

End terrorism and banditry now General Danjuma charge Service Chiefs

Former Minister of Defence and Chief of Army Staff, retired Lt.-Gen. Theophilus Danjuma, has asked Service Chiefs to end terrorism and banditry across the country and return the country to the path of peace. Danjuma made the call at the presentation of a book entitled "Big Boots: Lessons from my Military Service" written by retired Maj.-Gen. Solomon Uduonwa in Abuja. The former military chief, who chaired the book presentation, said there must be no room for excuses in the efforts to end the lingering insecurity ravaging the country. He extolled the virtues of the author and his commitment to excellence in his military career. "Number one problem today is insecurity, and we must end the pandemic. Stop the killings that are going on in our country as soon as possible. "Those of you who are still serving, no excuses and absolutely no," he said. Danjuma commended the military leadership for their efforts in addressing the various security challenges bedevilling the nation. He also commended the armed forces for effective management of their own pension. In his remarks, the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Christopher Musa said the military was positioned and working tirelessly to restore peace across the country. Musa added that the armed forces would continue to uphold the values of service, integrity, and honour that define extreme military tradition. "Let me at least also mention to our distinguished chairman that the armed forces of Nigeria are positioned, are willing, dedicated, and committed in ensuring that we restore peace and security in our own dear country. "We shall not be deterred, and there are going to be challenges. But that is why we are here. "I want to assure you that we have learned a lot from your record and very distinguished senior officers that have modeled us all through the years. "We cannot afford to fail and we will not fail," he said. The CDS also extolled the virtues of the author, retired Gen. Uduonwa for his exemplary service to the army and the nation in general. The author of the book, Uduonwa, said he was motivated by the desire to document his experiences for the younger generation. He said that the first factor that motivated him was that the military profession thrived on experiential learning. He added that younger generations of military officers and soldiers required the experiences of those who served before them to learn strategy, administration, operational management, and the rest. "If you don't document your experiences, that could be lost and then those coming behind you might not be able to learn from all the exposure and all the training that you had while in service. "So, my book is going to be of interest to serving personnel, to military historians to the academia for people who are interested in national and international security affairs, and for the general public. "So, that was the motivation". "I hope the younger generation of officers who are still serving will learn from some of the challenges I faced and how I was able to navigate through them. "I hope they will learn that to serve

in the military requires discipline, requires professionalism, requires integrity, requires character, requires courage, and so many other virtues that an officer must display while undertaking his duties," he said. Uduonwa explained that the title of the book "Big Boots" was informed by the size of his feet and boots in the military. He said that he faced bullies in primary school but decided to unleash his big feet on one of the bullies and ended the reign of terror. "Then when I joined the military, because my feet are very big, I was also given Big Boots, which went with me everywhere I served, and which I used in trampling on terrorists and every other threat to our national security," he added. The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the book presentation attracted the presence of the former service chiefs like Lt.-Gen. Tukur Buratai, Gen. Lucky Irabor, Lt.-Gen. Faruk Yahaya and other serving and retired top officers.

Report: 120m girls out of school worldwide

A report released by a non-governmental organisation, the Malala Fund, has disclosed that 120 million girls are out of school worldwide, out of which 8.5 million are adolescents. The Malala Fund's Annual Report of activities from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, was made available to newsmen in Abuja in September. According to the report, girls, especially those in low-income countries, dropped out of school at higher rates as they get older and transition to secondary school. It said there were barriers to girls' access to education in Nigeria through its policies and budgets, thus frustrating their completion of 12 years of education. It stated: "In Nigeria, barriers such as hidden school fees, policies that only guarantee nine years of free education and decreasing education budgets, keep girls from completing 12 years of school. "Additionally, safety concerns loom large in schools with incidents of student kidnapping, and 44 per cent of adolescent girls reporting experiences of physical and sexual violence inflicted by teachers and or classmates." According to the report, in addressing the situation, the Fund and its partners advocate for legislative changes to ensure 12 years of free education for all Nigerian students. The Fund added: "We have pushed for the government to fulfil its commitment to allocating four per cent of Gross Domestic Product, and 22.5 per cent of the national budget to education by 2025. "We also support organisations that advocate for policies and deliver programmes to make schools safer for girls." It further listed factors that significantly restrict girls' access to free, safe, and quality education to include reversal of progress on gender equality, strained education budget, and increased conflicts and climate shocks.

Malala Fund stated that it invests in and builds a network of education advocates, champions holding leaders accountable, and helps to develop the next generation of future leaders. The Fund noted that while marking its 10th anniversary, highlights of its activities included drawing global attention to gender apartheid in Afghanistan and

expanding the global right to free education to 12 years. Others include advancing and tracking gender equality in all through education and increasing financing for girls' education. Malala Fund was founded in 2013 by Malala Yousafzai and Ziauddin Yousafzai.

Nigeria's inflation rate drops to 32.15%

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has announced that Nigeria's inflation rate decreased to 32.15 per cent in August 2024. The NBS said that Nigeria's inflation rate dropped from 33.40 per cent recorded in July 2024 to 32.15 per cent in August. The bureau made the announcement via its Consumer Price Index (CPI) report for August 2024 released on Monday, September 16, 2024. The latest development showed that Nigeria's inflation rate decelerated for two consecutive months. The NBS announced that the headline inflation rate decreased to 33.40 per cent in July 2024. The headline inflation rate reduced from 34.19 per cent recorded in June 2024. The NBS, however, noted that Nigeria's inflation rate further eased to 32.15 per cent in August 2024, adding that the food inflation stood at 37.52 per cent in the same month. The bureau said Nigeria's inflation rate in August showed a decrease of 1.25 per cent points when compared to the July 2024 headline inflation rate. It stated: "However, on a year-on-year basis, the headline inflation rate was 6.35 per cent points higher compared to the rate recorded in August 2023 (25.80 per cent). "This shows that the headline inflation rate (year-on-year basis) increased in August 2024 when compared to the same month in the preceding year (i.e., August 2023). "Furthermore, on a month-on-month basis, the headline inflation rate in August 2024 was 2.22 per cent, which was 0.06 per cent lower than the rate recorded in August 2024 (2.28 per cent). "This means that in August 2024, the rate of increase in the average price level is lower than the rate of increase in the average price level in July 2024."

NHRC releases frightening figures of Nigerians killed, arrested between July and August 2024

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has disclosed that about 467 Nigerians were killed in four states of Benue, Kaduna, Katsina and Plateau between July and August 2024. This was as it also said that about 1,200 #EndBadGovernance protesters have so far been arrested and detained by security agencies across the country, stressing that in charging the protesters with treason, the government must get and make its intelligence and facts clear with the weighty allegations. The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Prof Tony Ojukwu, SAN, specifically condemned what he described as the "use of brutal force" by security agents against the

protesters in August. The NHRC particularly stressed that protest is not a crime in Nigeria but a legitimate way of expressing grievances against unfavourable government policies and programmes. The Commission noted that the #EndBadGovernance protest was the people's quest for good governance, and therefore urged the government to adopt a sustainable action in ensuring the protection of the people affected by displacement. The Commission noted that while some of the protesters were charged to court, it however stressed that majority of those arrested were detained beyond the period permitted by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) before they were charged to court. Presenting the NHRC human rights abuses report for July and August, 2024 on Friday in Abuja, Mr Hillary Ogbona, Senior Human Rights Adviser to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, said that 414,200 complaints of human rights abuses were received by the Commission across the country in the last two months. Giving a breakdown of the figures of people killed in the four affected states, Ogbona said between July and August, Kaduna State recorded 142 killings followed by Bebu with 137 people killed, while Katsina and Plateau recorded 112 and 76 killings respectively.

The Commission further said; "Government should not attempt to stop protest but to guide it. At the same time, the government should not lump genuine protesters with criminals. "Looting and destruction of private and public properties are not protests but acts of criminalities which should not be regarded as part of peaceful protests. "From this side, it is a fact that private and public properties were looted during the last protest and we hereby appeal to the government to identify and evaluate the losses of victims for the purpose of supporting them as some of the victims may not be able to rise again," it said. The NHRC appealed to the federal government to adopt a human rights approach to lawful protests, adding that the government should endeavour to look into the root causes of protests in the country which may not be far from economic and political situations being faced by the people. The Commission called on the Federal Government to learn how to manage protests as lawful ways for aggrieved Nigerians to state their positions so as to avoid anarchy in the country. The NHRC said it is monitoring the prosecution of the protesters in court, adding that it had in the last two months, witnessed astronomical increase in mass killings, abductions, attacks on police stations, attacks on press freedom, violation of the rights of association and assembly, killing of law enforcement and members of the Armed Forces, cases of violence against children, minors and child abandonment.

Nigeria emerges third-largest debtor to World Bank's IDA, gets \$2.2 billion under Tinubu

Nigeria has become the third-largest debtor to the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA). It achieved the feat as of June 30, 2024, reflecting a significant increase in the country's borrowing from the institution. According to the World

Bank's financial statements, Nigeria's exposure to the IDA rose by 14.4% from \$14.3 billion in the fiscal year (FY) of 2023 to \$16.5 billion in FY2024. This \$2.2 billion increase places Nigeria among the top three IDA debtors for the first time, a notable shift from its previous position as the fourth-largest borrower in 2023. The fiscal year for 2024 runs from July 2023 to June 2024, which means that Nigeria has received at least \$2.2 billion from the World Bank under the administration of President Bola Tinubu. This debt is different from any outstanding loan from the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). Stunned by thousands of storks flying over the sky in Gia Viễn dike, Ninh Bình – Ném TV. Bangladesh remains the largest IDA debtor, with its exposure increasing from \$19.3 billion in 2023 to \$20.5 billion in 2024. Pakistan follows, maintaining its second position with a stable exposure of \$17.9 billion over the same period. India, which was previously the third-largest borrower in 2023 with \$17.9 billion, saw a decrease in its IDA exposure to \$15.9 billion in 2024, allowing Nigeria to surpass it. Other significant IDA borrowers include Ethiopia, whose exposure grew from \$11.6 billion in 2023 to \$12.2 billion in 2024, and Kenya and Vietnam, both with \$12.0 billion in 2024. These countries, along with Tanzania, Ghana, and Uganda, comprise the top ten IDA debtors, collectively accounting for 63% of the IDA's total exposure as of June 30, 2024. The International Development Association (IDA) is a key arm of the World Bank, dedicated to providing concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest countries. These loans, characterized by low interest rates and long repayment periods, are designed to foster economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve living conditions in developing countries. Nairametrics earlier reported that Nigeria secured a total of \$4.95 billion in loans from the World Bank under Tinubu amid concerns over the country's rising external debt servicing costs. However, Nigeria has received only about 16% of these fresh loans. The World Bank may approve four loan projects totaling \$2 billion for Nigeria this year. Data from the external debt stock report of the Debt Management Office (DMO) shows that Nigeria owes the World Bank a total of \$15.59 billion as of March 31, 2024.

Economic crunch taking more tolls on families more than ever...CBN

A report from the Central Bank of Nigeria has warned of more financial strain for Nigerians. The report indicated that household expenditures will continue to rise through the remainder of 2024 and into January 2025. The survey on household expectations revealed that numerous Nigerian families may diminish their lifetime savings to meet financial commitments in the coming months. This information was detailed in the July 2024 Inflation Expectations Survey Report published on the CBN's official website. The Inflation Expectations

Survey for July 2024 was conducted from 14th July to 26th July, involving 1,600 businesses and 1,650 households across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The purpose of the survey was to measure how businesses and households perceive current and future inflation trends, as well as the primary drivers of inflation.

By understanding these perceptions, policymakers can better manage monetary policy to stabilize the economy and promote growth, the report explained. According to the Central Bank of Nigeria, the survey revealed that 83.7 percent of respondents viewed the current level of inflation as high, with an overall perception index of -61.1 points. A breakdown of the survey responses showed that businesses, with an index of -58.7 points, are slightly less pessimistic about inflation compared to households, which have an index of -63.3 points. The report indicated that businesses perceive the current inflation rate more favourably than households do. However, analysis revealed that large businesses are particularly concerned about inflation, with an index of -70.8 points, reflecting a strong belief that the current inflation level is excessively high. The CBN also assessed consumer perspectives across three key dimensions, including economic conditions, family financial situations, and family income. This comprehensive approach, the CBN said, would help to capture a broader view of how inflation impacts individuals and families, providing valuable insights for managing monetary policy and addressing economic challenges. The report indicated that all income groups are experiencing worsening family financial situations, with many anticipating the need to either deplete their savings or incur debt in the coming months. The CBN's report noted that consumer confidence was broadly pessimistic for the three months ending in October and November 2024. "This pessimism would persist into the following month and the subsequent three months, with confidence indices of -21.8 and -9.1 points, respectively," the report stated.

It attributed this negative outlook to deteriorating economic conditions and declining family financial situations, as consumers expressed concerns about relying on savings or accumulating debt to meet their financial needs. Meanwhile, Nigerian consumers also anticipated a rise in inflation across all reviewed periods. The report highlights that inflation indices were -62.2 for the current month, -53.7 for the next month, -41.7 for the next three months, and -29.0 for the next six months. "Most consumers expect price increases in several expenditure categories this month. Specifically, anticipated price hikes are significant for transportation (68.9 points), medical expenses (67.7 points), purchases of cars or motor vehicles (67.1 points), house purchases (66.8 points), and rents (63.4 points)," the report further revealed. Both businesses and households perceive the July 2024 inflation rate as high, reflected by a negative index point of -61.1, it stated, indicating widespread concern about the current inflationary environment. However, most respondents identified changes in energy prices, exchange rates, and transportation costs as the primary drivers of inflation in July 2024.