senate Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity and Vice Chairman Senate Committee on Federal Character and inter-Governmental affairs. He is also a Member of eleven Senate Committees. He spoke to our Editor-in-Chief, Peter Emuekpere on his profile and expectations of his people. Below is an excerpt of the chat



Can we get to meet you briefly, who is Senator Dimket Plang?

My name is Senator Dimket Plang representing Plateau Central Senatorial District. I am a first time Senator of the federal Republic of Nigeria. I was a former Councilor, former Local Government Chairman, former Commissioner, former P.A to Governor Joshua Dariye during his second tenure, former Special Adviser to Governor Jonah Jang. I was also a former appointee of President Obasanjo as NAPEP Coordinator in Plateau State, former Member Plateau House of Assembly and also former adviser to Governor Lalong as well as a member, Governing Council of Plateau State University. I am a Christian and married to my beautiful wife who is a professor of sociology and criminology and a lecturer at the University of Jos. We are blessed with three wonderful Children.

Now that you have been elected as a Distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to represent the people of Plateau Central Senatorial District, what do you think are the expectation of your people?

First, I thank God for giving me this opportunity to represent my people at the National Assembly in the Senate. I consider it as a great opportunity and contract of trust between me and my people. I thank my people for the mutual believe in me and this is an opportunity for me to protect that trust so that at the end of the day I will not disappoint them. They voted me not because I have money or anything, I offered to them but because of trust, and I pray that God will help me not to betray that trust. I promise to work hard, to be close to them. I promise that my constituency will feel the impact of all the federal Government projects and activities throughout my constituency.

What is the major challenge facing the people of your Senatorial District?

The development challenge that is facing my people is insecurity and unemployment. It is my hope that God will grant this administration the capacity, wisdom and enablement so we can fulfil the fundamental responsibility of government as stipulated in the Constitution of Nigeria section 14 sub-section 2b that the welfare and security of the citizenry is the number one responsibility of government. I pray that God will help us to bring peace to secure our people and emancipate them from terrorism, tribal clashes, kidnapping and all forms of evil vices. I am believing that all the elected representatives, stakeholders, non-governmental organizations will come together with government to foster peace and development in our country so that Nigerians can go about their daily activities without fear and molestation.

Distinguished Sir, what is your greatest motivation in life?

I am a Christian and what motivates me is the word of God. There is a verse in the bible that motivates me so much. It is the book of Mathew 25 from verse 35 which says' For I was an hungered and you gave me meat, I was

thirsty and ye gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me, I was in prison and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him saying when did we do all things and the king shall answer and say unto them, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of all these my brethren ye have done it unto me' Governance is about the weaker ones. God has not made all of us equal. We have different economic strength, different physical and mental strength so each person need protection and so governance is about balancing and protecting the fundamental rights of everyone. My prayer is that God should use me as an instrument for freedom, instrument for security and an instrument that will give life and succor to the weaker ones. To be able to lift people from the weaker side to the advantageous side because I came from the weaker side. My wish is that God should maximize me to be able to emancipate the common man to the glory of God.

What do you do at your leisure sir?

I love listening to news, I go through my social media handles and whassup group to read other people s opinion and what they say about me and even to take note of those who don't like my views so that I can communicate with them privately to explain myself to them. At my leisure I also like to chat with my neighbors and people around me. Most times at my leisure I spend quality time with my family.

What is your favourite meal?

I don't have a favourite meal because it keeps on changing. Sometimes it is rice, some other times it is swallow but most importantly I enjoy food that is well cooked, garnished with varieties and well presented.

Distinguished sir how as a father have you helped to promote family values?

I am a family man and happily married with three children. I am from a polygamous home even though my parents are Christians. I have worked very hard to unite polygamous homes. My parents are from very large family and by God s grace I have been able to unite them and bring peace to the home. I believe in the principles of brotherliness, togetherness and oneness. We have learnt to celebrate each other by manifesting love and peace. Honestly, I have been an instrument of peace and unity in my family.

Finally, sir what is a message to your people?

I promise my people they will never regret voting for me to represent them here in the senate. I will be there and always available for them. I will stand by them and promote peace, unity and do my possible best by the grace of God to bring development to them.

Thank you Distinguished for the opportunity to talk to us

You are most welcomed