

# New NIGERIAN

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## **Naira Redesign: Lagos Assembly Commends NASS, Says Nigerians Are Suffering, Economy In danger**

**■ Demands further extension beyond Feb 10**



Obasa

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Naira redesign policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has brought mass suffering on the citizens of the country while the economy is in danger, the Lagos State House of Assembly has lamented. According to a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Eromosele Ebhomele, the lawmakers further noted that even though the policy was a good one, its timing was wrong as it had further

thrown the country into economic chaos which could become difficult to resolve if urgent steps are not taken.

The CBN had announced a 10-day extension of the deadline for currency swap at the weekend, but at a sitting presided over by Speaker Mudashiru Obasa yesterday, the lawmakers urged the CBN to extend the deadline for currency swap as the policy has not helped the country.

Dr. Obasa noted that the concern of the lawmakers had to do with the pains, anguish and anger spreading among

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**2023: Hunkuyi, ABG Receive 250 Defectors From APC, PDP**



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**Governor Inuwa Approves N1.3bn For Backlog Of Gombe LG Retirees Gratuity**

**\*Okays immediate promotion of 26, 085 lg workers, payment of arrears since 2012**

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## 2023: Southern Kaduna Christians, Muslims Sign MoU For Peaceful Elections

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Southern Kaduna Christian Leaders Association and Southern Kaduna Council of Imams and Ulama have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) towards ensuring peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims in the area before, during and after the forthcoming elections.

The MoU signed by Dr. Emmanuel Nuhu Kure and Chief Imam Muhammad D. Kassim, said, "Having identified stakeholders (Christians and Muslims) committed to the promotion of

peaceful co-existence among communities in Southern Kaduna, Kaduna State, Nigeria, the above leaders do undertake to sign this MOU as a mark of their commitment towards sustaining peaceful coexistence for progress before, during and after the February/March 2023 General Elections."

By working together at ensuring strategic and operational levels of understanding between the two groups, the Southern Kaduna Christian Leaders Association and Southern Kaduna Council of Imams and Ulama with their members, collectively and

individually, agreed to ensure that they would have a crisis-free 2023 General Elections.

The two groups also agreed that in the event that crisis erupts in other places, they would jointly ensure that it does not consume Southern Kaduna and their members are not involved. According to the MoU, the participants shared objectives in support of a crisis-free 2023 general elections in Southern Kaduna, and their respective undertakings.

It added that anyone who attempts to aid outsiders create or start a crisis, they would jointly release their members to protect the

land from both external and internal trouble before, during and after the 2023 general elections.

"This MOU is meant to serve as a reminder of the commitment of the undersigned in support of a crisis-free 2023 general elections in Southern Kaduna. It also establishes a basis for ongoing dialogue and cooperation between the participants, so that future interventions and areas of mutual interest may be brought under this framework," the statement explained.

It called on all members to be vigilant and ensured a peaceful aftermath during the forthcoming general elections in the area.



## Tinubu's Abeokuta Declaration Averted Looming Crisis In Nigeria Over Naira Swap - Group

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A Northern based support group, Arewa for Asiwaju, has expressed delight with Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), for speaking up against January 31 deadline initially set for swap of the old Naira notes for new ones.

According to the group, Tinubu's 'Abeokuta declaration', which it believes compelled the Federal Government to extend the deadline to 10th February, "saved the nation from going up in flames, as consequence of

the raging public anger that pervaded the atmosphere before the sudden 10 days extension".

Arewa for Asiwaju while attributing the sudden 10 days extension of the Naira swap to what it called Tinubu's sagacity and courage, said that it was this courage and purposeful leadership shown by the Asiwaju that compelled the government to go back on its earlier "no going back stance".

It however, said that, Nigerians certainly owe Tinubu immense gratitude for stepping in and risking everything to change the obviously bad situation occasioned by the initial

January 31st deadline.

Its North-Central Coordinator, Aliyu Musa Pass, in a statement, said, "whether anyone wants to believe it or not, it is the courageous sagacity displayed by Tinubu that invariably saved the Nigerian commoner from suffering the pains of the initial timeline set by the Federal Government for the unpopular new currency swap.

"And by that singular action, Tinubu also saved the nation from going up in flames as consequence of the raging public anger that pervaded the atmosphere before the sudden 10 days extension."

The statement explained

that Tinubu has proved himself a great statesman, in his now famous Abeokuta declaration, took the bold and necessary step of alerting on the dangers inherent in the new naira policy, its timing and deadline.

It explained that apparently rattled, the President invited Asiwaju to Daura where the man stood his ground insisting the policy was unnecessary, unpopular and would only harm the common man and lead to greater conflict.

The group noted that the nation certainly owe Tinubu immense gratitude for stepping in and risking everything to save an obvious bad situation.

## 2023: Makarfi LG Boss Enjoins Electorate To Collect PVCs, Says Youth Will Determine Outcome

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

The Chairman of Makarfi Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Engr. Kabiru Makarfi has called on electorate to get their permanent voter cards (PVCs) ready ahead February and March general elections.

Makarfi in an interview with newsmen in Kaduna, also hinted that youth due to their numerical strength, would determine the direction of the next general polls, urging them to make informed decisions on ensuring only credible candidates emerge victorious at the poll.

The politician defined elections as rights of citizens to enthrone public office holders in a representative democracy as practised in Nigeria, adding that apathy and nonchalant attitudes by electorate must be avoided so people's votes would count.

"We are to witness yet another democratic experiment in few days where citizens will once again determine their future and that of generations to come.

"Youth must be made to understand the important role they can play in

deciding the political fortune of this country where the domino effect of one mistake could lead to underdevelopment and deficit of governance.

"They must be active, smart and politically active to lead the way for a new Nigeria in conformity with the dreams and aspirations of our founding fathers who fought tooth and nail to ensure the actualization of self-rule enjoyed today," he stated.

While appreciating the high level of preparedness of the electoral umpire which he noted had put in place measures that would ensure free and fair elections, the politician mentioned credibility, compassion, dynamism, trustworthiness among others as credentials voters should look out for in a candidate before casting their votes.

He called the present challenges faced across the country as tooting stage which must be painful as experienced by all developed democracies as America, India and others, expressing optimism in the ability of Nigeria to overcome her governance-based hiccups and become a model for others to copy in the nearest future.



Makarfi

## Borno Christians Commend Zulum For Sponsoring 101 Faithful To 2023 Pilgrimage

*\*Pray For Peaceful Elections*

By ; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Christians in Borno State have commended the governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum for sponsoring 101 faithful to Israel for the 2023 Christian pilgrimage.

The pilgrims who were led by the Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Borno State Chapter, Most Rev. Dr. John Bagna Bakani to the holy land, equally appreciated the deputy governor of the state, Alhaji Usman Umar Kadafur for the successful coordination of the arrangement that has seen them through to the pilgrimage.

Speaking on Sunday shortly after visiting one of the holy sites in Jordan from where they proceeded to Jerusalem on Monday, Most Rev. Dr. Bakani who is the Auxiliary Bishop of Maiduguri Catholic Diocese, said the pilgrimage is an opportunity for the church to pray for peace as the country prepares for general elections this year. The Bishop added that participation of faithful in the pilgrimage would enable them to renew their faith in the worship of God and to also walk in the path of Jesus Christ.

He urged the pilgrims to make the best of opportunity and see themselves as pilgrims instead of tourists.

"I commend our Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum for giving the Christians in the state this wonderful opportunity of renewing their faith by providing resources from the coffers

of the state for their spiritual growth. I also commend the deputy governor for all his efforts at ensuring that the 2023 pilgrimage comes to fruition for the Christians in the state," Most Rev. Dr. Bakani said.

Also speaking, the former Head of Service (HoS) of the state, Barr. Simon Malgwi congratulated the pilgrims for making it to the holy land, and as well thanked Governor Zulum for making it possible for Christians in the state to participate in this year's pilgrimage.

As a participant, Barr. Malgwi who is also the Adviser to Governor Zulum on legal matters, said haven read a lot of things from the Holy Bible coupled with the privilege to visit the holy land to see those things for himself, his faith in those things read in the Holy Book has been strengthened.

He added that participants witnessing those things written in the Holy Book by themselves in the holy land, would in turn return home to testify to those who had not visited the holy land that those things in the Holy Bible are not fiction, but reality.

A participant, Engr Ayuba Dawa, said his experience in the holy land has made him to believe that the Holy Bible is real.

"I am happy to be here. My eyes have seen, my hands have touched and even my legs have worked on those things said in the Bible. We will be praying for a peaceful 2023 general elections and total return of peace to Borno State and the country as a whole. I commend Governor Zulum for giving us the opportunity to renew our faith," he said.

## Naira Redesign: Lagos Assembly Commends NASS, Says Nigerians Are Suffering, Economy In danger

*\*Demands further extension beyond Feb 10*

Nigerians over their inability to access the new currency.

"Economists have said most times you cannot use new currency to control inflation, it doesn't achieve the purpose most times," Obasa said adding that the intention of the policy as claimed by CBN had been defeated owing to the various complaints from experts and people across the country.

The Speaker said the CBN should have engaged stakeholders while citizens should have been adequately carried along rather than an 'over-night' policy by the CBN.

"There are people in the rural areas. It is obvious that the additional 10 days is not even going to be enough.

"The idea is a good one but the way it is being implemented will have an adverse effect on the people.

"We need to commend the National Assembly for showing quality representation and prompt action to intervene for an extension of the deadline." The Speaker said that in other countries, old currencies are not discarded in a rush, but allowed to gradually fade out of the system.

Hon. Rotimi Olowo, the lawmaker representing Somolu Constituency 1 who moved the motion, sought for an extension of



Lagos Speaker

the deadline till July 2023 in line with the resolution of the National Assembly, while noting the suffering the policy had brought on Nigerians.

Olowo complained about the unavailability of the new notes and the effect on the people, including small business owners and those in rural areas.

Contributing to the motion, Hon. Saka Solaja, chairman of the House committee on public account for state, argued that financial policies are not implemented the way the CBN had gone about the Naira redesign.

"We see videos of people beating themselves

mercilessly at ATMs, yet there is no money," he lamented while supporting the call for an extension of the deadline by the CBN.

On his part, Hon. Richard Kasunmu (Ikeja II) argued that the timing of the policy was not right, especially as the country was still grappling with challenges of effective internet connectivity.

He recalled how he spent five hours a day earlier trying to make an electronic transfer of ₦55,000 to resolve an emergency situation.

"We should be looking at the larger Nigerian people. If we want to survive the

Nigerian economy, this should not be a good time for such policy," he said.

While Hon. Victor Akande (Ojo 1), argued that Emezie breached a part of the CBN Act concerning the policy, Hon. Setonji David noted: "All over the world, CBN governors are economists, not bankers like Emezie.

"Our people are suffering and the money can't be found at the ATMs. If you go to the ATMs, you would see how people are struggling," he lamented.

The motion was passed by the Speaker after a voice vote of all the members at the sitting.

## President Buhari Commissions Projects In Kano Amidst Tight Security

By ; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

President Muhammadu Buhari has commissioned some projects both executed by the federal and Kano State governments as part of his one-day working visit to the state.

Our correspondent who was in the city of Kano in the morning, reports that

all the routes leading to the commissioning venues were surrounded by security agents stationed across the state in order to ensure hitch-free visit.

Furthermore, some residents remained far away from the presidential convoy, while others concentrated on their activities where all the routes followed by the president and his

entourage were seriously dominated by military and mobile policemen.

Some of the youth that had interactive sessions with New Nigerian said that Kano is the hope to Mr. President politically, but his popularity is now gradually fading due to the president's policies in governance that are very tough.

Malam Usman Adamu Isa who is also a frontline member of All Progressives Congress (APC) announced that, "The presidential visit was done peacefully and the measures taken by the security agencies is understood because some elements planned to disrupt the visit, which would not be tolerated".



Tricycle which driver and a passenger died.

## 2 Die, Pregnant Women, Children Rescued As Truck Crushes Tricycle In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two pregnant women and two children cheat dead by whiskers in Lagos yesterday as they were rescued from a fatal accident which involved a container truck and three mini commercial buses popular called tricycles. Two others, which include a driver of one of the tricycles and a passenger were unlucky as they died instantly at the spot.

Our correspondent gathered that the ghastly vehicular accident occurred at a valley around Synagogue Church, Ikotun at about 12.30pm on yesterday, when a fully loaded container truck marked JJJ 125, had a brake failure and crushed 3 tricycles.

It was learnt that the two rescued victims were rescued by personnel of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) and handed over immediately to Police men attached to Ikotun Police Station who conveyed them to Alimosho General Hospital for treatment. The Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of the Agency Adebayo Taofiq confirmed the report in a release made available to journalists on Tuesday.

It reads, "Operatives of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) today rescued another 4 fatal accident victims inside mini commercial buses (tricycles) around Ikotun

area of Lagos.

"The accident which occurred around 12:30 pm today involved a fully loaded container truck (JJJ 125) and 4 mini commercial buses (tricycles) with registration nos (LSD 83 QM), (AKD 690 QK) & (AKL 87 QF).

"The driver of one of the mini commercial bus (tricycle) with one passenger died instantly.

"Those four (4) rescued accident victims by Lastma personnel were 2 pregnant women and 2 children.

"Lastma personnel immediately handed over those rescued victims to Police men from Ikotun Police Station who took them to General Hospital for treatment.

"A preliminary

investigation revealed that the fully loaded container truck (JJJ 125) had a brake failure and crushed 3 tricycles by a valley around synagogue when going towards Ikotun.

"The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) immediately moved the tanker with those crushed tricycles to Ikotun Police Station

"Other emergency responders including the Nigerian Police men from Ikotun Police Station were at the scene of the accident.

"The General Manager of LASTMA Mr Bolaji Oreagba however warned tanker owners and drivers to always ensure that their trucks are properly checked and in good conditions before embarking on any journey".

## Importers, Exporters To Benefit Immensely From Inland Dry Ports - FG

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Federal Government has expressed optimism that importers and exporters in Nigeria will benefit immensely from the inland dry ports being established in various parts of the country.

The Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo stated this at the commissioning of the Dala Inland Dry Port in Kano State.

Mu'azu Sambo maintained that the Inland Dry Ports Projects will help decongest

the seaports and also take shipping and port services closer to importers and exporters in the hinterland.

The minister, in a release by Henshaw Ogbike Director, Press and Public Relations of the ministry, called on national and international maritime practitioners, shippers, shipping companies landlocked countries and port users to take full advantage of the Inland Dry Ports for imports and exports.

According to him, the Inland Dry Port initiative was conceived as part of the

Federal Government's ports reform programme and is to be sited at chosen locations across the country.

He said the six inland dry ports approved by the Federal Executive Council would be concessioned to private sector operators on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) with the strategic framework to build, own, operate and then transfer the projects to the government.

The Minister commended the President Buhari-led Federal Government for its effort at developing critical infrastructure in the country, especially in the transportation sector,

adding that such effort will stand as a testimony for future generations.

On the Dala Inland Dry Port at Zawachiki in Kano State, Mu'azu Sambo explained that the State was chosen for the project because of its position as the commercial capital of Northern Nigeria.

He said the Dala Inland Dry Port which was concessioned to Messrs Dala Inland Dry Port Nigeria Limited, will be a Customs port in accordance with the provisions of the Customs and Excise Management Act, Cap. C45 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and shall have all the pre-requisites of an international port

## Muslim-Muslim Ticket Will Divide Nigeria Along Religious, Tribal Lines, Dogara Insists

*\*Says Atiku will unite Nigerians*

*\*Says Obi not convincing,*

*Kwankwaso lacs national appeal*

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A former Speaker, House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara, has opined that the Muslim-Muslim ticket of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), will break Nigeria along religious and tribal lines.

He expressed fears that the same faith ticket is strongly against the unity and peaceful coexistence of the country and enjoined Nigerians to reject it in totality for the development of the country.

Dogara, who spoke during the Arewa Christian Indigenous Pastors Association (ACIPA's) day of prayers, awards and book dedication/launch at Evangelical Church of West Africa, ECWA in Jos, Plateau State, believes that Tinubu has a lot of baggages that would make him a foreign asset if he becomes the next president to the detriment of the generality of Nigerians.

According to him, the crucial role they can play as Christians is to examine the character of the candidates running for offices especially the highest office in the country and disavow those of them that they know are not a reflection of their moral ethos.

He thanked the leadership of CAN for long taking a stand against the same faith ticket of the APC, saying that it is not in the interest for peaceful coexistence and unity of the country and its future politics.

Dogara said that Atiku is more politically experienced and would unite the country while evaluating the three other major presidential candidates with Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Obi of the Labour Party, LP, and Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP).

The former Speaker said he is yet to be convinced about the accomplishments of Obi while he was governor in Anambra, saying that the youth yearned for him, but may not win many votes in core North Western states and for Kwankwaso, he opined that the campaign lacked national appeal.

He asserted, "The other candidate is that of the PDP. God forbid that we should imagine that he is perfect, but we cannot deny that he is by far the most experienced and that what he has done for the Northern Church has no known parallels in Nigerian's history. This is one of his major appeals to some of us who endorsed his candidature."

## APSSON Charges NITT New Executive To Be Professional

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The national President of Association of Professional Secretarial Staff of Nigeria (APSSON), Comrade Nasiru Yaro has charged the new executive members of NITT Branch to formulate policies and programmes that will be knowledge oriented such as seminars to members as the association is now professional.

He gave the charge at the formal inauguration of Nigerian Institute for Transport Technology (NITT), Zaria branch recently.

Comrade Yaro said, it is obligatory for the branch to now fly the flag of the institute at national fora through adequate representation at any conference and meeting where issues bothering on the state of affairs of the profession and the nation are exhaustively deliberated.

The president also advised the new executive to see their emergence as a call to service and accept it as a challenge.

He acknowledged the institution's management for being supportive and hospitable to members who came to witness the ceremony.

In his message, the Director General of NITT Zaria, Dr. Bayero Salih Farah said the institute will continue to support the association.

Represented by Engr. Elkana Ngbale, Director, Training of the institute, he said there is no office that can perform effectively without the secretariat that is why they are special.

Dr. Bayero warned that if a secret of an organization is leaked, mostly it is from the secretary, which is not proper and unprofessional.

# Governor Inuwa Condoles Dukku Emirate Over Bunu's Death

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has extended condolences to the Emir of Dukku, Alhaji Haruna Abdulkadir Rashid, CON and the entire people of the emirate over the demise of Bunun Dukku, Alhaji Usman Rashid. According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press

Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, the late Bunu, died on Monday at the age of 90 and has since been buried according to Islamic injunctions.

Governor Inuwa led government officials, APC stalwarts and his associates to attend the funeral prayer (Janazah) for the deceased held at the Central Mosque, Emir's Palace, Dukku.

While commiserating with the royal family, Governor Inuwa described the late Bunu as an illustrious son, upright father, community leader and respected elder statesman who lived an exemplary life worthy of emulation.

He said the death of the traditional title holder and senior emirate council member is a great loss, not only to Dukku emirate but the state and the

nation in general.

The Governor, on behalf of the government and people of Gombe State, extended his heartfelt condolences to the immediate family of the deceased, urging them to keep alive the wonderful legacies of dignity and honour he left behind.

He also prayed Almighty Allah to forgive his shortcomings and reward his good deeds with

Aljannat Firdaus.

On the Governor's entourage were the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, Director General, APC Campaign Council, Barrister Zubairu Muhammad Umar, Commissioners, party chieftains: Dr. Jamilu Isiyaka Gwamna, Dr. Bala Bello Tinka, Alh. Abubakar Sherif among others.



# Kaduna Govt Committed To Boosting Businesses - Commissioner

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Commissioner, Planning and Budget Commission, Hajiya Umma Yusuf Aboki has assured that the Kaduna State Government is ever committed to boosting businesses with available grants and enabling their digital capacities.

It would be recalled that she delivered a Keynote Address at the KD-CARES Area 3 Launch

in December 2022.

However, the Kaduna State Enterprise Development Agency (KADEDA) has provided the first batch of the beneficiaries of the Result Area 3 (RA3) component of the COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus Programme (KADUNA-CARES) with Credit Grant and ICT Grant, worth over one Hundred and Ten million Naira (N110,000,000.00).

The Nigeria-CARES Programme is a World Bank-sponsored intervention that seeks to mitigate the local effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at the state-level, by protecting the livelihoods of existing and newly poor and vulnerable households and supporting the recovery of local economic activity, especially among MSMEs.

In Kaduna, Kaduna CARES RA3 is targeted at MSMEs in the

formal and informal sectors involved in commercial activities within the state and is being implemented by KADEDA.

It is hoped that the grants will provide relief, facilitate the recovery and enhance the capacity and capabilities of local MSMEs through this support designed to reduce their vulnerability and cushion the effects of income-loss brought about by the COVID-19

pandemic and its resultant disruption to regular commercial activity.

Also, giving an overview of the agency and the project, the Managing Director of KADEDA, Dr. Mustapha Shitu noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and the concurrent shock to global oil prices created an urgent need to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the crisis in Nigeria.



## 35-Year-Old Construction Worker Loses Control, Rams Vehicle Into Stationary Bus

By; **IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna**

A 35-year-old worker of a road construction company (name withheld) has rammed into a stationary commercial bus, injuring three passengers in the process. Eye witnesses spoken to by our correspondent who arrived the scene of the accident along Kachia Road about three minutes later, attributed the mishap to negligence on the part of the driver of the Benz C-240.

A vulcanizer, Taiwo Joseph who said he escaped being rammed into by the whiskers, blamed the Benz driver whom he said, was distracted and not concentrating on the wheels.

"This commercial bus here was filled to the brim with passengers heading

to Sabon Tasha from Central Market.

"The bus driver packed and called me to gauge his tyres, one of which was almost flat.

"As I made to move the hose of my pumping machine to the tyres facing the side of the road, I suddenly heard a bang which sent me and others around the scene running for safety.

"The impact was so much that the Benz almost went into the parked bus, injuring some passengers and the conductor," he said.

One of the passengers in the bus, Angela Isaac told our correspondent that all she heard was pandemonium after the bus was hit from behind by the Benz Saloon car which she said was driven by a careless driver who would have caused the deaths of people if not by the

intervention of God.

The bus driver AbdulLateefAdelabu who was visibly shaken by the accident expressed surprise on how a human being in his right senses could drive into a stationary vehicle parked off the shoulders of a road. "I was inside my bus waiting for the vulcanizer whom was being engaged by my conductor in negotiation to gauge our tyres, suddenly I heard a bang whose impacts compressed my bus, causing injuries to three passengers on the head, including my conductor who escaped by a reflex action.

"My bus back windscreen has been completely shattered by the impact that compressed the bus," he added.

The driver of the Benz C240 4Matic who

identified himself as Philip Francis said the car wasn't his, adding that he was asked to take the car to a mechanic at Old Artillery Barracks (now used as mechanic workshops) few meters away.

Francis explaining further, denied being under the influence of alcohol, insisting that he didn't see the bus where it was parked beside the roadside vulcanizer.

The injured were taken to Saint Gerard Catholic Hospital located about 500 meters away.

Our correspondent reported the arrival of traffic police officers from Kakuri Area Command about 30 minutes later who after some sketches and record taking on the scene of the accident towed the two vehicles away to the station.



## Jigawa APC Governorship Candidate Ready For Continuity - Mai Unguwa Jaga



Mai Unguwa Jaga

By; **JABIRU A. HASSAN, Dutse**

The Jigawa State Chairman of the All Farmers Association (AFAN),

Mai Unguwa Jaga said that, "from what is going on in our electioneering campaigns across Jigawa State, his Excellency, Malam Umar Namadi (APC) gubernatorial candidate in the state, would win the polls with wide margin because of the real support he always enjoys whenever we are campaigning."

The AFAN leader commended the Executive Governor of Jigawa State,

His Excellency, Alhaji Muhammad Badaru added that Dan Abubakar for changing the face of the state to an exemplary domain in transformation of Jigawa every sector.

## Gov el-Rufai Pledges Support To Seven Slain NSCDC Families

By; **AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna**

Governor Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna State has assured of his readiness to support the families of slain officers and men of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Brinin-Gwari area of the state.

New Nigerian recalls that seven personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) were ambushed by bandits and killed alongside five others from a

sister security agency and local security service on the 9th January, 2023 in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The personnel, all attached to the Kaduna State Ministry of Mines, were ambushed by the bandits and killed while on official duty at a mining site in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of the state.

Making the pledge when playing host to Ahmed Audi, the Commandant General of

NSCDC, where Governor el-Rufai extended condolences to the CG on the deaths of the personnel who died in active service, stated that the support would help cushion the effects of the hardship that the loss of the victims may have created in their families.

Olusola Odumosu, the corps spokesperson, in a statement on Sunday, explained that el-Rufai sympathised with the loved ones left behind and the NSCDC family, pledging his continuous

support in terms of logistics, operational equipment, and working tools to improve its operational services in the state. el-Rufai hailed the performance of the corps as it relates to the protection of critical assets and infrastructure in the state, citing the mining sector as significant to the growth of the nation's economy which the personnel showed great patriotism.

According to el-Rufai, "I will direct all local government chairmen in the state to build

more outposts for the corps in their local government areas."

He expressed delight with the CG's initiatives for bringing transformational changes in the corps, like the establishment of the Special Female Squad, stressing that it was driving the Safe Schools Initiative, among other efforts.

The Commandant General thanked the governor for his magnanimity in remembering the bereaved families and his willingness to support the families of the deceased.

# Gov AbdulRazaq Briefs Kwara Professionals In Lagos On Strides, Post-2023 plans

*\*We are impressed by your achievements, say leading Kwarans*

By; BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE  
ONAO LAPO, Ilorin

**K**wara State Governor, AbdulRazaq, met with a rich crop of Kwara Professionals resident in Lagos, debriefing them on the journey since 2019, the measurable strides of his administration across different sectors, and his vision for the state when re-elected in the 2023 ballot.

The briefing was a continuation of the Governor's multi-prong stakeholders' engagements that peaked a few months ago with town hall and village square meetings held in different parts of the state and broadcast live on the revamped state-owned television and radio station and other private media platforms.

Quoting facts and figures from the past and present, the Governor said the administration met a collapsed basic education sector while the Colleges of Education were all down owing to nonpayment of salaries and lack of accreditation.

He said the administration has been able to turn things around in the area of infrastructural and human resource development, welfare for workers, and the introduction of technology to give the Kwara child a headstart in life.

The Governor said the introduction of KwaraLEARN programme has raised school enrollment by at least 45% and boosted numeracy and literacy skills in the first phase that comprised just four local governments, adding that the programme now operates in 11 local government areas and would extend to the rest of the state later this year.

He also spoke about how the administration has improved healthcare delivery at the primary and secondary levels and won the confidence of different development partners



like UNICEF, while its investments in the sector have earned the state university an accreditation to run medicine programme with medical school billed to take off at the Ilorin General Hospital.

AbdulRazaq said the state no longer tops the national table in open defecation as it did before in 2019, while Kwara now posts great indices in maternal health care and hospital attendance.

He said the administration has revamped many of the dead waterworks which were largely built during the Sardauna years, and built two new ones to improve water supply in the state, including in the capital city where tanker was once the source of public water supply.

"We have been deliberate in spreading development, and we are glad that our people have a better sense of ownership of their state today than ever before. What we have done is to stabilise Kwara for growth and development," he said.

"We have many road projects across the state. We have designed a sustainable development plan, an agricultural master plan, and a new master plan for our capital city, and we are designing for other parts of the state. We are planning different industrial parks, including one at Eiyenkorin, another in Kwara

South, and an agroprocessing factory in Kwara North," he said, adding that the administration's economic expansion efforts such as support for small scale enterprises are fast making Kwara a new hub.

The Governor also spoke about his many road projects across the state, including a plan to construct the road that links Agbamu to Ila Orangun to boost economic growth in that axis.

He said the state is attracting different positive attention and investments, including an upcoming \$50m Olam project for which some lands are being allocated and a share of the \$10bn renewable energy project to be funded by the US government.

The Governor, who took time to respond to questions from the professionals, also spoke about the herders-farmers' issue and a need to address it as a solution to food security and national cohesion, the status of Shonga Farm, the garment factory of the administration, IV-TEC, and tourism potentials of the state.

AbdulRazaq also urged the Kwara professionals to support the candidature of APC's Bola Tinubu, who he said will clearly favour Kwara in infrastructural development and other dividends of democracy.

The professionals took turns to

commend the Governor's developmental strides in the state, with many of them mentioning different areas they have felt his work back home, including the interventions in the remotest corners of the state like Onila community in Irepodun.

"It is profound indeed that your government pays good attention to basic needs of the people, including in Onila. We are very proud of that," Mr.

Emmanuel Oyebanji SAN told the Governor, urging him to do a lot more.

Professor Bayo Oladipo, the dean of the faculty of Education at the University of Lagos, said he was impressed by the governor's focus on the development of the education sector, especially the employment of qualified teachers.

He charged the Governor to pay more attention to the Colleges of Education to ensure that they deliver on their core mandate of training quality teachers.

"We have no regret at all that we supported you in 2019. We are glad about what you have achieved with the little resources. People talk about the modest change here and there," Mr. Bayo Atoyebi, a lawyer and entrepreneur, said.

Otunba Ademola Adedoyin, a PR expert, said the Governor's

briefing was quite comprehensive, clear, and enlightening as it touched on the situation in 2019, the strides and challenges of the administration, and his roadmap for the future.

The stakeholders' engagement was attended by Senators Sadiq Umar (Kwara North) and Lola Ashiru (Kwara South); House of Representatives members Tunji Olawuyi Ajuloopin and Tijani Ismail; APC Senatorial Candidate for Kwara Central Turaki Salihu Mustapha and APC House of Representatives candidate for Asa/Ilorin West Mukhtar Shagaya.

Others are, APC House of Representatives candidate for Ilorin East/South Ahmed Yinka Aluko; APC House of Representatives candidate for Edu/Patigi Ahmed Saba; APC chieftain Alhaji Raheem Adedoyin; Alhaji Olanrewaju Ajiboye; Senior People Advisor (West Africa) at the British Council Anthony Oyeyiola; PR Executive Bola Olukoju; company Secretary at Eko Hotels and Suite Chief Samuel Alabi; General Manager of Kwara State Television Mr. Michaels Olatunde Oyeyiola; Daily Trust's top reporter Abdullateef Aliyu; and legal practitioner Alhaji Tajudeen Adedoyin; among others.

## Nigerian Railway Announces Resumption of Abuja-Kaduna Train Operations

By; MATTHEW  
UKACHUNWA, Lagos

**A**buja Kaduna Train Service which was suspended on Friday 27th January 2023 due to the derailment that occurred at Kubwa Station on the same date, will resume operations on Tuesday 31st January 2023.

The Board and Management of Nigerian Railway Corporation

(NRC) made the announcement in a news statement issued by Niyi Alli, the Director of Operations, and made available on Monday. "Subsequently, the Service will resume on Tuesday 31st January 2023 with the following daily schedule;

\* KA2 departs Rigasa at 0700

\* AK1 departs Idu at 10.00

\* KA4 departs Rigasa at

13.00

\* AK3 departs Idu at 16.00.

"However on Wednesdays only KA2 Will depart Rigasa at 0700 and AK 3 will depart Idu at 16.00.

"The Corporation once again regrets any inconvenience our esteemed passengers may have experienced as a result of the temporary suspension of the service," Alli said.





## Oyo AAC Guber Candidate Offers Free Medical Services To 2,000 In Oyo

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

African Action Congress (AAC), gubernatorial candidate in Oyo State, Mr. Mojeed Okedara on Saturday, flagged-off his free health programme tagged, "Olugbeja Mekunu Free Health Care Scheme" at the Atiba Hall, Akesan Market, Oyo Town.

Speaking at the flag off, the AAC governorship candidate disclosed that the provision of effective healthcare will enable the

Oyo people to participate in national development.

Mr. Okedara pointed out that, "it is part of his plan to give opportunity to children, youth and the elderly irrespective of their political affiliation to know their health status. He advised the participants to often seek medical attention at approved health facilities and not to engage in self-medication, saying the scheme will be moved round to the other part of the state for more people to benefit.

Speaking on the essence of the event, he said the medical outreach was aimed at giving adequate healthcare services to his people explaining that he wanted to ensure a healthy electorate and reduce the high incidence of sudden deaths among residents due to unattended health challenges.

"We have paid this medical team to offer free treatments which includes eye care, general outpatient, dental care; emergency medical

services and health education while some drugs will also be available to dispense minimally when it is necessary", he said.

Over 20 medical personnel, which includes doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, ophthalmologists, optometrists, pharmacy technicians and logistics workers were there attending to almost 2000 people that thronged into Atiba Hall, Akesan Market, Oyo Town.



## NARD Predicts Doomsday In Nigeria's Health Sector

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Nigeria Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), has said that Nigerians may someday wake up to hospitals without a single medical doctor as no fewer than 2,000 have within the last two years, relocated to other countries with better facility and condition of service.

This result NARD said, will come in the medical sector if the Federal Government continues to pay lip service to the development of the sector.

President of NARD, Dr Orji Emeka Innocent made the prediction while fielding questions from newsmen after presentation of a communique issued at the end of its conference tagged: Uyo 2023 with the theme; "Improved Welfare of Healthcare Workers: A Panacea for Brain Drain (Political and Doctors' Perspectives)", held in Uyo at the weekend

The association called for increased budgetary funding of the healthcare sector in the country, to the tune of 15 per cent annual budgetary allocation to improve the quality of healthcare delivery.

Dr Innocent said that the 15 per cent annual budgetary allocation would be

in line with the 2001 Abuja declaration for healthcare financing in Africa and global best practices.

He said NEC of NARD also urged the Federal Ministry of Health to expedite action on checking brain drain by implementing the "one for one" policy on replacement of exited doctors and clinical staff.

"The National Executive Council (NEC) welcomes the committee set up by the Federal Government to mitigate the brain drain in the health sector.

"The association urges a speedy conclusion of the task and immediate implementation of their recommendations to improve healthcare service delivery and reduce emigration of skilled healthcare workers from the country.

"NEC calls for increased funding of the healthcare sector in the country, to the tune of 15 per cent annual budgetary allocation in line with the 2001 Abuja declaration for healthcare financing in Africa and global best practices as well as the digitalisation of the healthcare services to improve the quality of healthcare delivery to Nigerian citizens," Orji said.

The President said that NEC at their resolution urged the Chief Medical Directors of tertiary hospitals in the

country to take responsibility for security in their various hospitals as NARD would no longer continue to watch her members being assaulted by staff, patients relatives or security operatives.

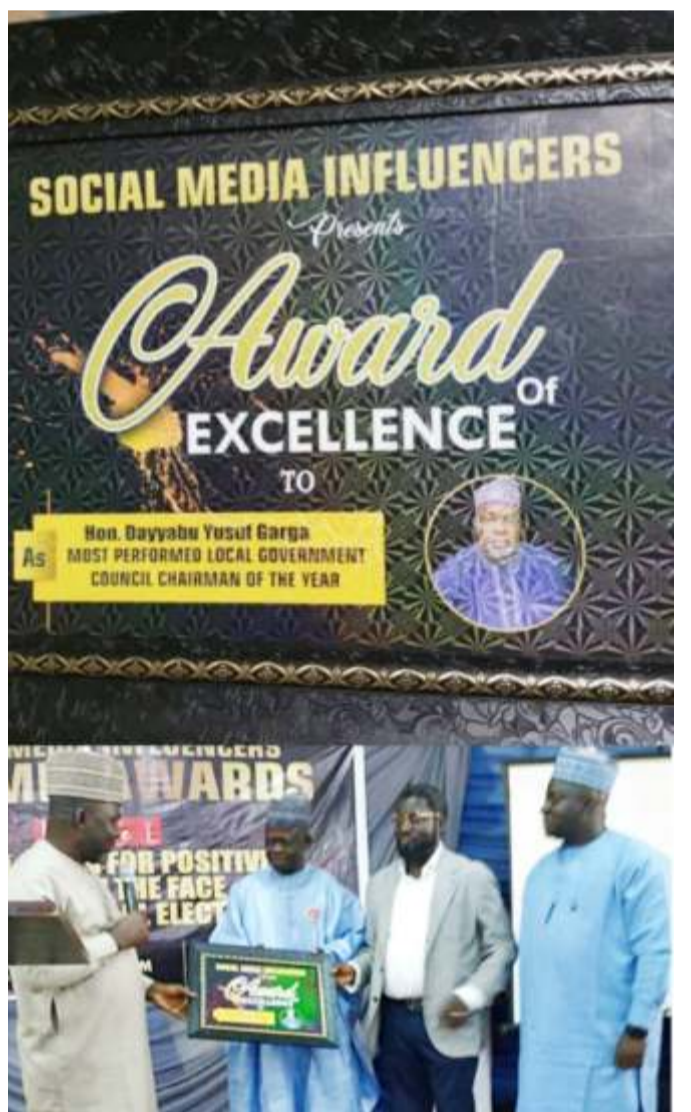
He said the association called on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to investigate and arrest the perpetrators of illegal shooting of one of its members in Delta and to ensure they are adequately punished to serve as deterrent to others.

"We demand that the affected doctor be adequately compensated for the trauma and the damaged vehicle replaced. The NEC gives IGP two weeks to get this done as we would review the situation at the expiration of the two weeks the situation and our stand would be taken thereafter if the response is not satisfactory," he said.

The association called on the National Assembly to make laws protecting the lives and wellbeing of doctors and healthcare workers, as the rate of assaults against its members within and outside the hospitals were alarming.

He called on the federal government, the Nigerian Governors' Forum and all stakeholders to prevail on the governors of Abia, Ondo and Ekiti to urgently pay arrears of salaries and allowances owed its members.

## Garga Receives Award Of Best Performing Executive Council Chairman In Plateau



By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Executive Chairman Of Kanam Local Government Council, Hon. (Dr.) Dayyabu Yusuf Garga CHMC, FCIPA, (Walin Garga and Galadiman Jhar Of Jhar Chiefdom), has received Merit Award as the Best Performing Council Chairman in Plateau State. The award is in recognition of the massive rural and urban development drive by the executive chairman in his short period time in office. Shortly after receiving the

award, the Executive Chairman who was represented by his council secretary, Hon. Hashim Ibn Umar appreciated the organizers for finding and monitoring the activities of the all local government chairmen in the state and after their monitoring, finding his boss the executive worthy as Most Performing Local Government Chairman and dedicated the award to Kanam Local Government residents.

The award was organized by Social Media Influencers.



# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## How NGO Puts Smiles On Faces Of Wulari Community IDPs In Borno

*\*4,195 children, 1,555 women, 2, 250 men benefit*

**By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri**

An NGO, the T,200 Foundation, has organized a Charitable Food Items Outreach to the Internally displaced persons (IDPs) children to cushion their hardship and alleviate their suffering.

Presenting the food items and cash to the IDPs children at the Christian Association in Nigeria (CAN) IDPs Camp, Wulari

Area, Maiduguri, the Executive Director of T,200 Foundation, Chief Emmanuel Osadebay said that the outreach is aimed at supporting and developing the talents of the children who are vulnerable and displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency.

He also said that the packaged gifts contain food items, cash, drinks, biscuits and chocolates among others for the winning me chi;d who memorized 26 alphabets, counting from 100

and current affairs.

“Our objective is to work together in providing assistance to those most in need for both food and shelters.

“It is high time we saw the talents in these children and stop looking at their problems,” Emmanuel said.

Mr. Emmanuel called on the people to support the children by extending their hands of fellowship to them, either in cash or kind to relief them from

the bondage of their present predicament.

“Rather than always looking at what they lack, we can make them have a sense of belonging by organizing events like this to bring out the best in these lovely children.

“I can tell you that the children are exceptional, and if you get closer to them, you will be amazed at what they can do.

“We just distributed food, drinks and other relief materials to over

7,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Those who benefited include 4,195 children between the ages of 0-five and five to 17, 1, 555 women and 2, 250 men,” Emmanuel said.

While the women and their husbands were given rice, spaghetti and other food items in feeding the hungry IDPs in camps.

He explained that the essence of the competition was to give the children an opportunity to showcase their talents.



## Don't Turn Federal University Lokoja Into Ethnic Property, Group Warns VC

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

A concerned group has warned the Vice Chancellor of Federal University Lokoja not to turn the institution to an ethnic entity, saying that the VC must address the issue of reckless and abnormal increase of tuition fees, rather than chasing shadows, using his kinsmen.

The group was reacting to a statement credited to a group, The Mediators Forum, saying that the call for Federal University Lokoja VC to be sacked is reckless.

The representative of the parents, Alhaji Usman Isezuo, said it's unfortunate that some persons in the name of a tribal association is now coming to speak for the VC, even when they never participated in the agitation for an indigenous VC of the institution.

According to him, they left the issue of hike in school fees and are ranting over a mundane issue of ethnicity.

"What we are saying in the agitation, is that in the whole Northern states, Akinwumi is the only VC that has come up with the idea of an abnormal tuition fees increase.

"For the avoidance of doubt, we are not saying that the institution can't increase school fees, but what we are saying is that this increase of over 300%

is not only reckless but inhuman, insensitive and without any recourse to the present economic realities in our country.

"If we may ask, who is professor Akinwumi trying to impress. He came and increased acceptance fees from N10,000 to N20,000 within his first few months in office, no one complained. Now, he wants to increase accommodation from N20,000 to N60,000 and tuition fee from N55,000 to N188,000.

The group cautioned Prof. Akinwumi to guard against those whose stock in trade is to ill advise, saying his predecessor, Professor Miri did not act like this before the people revolted against her.

"Your ethnic group will not help you in this matter. "If tuition fees were kept out of the reach of the poor people, can Prof. Akinwumi get to where he is today? He should know that God Almighty is watching, no matter the amount of empowerment or donation to the church.

"Our advise to him is to visit other universities established within the same period and other old generation universities to understudy them.

"We are also aware that he is boasting that he will go ahead with the increase, saying that the people can't do anything, someone appointed him, we will also get to the person" the group said.

**"If we may ask, who is professor Akinwumi trying to impress. He came and increased acceptance fees from N10,000 to N20,000 within his first few months in office, no one complained. Now, he wants to increase accommodation from N20,000 to N60,000 and tuition fee from N55,000 to N188,000."**

## Our Members In Kogi Not Working For APC - PDP

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State Chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has denied media reports that its members in the state have resorted to working for the All Progressives Congress (APC) to win the general elections in the state.

The report is coming few weeks after Governor Bello's lieutenants flooded media houses that Atiku's campaign train to the state was infested with hired thugs as smoke screen.

This, notwithstanding however, the Peoples Democratic Party in the state has refuted the campaign of calumny against the party describing the concocted publication as the figment of imagination by the sponsors.

The party in a statement signed by the Director General Adamu Mahmoud Atta Support

Group, Chief Sam Abenemi and made available to journalists in Lokoja on Thursday, condemned those mischievous elements in the garb of APC to desist from their unscrupulous political ambitions.

Abenemi noted that nobody has omnipotent powers to make PDP not to win the general elections even as the party may not be desperate to win.

He affirmed that the members of the PDP would not involve in any forms of anti-party activity at this critical moment of the party history, disclosed that both members and supporters have collapsed their interest into the overall interest of the party.

According to him, the enemies have gone ahead with their concocted story to link the hardworking member of the party, Alhaji Adamu Mahmoud Atta to Gov' Yahaya Bello

in the said publication.

He explained that the story purportedly averred that Gov Bello has been in talks with the leadership of PDP to ensure that Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan loses her case in the court to enable Adamu Mahmoud Atta to replace her.

He added that the story in its mischievous content did not know that the said law suit has been withdrawn at the instance of the party.

"The hatchet job must be condemned in its entirety and view it as the handiwork of those who do not wish PDP in Kogi State well, but only interested in their parochial, ambitious and penchant to grab power at all costs.

"Through Adamu Mahmoud Atta's Support Group AMASG, Alhaji Adamu Mahmoud Atta is fully focused and committed to ensuring victory of all PDP candidates including

Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, the presidential candidate of our party.

"Alhaji Adamu has made numerous donations to the Atiku / Okowa presidential campaign council. He recently gave 14 Sharon buses and has extended his tentacles of support to the three Senatorial districts, the statement said.

"The enemies who know the capacity and capabilities of the group to achieve the task and with their commitment to this ideal has made them a threat to the powers that be who are using every machination to derail the commitment.

"This is a calculated attempt by mischievous people to tarnish the good intentions of Alhaji Adamu Mahmoud Atta and to undermine his focus on victory for Atiku/ Okowa candidacy and victory for all PDP candidates in the forthcoming general elections." he stressed.

***"This, notwithstanding however, the Peoples Democratic Party in the state has refuted the campaign of calumny against the party describing the concocted publication as the figment of imagination by the sponsors."***



From left: Chairman, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos Council, Mr. Ajayi Adeleye; Former Governor of Ogun State, Aremo Olusegun Osoba; President NUJ, Chief Chris Isiguzo; Mother of the Day/Founder of Love of Christ (LOC), Generation Church, C and S, Rev. Mother Esther Ajayi; Her Husband, Rev. Ademuyiwa Ajayi; and the Representatives of Governor of Lagos/Lagos State Commissioner of Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso; at the Commission of Remodelled Lagos NUJ Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

# Kaduna Police Arrests Security Personnel, 2 Others For Trading New Naira

*\*Other suspects involved in criminal conspiracy, child stealing, banditry, kidnapping nabbed*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The police in Kaduna State has arrested a security personnel attached to a commercial bank for allegedly trading the new Naira notes.

This was revealed at a press briefing by the Kaduna Police Command yesterday.

According to Jalige, he was doing the briefing on behalf of the Commissioner of Police Kaduna State Command CP Yekini Ayoku psc(+), mni, to share some of their activities and successes within the last one month.

"Let me hasten to state that, crime patterns are dynamic and evolving on daily basis therefore, the need for each and every one to be security conscious in their day to day activities and relationships cannot be overemphasized.

"The intelligence-led crime fighting and control activities of the command successfully led to the apprehension of Thirteen (13) suspects (among others) for various crimes which includes; Banditry, Armed Robbery, Kidnapping, Illegal trafficking in Firearms, Theft, Child Stealing, Illegal Trading of Currency and other heinous crimes. In the course of investigations into some of these cases, a number of recoveries has been made which includes; one (1) AK47 Rifle, three (3) locally made fabricated revolver rifles, two (2) motorcycles, fifteen (15) cartridges, nine hundred and twenty five naira (925,000.00) cash and three (3) mobile phones," he said.

At the briefing, the command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mohammed Jalige said that the security personnel alongside two others, were nabbed by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Sabon Gari Zaria who led his team.

"On the 27th January, 2023 at about 1100 hours following a credible intelligence on the activities of unlawful trading of the Re-designed Naira Notes, DPO Sabon Gari Zaria led his patrol team to Dadi motor park Sabon Gari Zaria where they raided and arrested two (2) currency hawkers, namely; (1) Dalhatu Yusuf 'm' 32yrs and (2) Muhammad Kabir 'm' 18yrs all of Samaru Zaria and recovered different denominations of both old and the redesigned Naira Note from them.

"Also in a related development, one Thomas Tokan 'm' of Hanwa area who is some security personnel attached to Stanbic IBTC Bank PZ branch was also arrested at the bank premises



selling the re-designed Naira notes. Investigation is still ongoing," he said.

According to him at the briefing were several suspects arrested and were paraded, a notorious kidnapper and cattle rustler is also in the hands of the police.

"On the 25th January, 2023 at about 1700 hours, the gallant Operatives of the Command acted on a credible intelligence, arrested one Sani Mamuda Hanazuwa 'm' aged 25yrs a known notorious kidnapper, who have been on the Command's wanted list.

"During the course of investigation the suspect confessed to have participated in more than ten kidnapping operations in Kaduna State alongside his gang members in which they have collected several ransom payments and killed at least two of their victims. The suspect is currently assisting the Police in investigation with a view to arresting his accomplices currently at large," he explained. Similarly, he said that four suspects were arrested over alleged criminal conspiracy and

child stealing.

"On the 23rd January, 2023 at about 0400hrs the Command received a report that one Hajara Ashiru 'f' 6yrs old was missing and the Command immediately mobilised Operatives, swung into action and one Safiya Iliyasu 'f' 32yrs who is a neighbor to the parents of the missing child was arrested and interrogated.

"During the course of investigation the following suspects were equally arrested; (1) Hussaina Adamu 'f' 45yrs old of Hayin Mal. Bello and (2) Rukayya Abubakar 'f' 32yrs old of Dirhaniya Quarters Kaduna in connection to the disappearance of the child.

"The victim was rescued unhurt after having been sold for the sum of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000.00) in which a part payment of Five Thousand Naira (N5,000) was made to the prime suspect Safiya Iliyasu. The victim has since been handed over to her parents. Case under investigation and will be charged to court of competent jurisdiction on completion," he revealed.

DSP Jalige also told the press that a case of criminal conspiracy, aiding and abetment of kidnapping was recorded, while vigilant officers were conducting patrol.

"On the 17th January, 2023 at about 1340hours the operatives of the Command while on a Clearance Patrol/Stop and Search operation along Jos road by Kangiwa village, Soba LGA of Kaduna State intercepted one Shede Alh. Maude 'm' of Liman Ibada village Soba LGA of Kaduna who was in possession of Eight Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira (N820,000.00) to be delivered to a certain Abdullahi Ahmed a.k.a Masara at Kawo flyover bridge. The money was for the purchase of an AK-47 rifle for one Suleiman 'm' (surname yet unknown).

"The said Suleiman (surname yet unknown) is a notorious kidnapper. Both Shede Alh. Maude and Abdullahi Ahmed are in Police net assisting in the investigation while Suleiman is on the run with Operatives are on his trail," he said.

The PPRO also informed of the arrest of a syndicate of firearm

traffickers.

"On 22nd November, 2022 at about 1800hours at Kasuwan Magani, Kajuru L.G.A of Kaduna State, while acting on a credible intelligence Operatives of the Command busted a syndicate of four (4) arm traffickers. The Operatives initially arrested one Haruna Yusuf a.k.a Hankalin Safe 'm' of Jarmai village, Nassarawa Eggon, Nassarawa State with one dismantled AK47 rifle concealed in a sack inside the rim of the spare tyre chamber of his maroon coloured Ford vehicle with Reg. No. ABJ 948 AA.

"During investigation, the suspect Haruna Yusuf led the Police to the arrest of one Umar Kasimu whom he bought the AK47 rifle from at the sum of One Million One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N1,150,000.00) only. Umar Kasimu also led to the arrest of one Peter Abimiku who confessed to have earlier bought the AK47 rifle from one Solomon John now at large.

"The suspect Haruna Yusuf further stated that he bought the AK-47 rifle for one Magaji of Zamfara State who sent him the total sum of One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Naira (N1,700,000.00) only. Efforts is being intensified to get Magaji arrested.

"Furthermore, three (3) fabricated revolver rifles with fifteen (15) cartridges were recovered in the possession of Umar Kasimu and Peter Abimiku. Investigation is still in progress with a view to arresting their fleeing accomplices and to also unravel the location of the factory where these rifles are been fabricated," he said.

According to him, the Commissioner of Police, Kaduna State Command CP Yekini Ayoku psc(+), mni, has ordered for a thorough and comprehensive investigation of these cases with a view to arresting their partners in crime and unmasking others involved who all would be dealt with to the full extent of the law.

"I wish to convey the assurance of the Commissioner of Police that the Command shall continue to be resilient in its determination to ensure that criminal elements are denied the space to carry out their nefarious activities.

"Members of the public are advised to be wary of their environment as well unscrupulous neighbours and not to hesitate to volunteer information and render support to security agencies at all times," he advised.

## Tenure Elongation: PSC Dashes Hope Of Retiring Officers

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The hope of some retiring senior police officers seeking tenure elongation has truncated by the Police Service Commission (PSC), insisting that all officers due for retirement must proceed.

The body, which is the statutory Government Executive body with the Constitutional mandate to recruit, promote, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over persons holding offices in the Nigeria Police Force, except the Inspector General of Police.

Its Head of Press and Public Relations Ikechukwu Ani stated in a release that the decision was taken at a management meeting held on Monday, January 22nd 2023 in Abuja.

The decision, according to Ani was in reaction to the conversation in the Media on whether retiring senior Police Officers' tenure should be elongated or not and whether such retirements would affect the 2023 election security.

It reads, "The Police Service Commission, the statutory Government Executive Body with the Constitutional mandate to recruit, promote, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over persons holding offices in the Nigeria Police Force, except the Inspector General of Police, wishes to assure Nigerians that there can never be any leadership vacuum in the NPF.

"The Commission has watched with keen interest the conversation in the Media on whether retiring senior Police Officers' tenure should be elongated or not and whether such retirements would affect the 2023 election security.

"Rising from a Management Meeting on Monday, January 23rd 2023 in Abuja, the Commission said the on-going campaign for the extension of the tenures

of some Deputy Inspectors General, DIGs, Assistant Inspectors General, AIGs, Commissioners, CPs and other senior Police Officers was an unnecessary distraction and an affront on all the existing laws in the country guiding entry and exit in the public service.

"The Commission took a decision that it will not extend the tenures of the retiring senior Police Officers, stressing that even when requested, it cannot do so as it is against all existing laws, Police Act, Police Service Commission Act and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"It noted that the Police have capable men and women who should be encouraged to step into the vacancies that would be created by the exiting Officers. It assured Nigerians that there is an institutional succession plan in the Nigeria Police Force especially with the current injection of 10,000 Constables and several other thousands of cadet ASPs from the Police Academy every year.

"The Commission assured Nigerians that there will be no vacuum in the hierarchy of the Police with the touted retirement of hundreds of senior Police Officers.

It took a decision to rigidly uphold the provisions of the law which stipulates that a serving public Officer, whether in the Police or in any other Government Agency, must exit the service at the age of 60 or having served for a period of 35 years.

"The Commission said it would not encourage the subversion of the laws guiding entry and exit in to the Nigeria Public Service, adding that the retiring senior Police Officers are not indispensable and that their exit would not in any way or manner affect the success of the 2023 general election".

## 2023: Massive Crowd As Adeyeri Dumps APC, Storms Ondo, Canvasses For Peter Obi

By; ADO ADEBOYE, Akure

Amidst pomp and pageantry, hundreds of Labour Party (LP) supporters on Sunday, trooped out to welcome Hon. Adeyeri Stephen Kunle, into the party.

Adeyeri, a former House of Representatives aspirant in the All Progressives Congress (APC), dumped the ruling party last year and subsequently pitched his tent with Labour Party.

Addressing the mammoth crowd in Oka-Akoko and Isua-Akoko in the Akoko South West/South Federal Constituency, respectively, Adeyeri expressed his readiness to work for the success of the party, adding that plans are afoot to deploy the dividends of democracy down to the Federal Constituency.

He explained that the constituency from the outset had been wallowing in the deep sea of retrogression and had refused to progress leaps and bounds due to the incompetence of those who held sway in the past. According to him, a competent hand is needed to change the ugly trend deeply rooted in the milieu, adding that the solution to the myriad of challenges ranging from fuel scarcity, dearth of electricity, hunger and host of others troubling residents will soon be things of the past if Labour Party Presidential Candidate, Peter Obi, is

elected.

Adeyeri noted that it would amount to absurdity if those who weaponised poverty on innocent residents have their ways again, while he urged the enthused supporters to vote all the candidates of the party in the forthcoming general elections.

He, however urged the cheerful party members to quickly cease the opportunity of the extension of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) collection to obtain their cards, which he described as an instrument of change.

Earlier, the party's state secretary, Mr. Agabje Abiodun, welcomed defectors from the APC, PDP and SDP into the party, while he advised them to vigorously campaign for Labour in the nooks and crannies of Isua Local Government.

He stated that the immediate past Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, had creditably performed well when he governed the sunshine state under the platform of Labour Party from 2009-2014, hence Labour Party must be voted based on antecedents.

He said, "Labour Party is the only fast growing party in Nigeria, we can see how people are trooping to join the Obi's movement.

"When Mimiko was Governor, can you compare his performance with that of the present



Adeyeri

administration that has failed to meet the expectations of the people?

"People are tired of the present situation, My friend, Hon. Adeyeri has said it all, residents are suffering, no fuel, steep price of food items among others are bedeviling everybody, even the APC members are lamenting the ostentatious hardship. One of the defectors and a strong pillar of APC in Isua, who simply identified himself as Imoru, described his decision to join LP as best ever, saying Obi's party remains an alternative to the known APC and PDP.

He added that Nigerians have tasted both APC and PDP, hence, they want an unblemished party like LP, with stainless candidate like Peter Obi, and responsible leader like Hon. Adeyeri Stephen.

Meanwhile, a teacher

working with the Ondo State Government has expressed her implicit support for Adeyeri and also pledged her support for the Labour Party.

She said her unfettered decision to support the movement came after she heard about Adeyeri's golden touch on lives of primary school pupils in Iworo-Oka.

The teacher in Isua, craved anonymity because of the nature of her job.

In her testimony, she said "one of my friends, at Community School Owalusin, Iworo-Oka, told me Adeyeri employed PTA teachers and paid school fees of pupils in his school, infact I was touched.

"Immediately, I told her that whenever Adeyeri comes to Isua, I would love to see him, thank God I met with him in Isua today and have declared to work for him, she said.

## Adeleke: Timi Frank Urges NJC, EFCC To Probe Osun Tribunal Judges

*\*Says judgement compromised*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Friday, described the majority judgement of the Osun State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal that purportedly sacked Governor Ademola Adeleke as highly compromised.

Frank in a statement in reaction to the judgement said the verdict fell short of expectations and does not reflect the will of the majority of the people of Osun who freely elected Senator Adeleke as Governor.

He called on the National Judicial

Council to urgently cause a probe of the verdict with a view to restoring Adeleke's mandate as well as penalizing any of the tribunal members found to have compromised on integrity.

He also called on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to urgently investigate the judges who wrote the majority judgement and prosecute those found to have based their decision on other considerations rather than the true facts canvassed during the hearing of the case.

He also called on the United States of America to place a visa ban on the Osun tribunal judges found to have used their highly exalted position as arbiters to

derail and frustrate the growth of democracy in the country.

He commended the judge who wrote the minority judgement for sticking to the truth and siding with the wishes and aspirations of Osun people that elected Adeleke during the last governorship election.

He however, urged the people of Osun to remain calm and law abiding with the certainty that the mandate they freely gave to Adeleke would be retrieved at the appellate court.

He vowed that Nigerians will not fold their arms and watch any attempt to use the judiciary to again steal Adeleke's mandate through the backdoor.

# Customs FOU Zone B Comptroller Hamisu Promoted To Ag ACG, Hands Over To Jalo

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Comptroller Nigerian Customs Service Federal Operations Unit (FOU), Zone B Kaduna, has been promoted to Acting Assistant Comptroller of Customs (ACG) A.B. Hamisu and deployed as Commandant Customs Command and Staff College, Gwagwalada.

Following the promotion, he has handed over FOU Zone B to Comptroller Musa Ibrahim Jalo at a ceremony held at the zonal headquarters in Kaduna on Friday January 27, 2023.

In his valedictory remarks, ACG Hamisu charged officers and men of the FOU to extend same cooperation he enjoyed to his successor.

“I am leaving a beautiful family which we have been with for two years.

“Everyday I spend at least eight hours intermingling with my coworkers here,” he said.

ACG Hamisu said that during his tenure at the helms of affairs at the FOU, he received best attention from officers and men, which helped in successes recorded.

He reminded all that the ceremony that nothing in life is permanent.

“Whoever remembers this day will come as a person, will remember that there is no need for squabbles, because this day will come when you will leave, because all of us will leave one by one.

“When I came here, I thought I

won't stay here for up to six months, but here I am for two years,” he said.

He advised them to stop comparing leaders, because every human has inherent weaknesses and strenght.

“What is important is to look at the larger picture of what you want to achieve. Don't compare me with Jalo and don't compare Jalo with me. Understand Jalo and help him achieve what he wants to achieve and support him,” he said.

He recalled his first posting, “For over 30 years I served in Kamba Kebbi State, up till now I am still relating with them. I believe we will still be relating same way.

“I am very strategic somewhere now, because I can help some of

you. I want us to work as a family,” he added.

He commended staff he worked with, urging them to reciprocate same to his successor.

“If you feel in course of this work, I took action that you were not pleased with, please forgive me, it is meant to make you better officers.

“The patrol guys I have tried my best to see that your conduct follows what is expected of you. You must use your senses in doing your work,” he advised.

He further advised them to be civil while on duty, reminding them to be patriotic and truthful at all times.

“When on stop and search, be polite to the vehicle owners,” he added.

He advised serving officers to

always respect those that have retired, because it is a cycle, reminding that all of them will also retire someday.

In his speech, new Comptroller FOU Zone B, Jalo promised to maintain legacy of his predecessor.

“I have worked here from when I has 2 star to Comptroller as such I am home and I believe we will work hard in doing our duty as a team,” he said.

In the vote of thanks, AC Admin, DC M.D. Yakubu on behalf of officers and men, thanked the outgoing Comptroller for being a father to all of them.

He wished him all the best in his new office.

“This will be a new beginning. We are assuring the new Comptroller of our loyalty,” he said.



# 2023: Hunkuyi, ABG Receive 250 Defectors From APC, PDP

New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Governorship and House of Reps Candidates for 2023 general election, Senator Suleiman Othman Hunkuyi and Hon. Shehu Bawa ABG, respectively, yesterday received over 250 new members from other parties in Kaduna North Local Government Area of the state. The defecting members were hitherto stakeholders, including former councillors on the platforms of All Progressives Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) who said they could no longer pretend that all was well in their estranged parties.

Hunkuyi, while welcoming the new members, pointed out that they had made the right choice by severing ties with parties responsible for dragging Nigeria to the bottom and causing indescribable hardship on citizens.

He challenged candidates of APC and PDP to take their campaigns to ward levels and see the reception they would receive from the people.

He said the masses at grassroots would give cold reception to these parties because people of Kaduna State cannot be deceived anymore with fake rhetorics of APC.

"In Kaduna for example, the APC administration has killed the businesses of traders whose shops as source of livelihoods were demolished with no alternatives provided to them, all in the name of urban renewal that has made the state poorer by heaping on generations yet unborn debts that will take scores of years to service.

"Teachers, civil servants who should have been the responsibilities of the government to cater for have been sack as liabilities of debts incurred.

"Many people have been kidnapped, with countless numbers losing their lives due to insecurity caused by sacking people and destroying the livelihoods of bread winners of millions of households in the state.

"People in rural areas who farm to produce food for Urban dwellers could no longer go to their farms for fear of being kidnapping or killed by

terrorists who have become invincible to the APC administration.

"Your children could no longer go to higher education because they have made it beyond the reach of the masses by hiking tuition fees with over 500 percent and deliberately ignoring ASUU because their kids all school abroad.

"Ensure you mobilize all by virtue of your political influence at the grassroots to cast their votes for ABG who I can vouch for to be an exemplary and credible candidate whom I am sure will pay attention to your welfare and those of your children.

"I will urge you to also vote all candidates of NNPP from top to bottom for growth and development of this country and Kaduna State in particular," he said.

ABG on his part, charged the new members not to relent until the needful could be said to have been achieved of ensuring the success at the next poll of all candidates of NNPP.

He reminded electorates of numerous campaign promises of the ruling party in 2015 and 2019, saying non had been redeemed but rather more troubles created for the masses. Among the defectors were former PDP Ward Chairman, Secretary, financial secretary and woman leader among other party excos of Badarawa/Malali ward.

Samaila Mai Shadda who spoke on behalf of other defectors said they had to leave their erstwhile parties after finding out that APC and PDP had no interest of the masses in their agenda.

He called on people in Kaduna North and the state in general to serve "red cards" to APC and PDP at the next general election, saying the two parties had done nothing but impoverishing Nigerians.

Hunkuyi and ABG were flanked in the event by members representing Doka/Gabasawa and Candidate of Kawo in Kaduna State House of Assembly, Hon. Haruna Mabo and Aliyu Chakis respectively.

High point of the event was presentation of membership cards of NNPP to the new members by state chairman of the party.



# FIRS Makes FAAC Fat

By; SALISUNA'INNADAMBATTA

Many Nigerians hold the notion and presume wrongfully that every money invested in various development projects by the three tiers of government came from one loan or the other.

The fact is that most of the money deployed to finance national development in this country was generated internally through the efforts of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

The rejuvenated FIRS is now turbocharged in its revenue drive to ensure that the country continues to finance the provision of transportation infrastructure, expansion in power generation, transmission and distribution and giving greater access to tertiary education to develop the necessary skilled manpower to support the economy and enhance our collective wellbeing.

One of the most visible evidence of the effectiveness and historic success in revenue generation by the FIRS is manifested in the fatness of the distributable money that became available to the three tiers of government in the country, especially within the last two years.

For it is on record that under the watch of FIRS Executive Chairman, Mr. Muhammad Nami and his team, the revenue declared at the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) meeting at least thrice hovered around N1 trillion or even surpassed that figure at various months in the year 2022. It was a feat.

This story regarding that feat from a news outlet is simply nice: "The Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) has shared a total sum of N902.053 billion in November 2022 as Federation Account Revenue to the Federal Government, States and Local Government Councils." The sum was a shade to a trillion Naira.

But a nicer story regarding shared money at FAAC in August 2022 runs thus: "The Federation Account Allocation Committee, has shared a total sum of N954.085 billion Federation Account Revenue to the Federal Government, States and Local Government Councils. Details of the revenue put gross statutory revenue at N1.066 trillion for the month of July 2022." The total was above a trillion Naira.

Yet another trillion Naira revenue shared at FAAC, courtesy of the FIRS, was reported in the media as quoted here: "The Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC), at its Meeting shared a total sum of N990.189 billion to the three tiers of government, as Federation Allocation for the month of December 2022."

Read the clincher in the N990.189 billion distributed story: "the Gross Statutory Revenue of N1,136.183 billion was received for the month of November 2022." Again it was above a trillion Naira within 30 days.

Commentators on national issues, especially those focusing on the provision of essential facilities that improve the wellbeing of Nigerians had repeatedly insisted that there is a strong linkage between those facilities and the trillions of Naira raked in by the FIRS.

The direct role of the FIRS in enabling the three tiers of government to have the requisite financial muscles to fund national development has placed the institution in the heart of national development.

The ability of the FIRS to generate revenue above its target in the era of Muhammad Nami became boldly obvious when the Service collected N6.405 trillion in 2021, which was over a hundred percent of its collection target for the year.

It was the first time that the agency crossed the Six-trillion Naira mark. It was achieved in the face of an economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The latest "FIRS 2022 Performance Update" report released by the Service indicates that the previous record of just over N6 trillion was dwarfed by the N10.1 trillion revenue it garnered for Nigeria in the year 2022.

The direct role of the FIRS in enabling the three tiers of government to have the requisite financial muscles to fund national development is best illustrated by the over N10 trillion the revenue generation machine netted in for the federation in 2022.

The revenue Service said the amount was more than 96 per cent of its envisaged collection for the year. It is reportedly the highest tax collected by the FIRS since its establishment in 1947.

The good news from the FIRS, which made it possible for FAAC to have fat distributable amount of money for national development has shown that with a sincerity of purpose in public service as demonstrated by Nami and his team, Nigeria can sustain its trajectory to becoming one of the top 15 best countries on earth within a generation. Money generated by the FIRS will finance the process.

## May 29: I'll Clinch To Bauchi Governorship Seat, NNPP Flagbearer Boasts

By; MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi

Governorship candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Senator Halliru Dauda Jika has described the state as a revolutionary where individuals as against political parties have supremacy in democratic elections.

To this end, the NNPP candidate expressed optimism in winning the 11th March gubernatorial elections in the state, stressing that the revolutionary transformation in Bauchi easily ignites changes in the political leadership of the state.

Senator Halliru Jika while unveiling his blue print weekend, preparatory to clinching power on 29th May this year, said that both membership and supporters in the country especially Bauchi state are generations of patriotic youth and women who are poised to effect changes in governance.

Jika recalled the political revolutionary trends in the

state dates back to 2007 when the incumbent governor, Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed floored the then incumbent Governor Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu in a senatorial election into the Bauchi South senatorial district.

"This trends followed up 2011, and again in 2015 when ex-governor Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar clinched to power following Buharia wind of change before he was bogged down after a first term tenure of four years by the PDP incumbent governor, Bala Mohammed in 2019 polls. The forthcoming 2023 elections would not be an exception", Senator Jika said.

Jika disclosed that part of his blue print if voted into office would be the strengthening the institutions of governance in the state, while ensuring the independence of the three arms of government namely the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary "We need to strengthen the institutions of governance,

the principle of separation of powers must be a reality. The three institutions of governance should work independently with one another if I eventually assume the mantle of leadership in the state", he said.

"We have to give the judiciary some certain level of independence, even though there was a bill now before the 9th Assembly for amendment to the Constitution with Local Government autonomy among the key issues involve".

He described as unfortunate the 70 percent rejection of the Local Autonomy by the State Assemblies through the influence of State Governors, saying unless the local government councils are autonomous, rural areas would be deprived of the much needed development.

Jika observed that most of the problems bedeviling the rural areas of the country are attributable to lack of resources to provide basic amenities of

life to the people, condemning in totality the influence of governors on the state assemblies which, according to him, quashes the autonomy of the councils.

Senator Jika who holds the traditional title of 'Dokajin Bauchi' then assured, "So we will revisit those issues Insha Allah when we get back to the legislative chambers on the 28th February after the recess".

Jika disclosed that when assume the mantle of leadership in Bauchi state, his priority areas included security, health, education, commerce, tourism and mining, saying he would declare state of emergency in health and education which sectors, he argued, have in the past been neglected.

The Senator representing the Bauchi Central district explained that his administration if elected, would think outside the box to diversify its sources of internally generated revenues (IGR) in order to execute laudable policies and programmes of the government



Truck falls on top of Commercial vehicle at Ojuelegba in Lagos on 29/01/23. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO



# Governor Inuwa Approves N1.3bn For Backlog Of Gombe LG Retirees Gratuity

**\*Okays immediate promotion of 26, 085 lg workers, payment of arrears since 2012**  
**\*Again, releases 1.7bn for payment of backlog of gratuity for 2017 state retirees**  
**\*Governor Inuwa has broken jinx in implementation of promotions for LGA workers - Finance Commissioner**

By; JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has approved over 1.3 billion Naira for the payment of backlog of gratuity owed retired local government employees. The LGA retirees were last paid in 2011.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Tuesday January 31, said the governor has also approved the promotion of 26, 085 local government workers notionally and financially across the eleven local government areas of the state with immediate effect.

Of the number of the promoted staff, 6,738 are local government workers, 16,739 are Local Education Authority, LEA teachers while 2,608 are workers at the Primary Health Care Centers. The last time teachers were promoted in the state was in 2009 while promotions with financial benefits were last implemented in 2014.

The Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Ibrahim Dasuki Jalo disclosed the development during a press conference in his office.

According to him, pensions, gratuities, salary increment and other entitlements will follow the promotions where Balanga, Gombe, Kaltungo and Yamaltu/Deba local government councils will pay backlog of gratuities for 2012; Akko, Billiri, Dukku and Shongom will pay for 2012 to 2013; Funakaye will pay for 2012 to 2014 while Nafada will pay for 2012 to 2015 which is estimated at the sum of 1.3 billion naira.

Hon. Dasuki also maintained that all the local government councils in Gombe state have positive balances in their accounts which makes it possible for them to pay salaries, pensions, gratuities and other entitlements as at when due as against the ugly trend before the coming of the present administration.

He before the inception of the administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya, local government councils had to take bank loans

to pay workers' salaries, the ugly situation he revealed, has since been reversed.

The Commissioner explained that the leadership trajectory of Governor Inuwa Yahaya is such that each local government has become financially independent such that it does not have to depend on other LGAs for financial bailout.

He commended Governor Inuwa Yahaya for the approval, especially at such a time when the national economic indicators are telling on the social and economic lives of the people.

Also speaking, the Commissioner of Finance and Economic Development, Malam Muhammad Gambo Magaji conveyed the Governor's approval of 1.7 billion naira for the payment of backlog of gratuity owed 2017 State retirees.

"The payment of backlog of gratuity owed retired workers by the Inuwa- led administration has gulped about 7.9 billion naira. Recall that Governor Inuwa had earlier paid the backlog of gratuities owed for 2014, 2015 and 2016 state retirees and now for 2017 with the total amount paid out at state level standing at 6.6 billion naira. With the 1.3 billion naira approval for the local government retirees, we now have a total of 7.9 billion naira paid as backlog of gratuity left by the past administration".

Gambo Magaji commended the financial management skills of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in seamlessly paying salaries, executing capital projects for the good of the State amidst lean resources. He also commended the Governor for breaking the jinx in the implementation of promotions for the LGA workers with financial benefits.

Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Gombe State chapter, Comrade Bappayo Abdulmumini on behalf of the local government workers appreciated Governor Inuwa Yahaya for the gesture, saying the pro-workers policies of Governor Inuwa are recipes for Gombe State workers and their families to ensure his seamless return in 2023.



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SPACE	COLOUR			BLACK AND WHITE		
	RATE	VAT	TOTAL	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FULL PAGE	395,176.32	29,638.22	424,814.54	323,433.00	24,257.48	347,690.48
HALF PAGE	248,970.00	18,672.75	267,642.75	203,175.00	15,238.13	218,413.13
QUARTER PAGE	164,670.00	12,350.25	177,020.25	94,724.44	7,104.33	101,828.77
10" x 6 Col	364,320.00	27,324.00	391,644.00	245,005.20	18,375.39	263,380.59
10" x 5 Col	333,960.00	25,047.00	359,007.00	224,588.11	16,844.11	241,432.22
10" x 4 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
10" x 3 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
9" x 6 Col	327,888.00	24,591.60	352,479.60	220,504.68	16,537.85	237,042.53
9" x 5 Col	273,240.00	20,493.00	293,733.00	183,753.90	13,781.54	197,535.44
9" x 4 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
9" x 3 Col	163,944.00	12,295.80	176,239.80	110,252.34	8,268.93	118,521.27
8" x 6 Col	291,456.00	21,859.20	313,315.20	196,004.16	14,700.31	210,704.47
8" x 5 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
8" x 4 Col	194,304.00	14,572.80	208,876.80	130,669.44	9,800.21	140,469.65
8" x 3 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
7" x 6 Col	255,024.00	19,126.80	274,150.80	171,503.64	12,862.77	184,366.41
7" x 5 Col	212,520.00	15,939.00	228,459.00	142,919.70	10,718.98	153,638.68
7" x 4 Col	170,016.00	12,751.20	182,767.20	114,335.76	8,575.18	122,910.94
6" x 6 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
6" x 5 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
6" x 4 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
6" x 3 Col	109,296.00	8,197.20	117,493.20	73,501.56	5,512.62	79,014.18
6" x 2 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
5" x 5 Col	151,800.00	11,385.00	163,185.00	102,085.50	7,656.41	109,741.91
5" x 4 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
5" x 3 Col	91,080.00	6,831.00	97,911.00	61,251.30	4,593.85	65,845.15
5" x 2 Col	60,720.00	4,554.00	65,274.00	40,834.20	3,062.57	43,896.77
4" x 6 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
4" x 5 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
4" x 4 Col	97,152.00	7,286.40	104,438.40	65,334.72	4,900.10	70,234.82
4" x 3 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
4" x 2 Col	48,576.00	3,643.20	52,219.20	32,667.36	2,450.05	35,117.41
3" x 3 Col	54,648.00	4,098.60	58,746.60	36,750.78	2,756.31	39,507.09
3" x 2 Col	36,432.00	2,732.40	39,164.40	24,500.52	1,837.54	26,338.06
2" x 2 Col	24,288.00	1,821.60	26,109.60	16,333.68	1,225.03	17,558.71
1" x 1 Col	6,072.00	455.40	6,527.40	4,083.42	306.26	4,389.68

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### TECHNICAL DATA

#### 6 COLUMNS

Depth	38.1 (CM)	Depth	-	15 (Inches)
Width	25.4 (CM)	Width	-	10 (Inches)

### POLITICAL RATE

SPACE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FRONT PAGE MAST HEAD EAR PIECE	461,622.86	34,621.71	496,244.57
FRONT PAGE SOLUS	787,474.29	59,060.57	846,534.86
FRONT PAGE STRIP	787,474.29	59,060.57	846,534.86
BACK PAGE EAR PIECE	420,889.54	31,566.72	452,456.26
FULL PAGE (COLOUR)	465,967.54	34,947.57	500,915.11
FULL PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	364,037.14	27,302.79	391,339.93
HALF PAGE (COLOUR)	303,285.71	22,746.43	326,032.14
HALF PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	247,500.00	18,562.50	266,062.50
QUARTER PAGE (COLOUR)	203,877.14	15,290.79	219,167.93
QUARTER PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	111,692.74	8,376.96	120,069.70

### LOOSE INSERTS

S/NO	SIZE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
1	Handling for the first 40 copies	120,000.00	9,000.00	129,000.00
2	Per 1000 Copies (1 Page)	28,000.00	2,100.00	30,100.00
3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine 2-8 Pages)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine above 8 pages)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

### CLASSIFIEDS

S/NO	POSITION	SIZE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
1	Registration of Trustees	3" x 2 Cols	6,857.14	514.29	7,371.43
2	Loss of Documents	2" x 2 Cols	4,400.00	330.00	4,730.00
3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

### SPECIAL POSITION

SPACE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FULL WRAP AROUND	6,750,000.00	506,250.00	7,256,250.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
PAGE 2 OR 3	400,000.00	30,000.00	430,000.00
PAGE 4 OR 5	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
PAGE 6 OR 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
FRONT PAGE MAST HEAD EAR PIECE	225,000.00	16,875.00	241,875.00
FRONT PAGE SOLUS	312,500.00	23,437.50	335,937.50
FRONT PAGE STRIP	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
BACK PAGE EAR PIECE	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00
BACK PAGE STRIP	250,000.00	18,750.00	268,750.00
CENTRE SPREAD (COLOUR)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
DOUBLE SPREAD (COLOUR)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
CENTRE SPREAD (BLACK & WHITE)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
DOUBLE SPREAD (BLACK & WHITE)	550,000.00	41,250.00	591,250.00
FRONT PAGE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
ROP STRIP (COLOUR)	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
ROP STRIP (BLACK & WHITE)	85,000.00	6,375.00	91,375.00

### PROPERTY AND IT, VACANCY, AGRIC, AND EVENTS/EDUCATION RATE

SPACE	COLOUR			BLACK AND WHITE		
	RATE	VAT	TOTAL	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
7 X 3	108,571.43	8,142.86	116,714.29	62,857.14	4,714.29	67,571.43
6 X 3	102,857.14	7,714.29	110,571.43	57,142.86	4,285.71	61,428.57
6 X 2	45,428.57	3,407.14	48,835.71	32,285.71	2,421.43	34,707.14
5 X 3	53,428.57	4,007.14	57,435.71	37,428.57	2,807.14	40,235.71
5 X 2	42,571.43	3,192.86	45,764.29	24,857.14	1,864.29	26,721.43
4 X 3	47,714.29	3,578.57	51,292.86	30,571.43	2,292.86	32,864.29
4 X 2	33,142.86	2,485.71	35,628.57	21,714.29	1,628.57	23,342.86
3 X 3	34,571.43	2,592.86	37,164.29	23,142.86	1,735.71	24,878.57
3 X 2	22,857.14	1,714.29	24,571.43	14,285.71	1,071.43	15,357.14
2 X 2	16,000.00	1,200.00	17,200.00	9,142.86	685.71	9,828.57
2 X 1	7,714.28	578.57	8,292.85	4,975.71	373.18	5,348.89

# Foundation Trains Borno Victims Of Boko Haram Conscripted On GBV, Mental Health

*\*Provides psychosocial support, entrepreneurship in Borno*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development (ALFOPED), a nongovernmental organization has organized a 2-day training for 30 selected and screened new members of Jire Dole Network Borno State to build resilience of the victims and survivors of mental health and psychosocial support from their Boko Haram insurgency experiences including gender based violence (GBV).

The two-day training workshop which also included lectures on business and skills entrepreneurship as well as confidence building on business activities and livelihood, was held at the Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development Office Complex Auditorium, Giwa Barracks Area Maiduguri, Borno State Capital on Sunday, 29 and Monday 30 January, 2023.

The Executive Director, Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development, Hajiya Hamsatu Allamin said the workshop was purposely organized for the selected members of the Jire Dole Network to share the experiences and exposure of the time and survivors of the Boko Haram insurgency and gender based violence as well as other crimes.

Represented by the Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development, Transitional Justice and Reintegration Project Manager, Mr. Samuel Orahii, she added that the training was also aimed at providing the participants (victims and survivors) with the necessary information and knowledge on mental health and psychosocial support as well as confidence building and entrepreneurship to build their resilience.

The Executive Director further explained that the participants of the chain training workshop programmes lined up by the foundation for the members of the Jire Dole Network who are victims and survivors of conflict related sexual violence, abduction and forced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, both from, Boko Haram insurgents and Nigerian military.

She also noted that Allamin Foundation comprises of eight humanitarain groups, namely, mother's and relations of enforced disappearances, victims of arbitrary arrest (Youth), Njotkuno Movement



victims of arbitrary arrest (Women), victims of arbitrary arrest (minors), knives movement of wives of disappeared husbands, inda rai network of survivors, network of early/forced marriage and early divorce as well as network of widows of invisible children. According to her, the training workahop was targeted at building the resilience of victims and survivors on mental health and psychosocial support as well as helping the victims and survivors recover from their bad experiences in the bolo haram crisis.

A facilitator/resource person, Malam Mohammed Bako who also a PSS Practitioner equally said it was to support the victims and survivors return to normalcy

as soon as possible by forgetting their adverse experiences and to support the victims and survivors to overcome psychosocial distress and improve their social reintegration.

The Allamin Foundation Gender Officer, Hajiya Falmata Musa also said the training was organized purposely to orientate, educate and enlighten the participants with useful information and knowledge on how to support them build reaileunce among victims of are;y/forced marriage and victims/relations of military/boko haram/CJTF abuses using religious perspective.

A resource person/facilitator, Hajiya Falmata Umar

Abdulkadir who is also the former President, Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FAMWAN), Borno state added that the training workshop was organized to acquaint the participants with religious message in peace , forgiveness, reconciliation, human rights and courage as it relates to reaileunce and focusing on a new leaf in life.

While Hajiya Ya Kime Gado, a Resource Person and Psychosocial Support Expert dwelt in confidence building along with Dr. Mohammed Abdullahi who is also a Peace Building Expert as facilitators emphasized on what and how the victims transversed through thick and thin to survive during the insurgency including their mothers, wives and husbands arbitrary arrest and detention.

They also elaborated on the need to build confidence level of the participants in their resilience to enable them overcome stigma and forget their past experiences as well as how the victims could strengthen resilience among victims of early/forced marriage and victims/relations of military/Boko Haram/CJTF abuses through self-confidence and self-esteem.

Dr. Mohammed further

explained that the workshop prioritized and deliberated interactively also on the need and importance of the participants acquainting themselves as victims and survivors with the basic strategies and principles of leadership and communication in managing materials, businesses and coordinating people and resources among others.

Some of the beneficiaries expressed appreciation and gratitude for being lucky to be participants at the workshop and exposure, while few others who spoke in Hausa and Kanuri dialects, thanked the Allamin Foundation director, management staff, resource persons and facilitators for their support and encouragement.

In jubilation and excitement at the end of the training programme, each of the participants went home with cash support of N30,000 apart from transport allowances given to each of the beneficiaries to and from home.

Highlights of the training workshop included group photographs, presentation of cash support, transport allowance and questions and answers session.

# What I Have Not Said About Tinubu - Part 1

By: JACOB OGUNSEYE

Since all has been said about the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, one would have concluded that the next assignment awaiting Nigerians on the 25th of February is to approach their polling booth, do the needful by voting for the candidate of their choice, but before they go into the exercise that centers on the determination of the leadership of the country for the next four years, it is imperative to for me to quickly tell them that special thing that has not been said about Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

As the campaign began last year, attempts were made by major candidates to sell themselves to the voters on why they should be considered for the top job, these candidates traverse the north and south of the country, at a time, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu decided to visit the United Kingdom.

On his visit mission were arrays of activities lined up among which is the Chatham House appearance where he spoke on several issues most especially on his plans to ensure that Nigeria is fully recovered and become stronger among the comity of nations. As a supporter and one of the party loyalists in the United Kingdom, I seized the opportunity to ensure I had contact with the leader.

On this day, Asiwaju has just finished the main Chatham House presentation, meanwhile, he has also been scheduled to meet with the leadership of the party in the UK, and of course, as an executive member of the party in the country, my presence is inevitable, the hall is just across the road, the hall though little but it was fit for the purpose, after all, the gathering is for the leadership of the party. Asiwaju had come to the hall alongside his entourage.

Some dignitaries on the visit include the former Governor of Ekiti State, Gov. Kayode

Fayemi, his Edo State counterpart, Com. Adams Oshiomole, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila, the governors of Ebonyi and Cross Rivers state, Engr. David Umahi and Prof Ben Ayade respectively and host others.

The event which was facilitated by the party's Directorate of the Diaspora under the leadership of ever-ready combatant, a Tinubu apostle and die-hard supporter, Prince Ade Omole presented itself an opportunity for us to interact with the candidate of our great party.

The event started with a welcoming speech from the Interim Chairman of the Party in the UK who also doubled as the chairman of the party's campaign committee in the country, Barr. J K Adebola. He reeled out a glowing speech where he reminded his listeners of the party's efforts in the UK to reach at least 20 million Nigerians with short messages service to remind them of the

need to vote for Asiwaju Bola Tinubu. At this time, the hall has been electrified, it is the turn of the Jargaban, and truly, I heard what you have not been told.

It is better to hear it than to be told, of course, there was no microphone as there was no need for one due to the size of the hall. The prime mover and the leading light started his speech, I am not sure if you have been told about Asiwaju's brilliance, his

methodical approach to dissection of topical issues will blow anyone away, I am also not sure if you have been told about the in-depth understanding of Nigeria's challenges by this powerful figure. When he delves into the issue of international relations and diplomacy, he blows his adversaries away.

His powerful analysis of Nigeria's economic situation and its untangle factors made many

who had come based on negative views bow. His understanding of our security issues is unparalleled. Later on, I sat down, and told myself, 'there are a lot of things that many are not aware of about this political enigma. In the coming weeks, I will take time to unbundle some of the things you did not know about this man.

Meanwhile, as of today, as Nigerians, we have options, other political parties have presented us with their candidates, I am convinced more than ever that the Presidency of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu will usher in the best for Nigeria, unfortunately, he can't get himself to the steering, he needs you and me. From my side, I am resolute, it yours that worries me. Give it a goal, and Tinubu will not let you down. Make it a day to read more from me next week.

*Jacob Ogunseye lives in London, United Kingdom*



*Jacob Ogunseye*

***“The event which was facilitated by the party's Directorate of the Diaspora under the leadership of ever-ready combatant, a Tinubu apostle and die-hard supporter, Prince Ade Omole presented itself an opportunity for us to interact with the candidate of ou.”***

# Armed Militant Groups Have Capacity To Undermine 2023 Polls In Niger-delta - CORN West Africa

*\*Tasks INEC, FG to secure electoral officials, govern territory*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

With few days to the general elections, the Director, Conflict Research Network, West Africa (CORN West Africa), Dr Tarila Marclint Ebiede has hinted that armed militant groups in the Niger-Delta have the capacity to undermine polls in the region. The Director who dropped the hint at a Colloquium Webinar organised by Conflict Research Network West Africa (CORN West Africa) asked the Federal Government and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to provide capable security for electoral officials being sent to conduct elections in the creeks.

Dr Ebiede while speaking on the topic, "Voting in the Creeks: Armed Militants and the 2023 Elections in the Niger Delta", said this was as a result of the fact that armed groups are being patronised by local and regional political actors in the region to gain access to power and resources.

He pointed out that, "the technological introduction of BVAS is good, it cannot guarantee the security of voters and electoral officials", saying, "in the past, the security of electoral officials often fell in the hands of the dominant political parties or political actors in the area. This made

electoral officials vulnerable to intimidation and attacks.

"Without adequate security for electoral officials, technological innovations such as BVAS will make little difference in the creeks of the Niger Delta. INEC should increase sensitisation of local actors and voters in coastal communities on the pivotal technological changes that have been introduced", he said.

Dr Ebiede added, "INEC should make clear to violent actors the futility of winning election by violent means under the new Electoral Act and mode of voter authentication".

Identifying the four dimensions of militant groups likely to undermine 2023 elections owing to their patronage by local politicians to include natural resource agitators, community violent groups, cult groups among others, he said, "armed militants emerged in a context of competition for access to natural resources (and rents).

"The distribution of crude oil rents was determined by state power. The exercise of state power ensured that local communities were historically excluded from rents and other benefits of the oil sector. Environmental and political agitations evolved into armed militancy seeking to challenge state power. By challenging state power, armed militants begin to

build political power within their communities. This process created a logic of power within armed militant struggle," he said.

Stressing that in previous elections, he observed that local armed groups had been recruited by local or regional politicians to unleash violence including kidnap of INEC officials, snatch ballot boxes, disrupt campaigns and mobilization against opponents most especially in rural communities.

"Armed militants were recruited by ruling and opposition political parties to snatch ballot papers. Armed militants were recruited to kidnap INEC officials. Armed militants were recruited to target political opponents. Armed militants were recruited to disrupt the campaigns and political mobilisation activities of opponents, especially in rural communities," he pointed out.

Tasking the Federal Government to ensure adequate security in the Niger-delta owing to the displayed capacities of armed groups in the region to cause disruptions, Dr Ebiede noted that "the introduction of technology does not address the use of violence to disrupt elections or to coerce voters in areas where there are no law enforcement officers.

"Different types of armed groups continue to exist in different



Dr. Tarila Marclint Ebiede, Director CORN WEST AFRICA

forms in the creeks of Bayelsa, Delta, Rivers, Ondo, Edo, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States. The evidence so far shows that armed militants in the Niger Delta still have the capacity to disrupt the distribution of

election materials and threaten the safety of electoral officers in rural communities, especially in the coastal areas (See recent example in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State)". He concluded.

## Afenifere Warns Against Postponing Elections, Hand Over Date - Afenifere

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Pan-Yoruba socio-political organization, Afenifere on Monday, cautioned against attempts at changing this year's elections and the handing-over date from May 29, 2023.

Afenifere in a statement in Ibadan by its National Secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi, charged the government and all the stakeholders to ensure that there is no change in the elections and the handing-over date

According to the Pan Yoruba socio political organization, the need to reiterate "the sancrosancy of February/March elections became imperative partly due to the alarm note sounded by the spokesman of Arewa

Consultative Forum (ACF), Dr. Hakeem Baba-Hamed, possibility of using the court to thwart the election process as well as difficulties being inflicted on Nigerians whose consequences may be used as excuse to jeopardize the ongoing civil rule".

Afenifere emphasized that, we are on the same page with ACF in its warning that, "Nigerians will not accept to live under any arrangement that offends the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria", adding, "the contrived pains can be seen in the unabated insecurity, heightened difficulties in getting fuel, in getting new Naira notes and in getting other energy sources such as electricity, gas, kerosene

and diesel".

"If the difficulties being experienced in these areas continued and Nigerians begin to react, their (peaceful) expression of frustration may be used as an excuse to want to tinker with the democratic experiment going on. Such would not be acceptable in any way", it said.

Afenifere while commenting on the trauma that Nigerians are being made to pass through before the announcement of the extension of deadline in currency notes' swap from January 31 to February 10 by the CBN Governor, maintained that it was "symptomatic of government's penchant for making the people go through avoidable pains."

According to Afenifere, "from the beginning of January this year, Nigerians have been calling on the CBN to extend the deadline. The calls were predicated on the non-availability of new Naira notes and the impossibility of being able to have the ones on hand swapped for the new ones before the expiration of the deadline on January 31. The new notes were difficult to obtain either inside the banks, on the Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) or from the POS." Afenifere while appreciating the eventual shift of the deadline to February 10 by the CBN, asserted that the pains and losses suffered by Nigerians last week would have been avoided "were the extension of the deadline announced much earlier.

## Bandits Kill Five Miners, Injure Others In Kaduna

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

Five local miners at Hayin Udawa Community in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State were killed when bandits attacked the mining site.

The bandits stormed the mining site on Thursday afternoon when the victims

were working.

A source confirmed the incident to New Nigerian but could not give details of what happened but assured that the victims were from Udawa village.

According to the source, "Five of our local miners were killed yesterday (Wednesday) while working in the bush.

They were all from Udawa town."

The source further explained that they (local miners) usually go into the bush for mining activities, saying that apart from those killed, others sustained gunshots.

He stated that where the attack took place was not far away from where bandits ambushed the personnel of the Nigeria

Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), killing seven as well as six miners a few weeks ago.

The State Police Command Public Relations Officer, DSP Mohammed Jalige could not respond to calls put to him.

## Idanre Peace Accord: Arrest Thugs Harassing Our Members, APC urges Ondo CP

By; ADO ADEBAYO, Akure

The All Progressives Congress (APC), has called on the police in Ondo State, to as a matter of urgency, arrest thugs allegedly harassing its members in Idanre, Idanre Local Government Area of the state.

The party alleged that the thugs were members of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), noting that they flagrantly violated the peace accord signed by both APC and PDP House of Representatives Candidates for Idanre/Ifedore Federal Constituency.

The ruling party expressed this on Friday in a statement signed by Adeboyeke Babatunde, APC Director of Media Campaign Idanre Local Government Area.

The statement reads, "It is a public knowledge that a

peace accord meeting was convened in Idanre on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at the instance of the revered paramount ruler of the town.

"The meeting was meant to douse the heightened political tension in Idanre amongst the supporters of APC and PDP House of Representatives candidates. It is a fact that our candidate, Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye was a signatory to the peace accord just as the PDP House of Representatives candidate equally signed.

"Sadly, just two days after the peace accord was signed in the presence of Ondo State Commissioner for police, PDP thugs in Idanre literally tore same peace accord document into shreds with an unprovoked attack of APC supporter right in front of our House of Representatives candidate's house.

"Although we are smart enough to know that the sinister motive of the PDP thugs is to provoke us and incite a fresh wave of political violence in Idanre. In spite of this highly provocative attack on our supporter, Idanre APC members will refuse to get incited into any form of violence.

"We want to state for the umpteenth time that Idanre APC is a peace loving party. In line with our philosophy of peaceful politicking, our party will refused to get provoked while the needful will be done to ensure that manifest peace reigns supreme in Idanre Local Government Area.

"Nevertheless, we will call on the leadership of Idanre PDP to as a matter of urgency reign-in their hugs immediately and allow peace to reign supreme in our community. Leadership of

the opposition party should also embrace politics of ideas and development without resorting to any form of violence.

"More so, we are also using this medium to call on Ondo State police command to immediately arrest the thugs that attacked an innocent APC supporter right in front of our candidate's house on Thursday. We will however not hesitate to arrest the thugs on our own and hand them over to the police if the expected needful is not done on time.

"We will continue to advocate issue based politicking in Idanre. We also want to emphasize that our candidate, Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye is totally committed to the welfare, development and security of the good people of Idanre.

## World NTD's Day: 14 LGAs Elephantiasis Endemic In Zamfara - Govt

By; ADAM MUH'D, Gusau

As Zamfara State Government joined global world Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day, the government lamented that 14 local government areas in the state are currently endemic for Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis) disease.

This was made known by the state commissioner of health, Alh. Aliyu Abubakar M.C. during a press briefing to mark the world NTD's day celebration on Monday.

The commissioner who was represented by the permanent secretary in the ministry during NTD'S day celebration, Alh. Aliyu Maikiwo Maradun, stated that six local government areas of Bukkuyum, Anka, Maru, Bungudu, Tsafe and Zurmi have achieved interruptions of transmission for Onchocerciasis (River Blindness) treatment.

According to him, the achievement followed the interventions carried out by the state government through the ministry in the six local governments.

"As a result of quick response by the state government through the ministry, these six local government areas no longer required annual treatment of elephantiasis

disease," he said.

He further pointed out that the trachoma endemic is under control in local government areas of Bungudu, Kaura Namoda, Maradun, Tsafe and Zurmi, hence no longer in need of drugs treatment.

He said the ministry will redouble efforts to ensure areas and communities affected with insecurity are reached for free treatment of neglected tropical diseases which include, Trachoma, River Blindness, Elephantiasis, Bilharzia and intestinal worms.

The commissioner assured people of the state that the government under the leadership of Governor Bello Mohammed Matawalle is committed to ensuring the provision of adequate water supply, improve environmental sanitation and hygiene and poverty alleviation through youth employment which are major causes of NTDs.

The commissioner hinted that statistics available from World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that over two billion people worldwide are threatened with NTDs, 530,000 lives lost as more than 60 million disability, over 100 million people are at risk of one or more NTDs diseases in Nigeria.

## EARCOM Warns Against Vote Buying, Electoral Malpractice

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Ahead the general elections, the Akwa Ibom State Ethical and Attitudinal Reorientation Commission (EARCOM), has warned politicians and voters to desist from vote-buying and other electoral offences.

Citing the electoral law, the Commission tasked the people to avoid committing electoral offenses to avoid the wrath of the law which could include serving jail terms.

Speaking during a session with newsmen after a meeting with Board members of the Commission, the Executive Chairman of EARCOM, Dr Dorothy Thompson, urged voters to cast their votes according to their conscience and not fall for bribes from politicians.

She also said for votes to be valid and counted, it

must be done rightly, adding that voters should cast their votes according to the guidelines of the Independent National Electoral Commission by thumb printing on the plain box beside their preferred Party logo to avoid voided votes.

Dr Thompson who hailed the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, for introducing the BVAS, and electronic transmission of results, advised that counting should be effectively monitored at the polling units.

The EARCOM boss announced that the Commission was due to commence a mass sensitisation on the expectations from the masses before the election commences in February and will work to ensure that citizens are aware of their roles to the Nation especially during electioneering period.

She said the Commission will educate the people on

the need to vote right and be thus guided to come out to vote, ensure they vote for their candidates, and that they monitor their vote within the ambit of the new electoral guideline.

Dr Dorothy stressed that the commitment of the Commission at ensuring that the citizens are aware of their rights, duties and the roles expected of them in exercise of their civic duties as socially responsible citizens.

EARCOM, Dr Thompson added will commence a statewide Campaign of mobilising to eschew apathy, go get their PVCS and ensure they vote. She however assured the voters that as much as they are ready to do what is expected of them, their security is guaranteed even as she lauded the security agencies for performing creditably in maintaining peace and stability since electioneering processes kick-started.

While releasing voter education messages through fliers and bill boards, Dr Thompson listed conduct expected of eligible voters on the day of election to include, you can't wear an emblem of a party; bearing weapons, acting violently or harassing other voters or displaying the posters of candidates among others. She explained that all forms of electoral malpractices including thuggery, harassment of voters, rigging, ballot box stuffing or snatching, selling of voter cards, double voting, campaign at polling units and buying of votes will not be tolerated.

She therefore, enjoined all eligible voters, and particularly, youths, to secure their future by desisting from becoming tools of destruction in the hands of politicians and ensure they remain law abiding as they perform their civic responsibilities.

## Tinubu Promises To End Fuel Scarcity In Nigeria, Makes Citizens Happy

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The All Progressives Congress (APC), Presidential candidate, Alhaji Bola Tinubu has decried ongoing fuel scarcity in Nigeria and promised to put an end to such crisis if elected into office.

Tinubu, who spoke at his presidential campaign in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on Monday, also promised to eradicate poverty, create employment and make Nigerians happy.

Acknowledging that his power to become president rests on the people, Alhaji Tinubu said, "God will put you in the right direction to vote for the right person. I guarantee you that fuel scarcity will stop. You will not suffer again. Go and get your PVC and vote for the right person."

Wooing the electorate in Akwa Ibom State for votes, the APC presidential hopeful said that he would complete Akwa Ibom Deep Seaport Project within his tenure as President.

He boasted of his capacity to complete the project, saying that he had completed the seaport in Lagos and therefore has the experience on how best to complete one for Akwa Ibom state.

Earlier, Senate President Ahmed Lawan said the crowd at the Akwa Ibom International Stadium gave indication of the level of acceptance of the APC by Akwa Ibom people.

He assured that the party's Presidential Candidate has the capacity to bring about employment opportunities as well as create entrepreneurial channels for Nigerian women.

The Senate President however cautioned leaders and stakeholders of the APC in Akwa Ibom State on the need to unite and bring the party to the mainstream of Nigerian politics in the interest of their teaming followers.

## Anambra Sports Commission Set To Reposition Associations

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Anambra Sports Commission is set to unveil sports associations, its Chairman Patrick Estate Onyedum has said.

Onyedum said this during a familiarisation visit to his office by Tony Neziyana, the newly elected Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) in Awka, the Anambra capital.

"We have identified that this will be the way to begin our quest for sports development from the grassroots," he said.

According to Onyedum, "we have taken inventory of the performance and contributions of the previous boards, whose tenures have elapsed.

"There is no doubt that a few made sterling contributions for which we are indeed happy but a number of them are moribund.

"We shall seek the approval of the Government to reactivate the associations by formally dissolving the previous boards," Onyedum noted.

"We shall certainly have some goals in mind in reconstituting the boards.

"We hope to use the association to discover the many talents that abound in the state and that must be made clear to the chairmen of their executive committee members.

"They must seek to hold regular meetings and competitions by raising funds from the private sector in support of their sport that will invariably support to Government. Government cannot develop sports on its own.

"We shall allow new

associations and new sports to be grown in our state," he said.

Onyedum, who served the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), said he hopes to allow relatively new federations to establish in Anambra.

"We shall allow them so long as these will facilitate the human development index of the state as well our quest for medals and honours to the state from local and international competitions.

"We do not have all the resources we require to develop our sports and infrastructure. We shall encourage those that will attract the development of infrastructure to support the growth and development of sports in Anambra" He assured.

Earlier, Neziyana requested Mr Onyedum, to allow federations like the Nigeria Triathlon Federation to start an affiliate Association to establish in the state.

"Triathlon an Olympic sport comprises three-in-one sports -- Cycling, distance running and swimming, where an athlete can win an Olympic Gold by amassing points.

"There are some others that may wish to make similar requests. Let's welcome them they may be the ones that can secure the state the honours they have been looking for," he said.

Neziyana, the only person from the Southeast on the NOC board, served twice in two Olympiads from 2001 to 2005 and 2005 to 2009.

Tony Neziyana, PRO NOC, Patrick Estate Onyedum, Chairman Anambra Sports Commission, Director, Mrs Faith Okwonna

## Luqman Yahaya Emerges New Captain Of Ilorin Golf Club

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

A new Captain for Ilorin Golf Club, Alhaji Luqman Yahaya emerged during the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM), held recently at the club's house in Ilorin, Kwara State capital.

Yahaya, new captain, took over the mantle of leadership from the former, Alhaji Gani Baba, who had served the club for many months.

Yahaya, who emerged unopposed in his inaugural speech, gave thanks to Almighty God, the club Board of Trustees, the past captains and all the distinguished members of various committees for their efforts in bringing development and unity to the club.

"I will like to thank God, the board of trustees, past

captains and all and sundry that have worked diligently to bring this great club to this enviable position, I believe that their efforts have positioned Ilorin Golf Club as one of the best in the country", said the new Captain.

He however, promised to give his hundred per cent commitments and do his best to compliment the efforts of the past Captains in making decisions that will benefit the club without sentiments.

Alhaji Luqman Yahaya has been a member of Ilorin Golf Club since 14 years ago, and he has been contributing both financially and morally to the development of the



club before he emerged as the new captain, notable among his efforts was his contributions during last covid-19 pandemic that rocked the golfing circle nationwide.

## Friendly: Flying Eagles, Young Chipolopolo To Play On Saturday

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The international friendly match between Nigeria and Zambia at the U-20 boys' level will now hold at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja on Saturday February 4.

Initially, both countries' football-governing bodies had agreed on a two-match tour for 27th and 30th January respectively. However, issues of logistics and the

compunction on the Young Chipolopolo to process their entry visas into Egypt for the forthcoming Africa U-20 Cup of Nations before leaving Zambia forced a postponement.

Zambia's U-20 delegation is still in Lusaka and will now only be able to play one match against the Flying Eagles, before proceeding to Dakar for a game against Senegal on Tuesday next week.

Both Nigeria and Zambia

will face a country from the other's region in Egypt, with Nigeria drawn against Mozambique (alongside host nation Egypt and Senegal) in Group A, while Zambia will face Benin Republic (alongside Tunisia and The Gambia) in Group C. Uganda, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Congo make up Group B.

Seven-time African champions Nigeria will fly to Morocco on

Wednesday next week for their final round of preparations.

Coach Isah Ladan Bosso's wards have been in flaming form in recent weeks, lashing a slew of teams in friendly games.

Bosso's wards were worthy champions of the W A F U B U 2 0 Championship in Niamey, Niger Republic in May 2022, winning all their five matches in the competition.

## Algeria 2023: Nigeria, 11 Others To Know Group Phase Foes Today

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The draw ceremony for this year's Africa U-17 Cup of Nations will hold today at the Cercle Nationale d'Armee in Algiers, capital city of Algeria.

Five-time world champions Nigeria are one of the 12 countries whose names will go into the pot for the draw, as all participating teams get to know their group phase opponents for the tournament scheduled for April 8 to

30 in Africa's largest nation.

All the 12 participating nations are now known, Algeria, Nigeria, Morocco, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Somalia, South Sudan, Zambia, South Africa,

Cameroon and Congo. The 12 teams will be drawn into three groups of four teams each, with the four top-placed teams qualifying to represent Africa at this year's FIFA U-17 World Cup finals taking place in Peru later this year.



Algeria 2023:  
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# NNPP Is Party To Beat In 2023 Polls - Kwankwaso

## \*Asks Nigerians to reject APC, PDP.

**By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan**  
New Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) Presidential candidate, Dr Rabiu Kwankwaso on Tuesday, declared that NNPP is the party to beat in this year's general elections. Featuring on a Fresh FM Ibadan live programme, Dr Kwankwaso said it is time for Nigerians to reject the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC)

and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in this year's general elections as they have nothing to offer the country. Dr Kwankwaso stressed that if Nigerians should allow the APC and PDP to continue to rule the country, "only God knows what will happen to Nigeria", saying, all the problems in Nigeria are traceable to the PDP and the APC. "APC and PDP cannot offer

Nigeria anything again. Some of them are having issues, some of them are having personality issues. Let's go and do the right thing," he said. The NNPP Presidential candidate pointed out that Nigeria is now at critical stage and don't need anyone from either the APC or PDP any longer as the President adding, "Nigeria as a country deserve much better leaders unlike what

we are presently having under the ruling APC and the PDP. Emphasizing that as at present, both the APC and PDP "are dead political parties having disappointed Nigerians, Dr Kwankwaso cautioned Nigerians not to fall victims of religious and tribal sentiment in this year's general elections. Stressing that we have a lot of issues in the country and anyone campaigning on ethnicity and

religion will loose the election, he said Nigeria deserve "much better leadership, Dr Kwankwaso tasked Nigerians to focus on credibility saying "Nigeria need the best, let us have the best". Speaking further, Dr Kwankwaso stressed that NNPP is making tremendous progress and that the party is a party to beat in the country as at present, and that "ANPP is a party to beat in Nigeria now".

# 2023 Polls: 612 Police Officers Acquire More Tactics To Combat Cultism, Kidnapping Electoral Violence

**By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The Nigeria Police Force has concluded the training of six hundred and twelve officers from across the six geo-political zones on effective strategies for combatting cultism, kidnapping and electoral violence in the country ahead of the 2023 general elections.

The training which was held at six different venues in each of the six geo-political zones, was organized by the Nigeria Police Force in collaboration with Wan Diyos Limited, a consulting firm, and had renowned members of the academia as well as a retired Deputy Inspector-General of Police, DIG Hashimu Ibrahim Argungu (Rtd.) as resource persons.

This was contained in a statement by the Force Public Relations Officer CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made available to journalists on Tuesday.

According to the Force image maker, the training workshop which held between Saturday 7th January and Wednesday 18th January, 2023, probed historical antecedents as well as contemporary issues and solutions to the challenges of



The trained officers

cultism, kidnapping, and electoral violence. "The Inspector-General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba, psc(+), NPM, NEAPS, fdc, CFR, emphasized that the training is germane in light of the upcoming general elections to prepare officers to train their

men on vibrant tactics to identify and decimate threats to election security management. "The IGP also assured that the training and retraining of police personnel for election security management and professionalism, in all areas of modern policing, will be a

continuous project even after the 2023 general elections. "The Inspector-General of Police charged the trainees to deploy the expertise gained from the workshop towards improved management of cultism, kidnapping and election related violence even as he directed

them to ensure the knowledge cascades to other officers and men serving in their respective stations/units for a holistic approach to election security management during the 2023 general elections for free, fair, credible and acceptable elections", Adejobi added.