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N700bn Lost To Flood In Nigeria In 2022 - **NAERLS**

■ Says enormous flood, threat to food security

■ Recommends dry season production of staple crops

1 Div Troops Dislodge Bandits, Rescue 30 Kidnapped Victims Along Kaduna-Birnin Gwari Highway



By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Based on the findings of 2022 flooding assessment, an estimated sum of N700 billion was lost due to flood in Nigeria.

This was contained in an assessment of 2022 flooding in Nigeria and implications on agriculture, conducted by the National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS/ABU) Zaria.

"The 2022 flood in Nigeria was caused mainly by heavy precipitation, ill-managed run-offs and unregulated river flow, especially from River Benue," the assessment said.

It showed that the 2022 flooding damaged crops, washed farmlands and

destroyed livestock and fish resources.

"The enormous flood is a potential threat to food security.

"Generally, the flood disaster in Nigeria in 2022 had been the most devastating one since 2012," the report said.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported on November 11, 2022, that 4,449,533 persons were affected by the flood, while 2,430,445 persons were internally displaced.

This situation necessitated some form of humanitarian intervention for the assistance of the affected persons.

The assessment recommended that dry season production of staple crops be promoted across the country in both

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2023 Election: NGO Tasks Media On Gender Balanced Reportage

**Says 40 per cent of women Parliamentarians in Africa have been sexually harassed*

**Stresses need to mitigate violence against women*

By: AUSTINE AGBO EMMANUEL, Kaduna

A non governmental organization, (NGO) under the aegis of Ladies Empowerment Goals and Support Initiative (LEGASI), has urged the media to focus their reportage more on women in the forthcoming general elections.

The Programme Manager, LEGASI Mr. Timothy Lawrence, made the call during a one-day training on "Effective Media Sensitive Reporting and Strengthening Understanding of the Dynamics of SGBV", a programme organized by Women Situation Room Nigeria (WSRN) yesterday.

According to Timothy, the women counterparts are more vulnerable in every

election period because of their fragile nature and societal norms.

While appealing to government to roll out better policies that would encourage women's participation in politics, he noted that there are cultures in other countries of the world which gives women the opportunity to explore in their life's pursuits rather than discriminating against them.

He added that women are systematically disadvantaged at all levels of the society especially in Nigeria where women's voice and experiences in leadership are demeaned because they are not seen as those who can handle affairs.

Citing global citizens' report on sexual Gender Based Violence, (SGBV)

the programme manager revealed that 40 per cent of women Parliamentarian in Africa have been sexually harassed while doing their job, while others are passing through series of abuses but finds it very difficult to open up due to fear of stigmatization.

He further appealed to journalists to include information on how survivors can get assistance, do follow up stories and not to blame survivors.

The Programme Manager called on women across the country not to be discouraged about the hardship poised on the country by both Naira and fuel scarcity, but should go out en masse and vote for credible candidates of their choice in the forthcoming elections.

Speaking with newsmen

shortly after the event, one of the resource persons, Alhassan Bodi Felicia, said the programme is aimed to engage the media because of their importance role in the society.

Felicia said the agenda setting theory of the press, will help to sensitize, educate and enlightened the general public, hence the need to engage and equipped them on the need to make women a priority. David Vincent Ejeh, a participant in the event, said the programme is apt, stressing that enough lessons were learnt and would be given every necessary action to ensure women are not left behind in the affairs of their country being it in politics or other endeavors of life.

Prince Adewole Adebayo Speaks On Security, Economy At NBA Dialogue

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) presidential candidate, Prince Adewole Adebayo has promised to put the right system in place to tackle insecurity if elected into office.

Speaking at the Nigerian Bar Association State of The Nation Dialogue on Security, Economy and Administration of Justice on Monday 30th January, 2023, Prince Adebayo said the insecurity situation in Nigeria has become a major crisis because a due to lack of a proper system in place to tackle it.

While answering questions on the economy, he said his party intends to align the country's economic policies with chapter two of the 1999 constitution. He said, "What we are doing in essence is to align our economic policies with chapter two, which is a mandate



for us to be able to invest on both sides.

"The first thing a person would appreciate is housing, medical care, the best in education and full employment without the providers of it".

"All the instruments that were used to stimulate the economy have been given to the government through the battle by the central bank, so I will pick up those things for

free. We need to create employment.

Other presidential candidates available at the event were Professor Peter Umeadi (APGA), Omoyele Sowore (AAC), Almustapha Hamza (AA), Nwanyanwu Daniel Daberechukwu (ZLP), Dumebi Kachikwu (ADC), Sani Yabagi Yusuf (ADP), and Prince Malik Ado-Ibrahim

(YPP).

Dignitaries present were, Yakubu Chonoko Maikyau - President, Nigerian Bar Association, Adesina Adegbite - General Secretary and Chinyere Gladys Obasi - Welfare Secretary.

The dialogue was aimed at participating in an interactive session with the presidential candidates.

APC National Leader's North Central Tour Excites Youth, Draws Commitment To Party Triumph

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

All Progressives Congress (APC's) National Youth Leader, Hon. Dayo Israel, inspired new levels of excitement and a renewed commitment to the party's triumph in the February 25 general elections with visits to Taraba, Benue, and Niger states to complete the North Central leg of his nationwide youth energizing and mobilization tour.

The conclusive lap for North Central began last week with a several hours drive to Taraba State from Gombe where, together with the youth and party exco in the state, he rallied support for the party and charged local stakeholders to mobilize votes for its presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and other candidates flying the party's flag at the polls.

Hon. Israel also inaugurated the state's division of the Jagaban Footsoldiers Movement alongside its various directorates, just as he did in all the states he has visited since the formal inauguration of the APC National Youth Wing Campaign Council in Kaduna State.

He encouraged members of the movement, particularly those in directorates overseeing grassroots mobilization and media engagements, to effectively communicate the party's goodwill and readiness to confront peculiar challenges affecting growth and development in the state. He also tasked them to make good use of tools provided to them such as the Canvasser's Record Sheet to enable the Youth Wing run a data-driven campaign, especially with last-mile, get-out-the-votes efforts it plans to deploy to ensure that the party harvests the largest number of youth votes in the election.

From Taraba State, the National Youth Leader braved the roads and waves as he crossed the Taraba River to arrive in Benue State in continuation of the tour. There, he teamed up with Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, the party's popular governorship candidate in the state, and other local youth leaders and representatives to mobilize locally for the party.

He also played host to a town hall meeting with various interest and support groups during which he disclosed the plans of Bola Tinubu to bring an end to the perennial conflict and security challenges affecting peace and commerce in the state.

According to him, "Asiwaju has perfected plans to provide the required support to farmers in Benue State to cultivate, monitor, harvest and preserve their goods. He will also ensure the availability of ready markets and easy access to the markets through key infrastructural investments. This will enable farmers in Benue to sell their goods when due at a favourable profit margin."

"Under Tinubu's leadership, Benue will live up to its reputation as the food basket of the nation and provide relief to the rest of the country by increasing local food supply and bring down inflation," he said.

As a mark of appreciation for his impactful visit, the people of Benue honoured him with a title as the 'Kuhe Jime U Youths' which translates to the backbone of the youths.

From there, he made yet another trip to Kogi State where he also launched the state's division of the Jagaban Footsoldiers Movement and offered support, including mobilization tools, to the party's youth representatives and the team of mobilizers tasked with ensuring a youth-driven electoral success.

After the successful visit to Kogi State, he proceeded to Niger State, home to Governor Abubakar Sani Bello who looks likely to be succeeded by Muhammed Umar Bago of the APC, after a widely-acclaimed meritorious service of two terms.

In Niger, Hon. Israel hosted a town hall meeting with the entire leadership of the state's youth wing where he inaugurated the state's members of the Jagaban Movement and provided assurances of the party's determination to reward its loyal stewards.

He urged them to sustain and expedite the wheels of progress in the state by preserving its alliance with the centre with the election of the APC's Bola Tinubu and Umar Bago as president and governor respectively.

NHRC Holds Gubernatorial Town Hall In Kaduna

*Says fulfilment, enjoyment of rights indicators of functioning democratic system

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), yesterday, held a gubernatorial town hall meeting for candidates seeking election in Kaduna State. Executive Secretary (ES) of the Commission, Okechukwu Nwafor in his remarks, noted that the fulfilment and enjoyment of human rights are critical indicators of a properly functioning democratic system, adding that thriving democracy equally provides the best environment for the protection and fulfilment of rights.

Represented by an Assistant Director, Rosemary Igboyi, the ES, said the event was a non-partisan one and that it was not meant to endorse any candidate or evaluate their performance, rather the commission is using the platform to develop a value system that places human rights as a key element in the electoral

process and democracy in the state.

According to him, "It is the Commission's hope that Political candidates, including those who have honoured our invitation today shall focus their campaigns on strategies to protect and fulfil the human rights of the Nigerian people. I will end by reiterating that this Gubernatorial town hall is a non-partisan event.

"The commission extended invitations to all the political parties and their governorship candidates to participate in this town hall. I want to thank the candidates who are here today. We are grateful to all of you for choosing to put human rights at the centre of your campaigns.

"As the elections draw near and political campaigns heat up, I want to urge political parties and their candidates to focus on issues and present Nigerians with choices that bothers on what they will do to achieve the

basic human rights of citizens. These include but are not limited to gender equality, women empowerment, protection of the most vulnerable in our society like children, youths, older persons and persons living with disabilities.

"Elections are germane in creating an enabling environment for the fulfilment of human rights. It has been recognized by the United Nations that the right to vote and be elected is interwoven with the enjoyment of a plethora of other key human rights which include the right to freedom of association, right to peaceful



assembly, right to freedom of movement, right to freedom of information and the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

"Elections should be a time of critical national self-reflection on our commitment to the social contract of democracy and the achievement of human rights."

He therefore, thanked their partners for making the event

possible, saying "I want to thank all our partners who have made this event possible by their technical, financial and moral support; INEC, NBA, Civil society etc. I want to particularly appreciate the Ford Foundation and the Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP) for their support to NHRC election project, Mobilising Voters for Election (MOVE).

Customs Seme Command Intercepts Fake \$6M, Travel Documents, Arrests Suspects

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Nigeria Customs Service, Seme Area Command has intercepted fake six million US dollars, en route to the Benin Republic from Nigeria through the border.

The Customs Area Controller, Comptroller Dera Nnadi, while briefing newsmen at the Command Headquarters in Seme-Krake Joint Border Post, said the currency which is equivalent to N2.763 Billion at an exchange rate of N460.52 was intercepted on the 31st of January.

He said two male suspects have been arrested in connection with the crime and are currently in custody pending prosecution.

The CAC also noted that the Command intercepted various travel documents with pictures of a lady bearing different names on the same day.

He said, "Also on the 31st of January, 2023 at about 0530 hours, Officers on patrol along Gbetrome base intercepted Six (6) Maltese International Passports with the same picture of a lady but bearing different names, Two (2) Senegalese International Passports, Three (3)

) Togolese International Passports, Four (4) Republic of Benin International Passports, One (1) Republic of Niger International Passport and Ten (10) International Driving License of these various countries from two male suspects who are also in our custody pending further investigation".

"Also arrested and seized 1300 by 30 liters jerry can of PMS equivalent 39,000 liters with duty paid value of N9,366,45 only. The products were seized along the creeks". He added.

"Other items seized include 55 sacks containing 550 pieces of donkey skin with DPV OF N11,371,511. The significance of the seizure is that it shows how much our endangered speices are being



eroded by unpatriotic elements". He emphasized.

The CAC attributed the achievements to the painstaking

efforts of tireless officers.

"These achievements so far were not made on a platter of gold. It took the painstaking efforts of the officers who spend hours on patrol and surveillance to record the seizures. We wish to reiterate that we will not relent on this effort". He noted.

"The Command will continue to dialogue, engage, sensitize and educate the public on social/economic implication of smuggling as well as performing the statutory function of enforcing compliance in line with government fiscal policies". He added.

Comptroller Dera appealed to parents and guardians residing in border communities to prevail

on their children, wards, and youths to desist from criminal acts such as smuggling.

He appreciated sister agencies for their collaborative efforts in the fight against smuggling while also thanking the CGC and the management of Customs as well as community leaders for their support.

"Let me at this interval, appreciate the collaborative efforts of other sister agencies in the fight against smuggling and appeal for their continuous support. It is important to note that activities embarked upon by the Command is a patriotic duty in the interest of national security and economic wellbeing of Nigeria". He said.

"NCS operatives in observance of the rules of engagement will continue to carry out their legitimate duties as prescribed by the law". He emphasized.

"We thank the CGC and management of Customs, officers and men of the Command, community leaders, and partner government agencies who are showing concern and are collaborating with the Service for their continuous support". He concluded.

Kaduna Electric: Impostor Bags Six Months Imprisonment

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A Chief Magistrate Court in Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State has sentenced one Bashar Muhammad Bunza to six months imprisonment for criminal breach of trust, obtaining money under false pretense and impersonation.

The convict was arrested by the operatives of Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) for parading himself to customers of Kaduna Electric as a staff of the company and collecting bills payment for his personal use.

The First Information Report stated that Bashar was apprehended by some customers in go-slow area, Birnin-Kebbi where he collected the sum of ₦10,000 from one customer in the area, Usman Umar and could neither provide evidence of payment nor account for the money.

The operatives of the NSCDC who arrested him, later referred the matter to NSCDC Division,

Makerar Gandu, Birnin Kebbi for further investigation and later charged him before the Chief Magistrate Court One, Birnin-Kebbi for breach of trust, obtaining money under false pretense and impersonation contrary to section 132 of the Penal Code, law of Kebbi State 1999.

He pleaded guilty of the crimes and was sentenced to six months imprisonment each with the option of ₦100,000 fine and also to pay the sum of ₦10,000 as compensation to the victim. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Reacting to the judgement, Kaduna Electric's Head of Corporate Communication, Abdulazeez Abdullahi, welcomed the sentencing and said it would serve as a deterrent to others.

He called on member of the public to help security agencies and the company with relevant information in order to arrest criminals bent on sabotaging efficient power supply efforts in its franchise.

N700bn Lost To Flood In Nigeria In 2022 - NAERLS

- Says enormous flood, threat to food security
- Recommends dry season production of staple crops

the formal and informal irrigation schemes to bridge the imminent food supply gap.

"Also Irrigation facilities such as tube wells, hand pumps, and early maturing seed varieties should be provided to farmers.

"NAERLS in collaboration with State ADPs, FDAE, FDA should be funded to provide technical support to the farmers," it suggested.

The report advised the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to urgently consider building at least one dam on Benue River for flow regulation.

According to the assessment, the long-proposed Dasin Hausa Dam in Fufore LGA of Adamawa State will serve as a buffer for the excess flow from Ladgo Dam in Cameroon.

"River Basin Development Authorities should be mobilized and



facilitated to undertake river training and desilting of major rivers within their catchment, improve the integrity of the banks and streamline the courses for improved handling capacities and freer flows. "Promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices through upgrading Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS), sensitization and education of farmers.

"NiMET, NIHSA should be supported for improved data collection and analysis, while NAERLS, FDAE and FDA be funded for sensitization and dissemination of flood early warning systems.

"National Agricultural Research Institutes should be charged and supported to breed and promote climate-resilient (drought-tolerant, flood resistant, and early

maturing) crop varieties" it further advised.

The NAERLS assessment insisted that improving run-off management through the provision of erosion control measures in towns and villages and construction of underground water harvesting reservoirs within the catchment of rivers and large streams, are further solutions to the problem of flooding.

Zamfara Gets, New Vehicle Transit Area, Inland Dry Port

By: ADAM MUH'D, Gusau

The Nigerian Shippers Council will immediately commence the construction of a new Vehicle Transit Area and Inland Dry Port in Gusau, the state capital.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Special Adviser to Governor Bello Mohammed Matawalle on Public Enlightenment, Media and Communication Zailani Bappa and made available to New Nigerian yesterday.

The statement said that the decision is part of the fall out from the concerted efforts of Matawalle's vision of an "Economically New Zamfara".

According to the statement, in a letter of conveyance, the Nigerian Shippers Council also requested for

an immediate commencement of the initial steps towards the realisation of these projects.

Zailani Bappa noted that already, a meeting between the state government officials and that of the Shippers Council is scheduled for early next month to roll-out a fast track to the take-off of the projects.

Governor Bello Mohammed Matawalle said the intention of his administration is to ensure that the state benefits from all available Federal Government transport and commercial infrastructure that will lead to economic leap for the state.

"Officers from the headquarters and zonal office of the Shippers Council will arrive Gusau early February in earnest preparation for the take-off of the projects". The statement said.

800,000 PVCs Yet To Be Collected In Oyo State - INEC

**Says commission fully ready for 2023 polls*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

With few days to the 2023 general elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in Oyo State, Dr. Adeniran Tella on Wednesday, hinted that 800,000 Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) are yet to be collected in state.

Dr Tella who dropped this hint at a stakeholders' meeting on Mock Voters' accreditation and verification exercise held at the commission's office, Agodi Ibadan, said the commission is fully ready for the coming election.

According to the REC, the purpose of the stakeholders forum is to inform the general public on the proposed mock voters' accreditation/verification exercise in twelve (12) of the polling units in three of the

Senatorial Districts of the state.

"As you are already aware, the commission has taken delivery of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machines for the election in the state. We have also tested each machine so as to ensure its functionality on election day", he said.

Dr Tella added, "the essence of the mock exercise is therefore to conduct field tests across three Senatorial Districts in the state using twelve polling units at Oyo North, Oyo South, and Oyo Senatorial Districts of the state."

"The exercise is scheduled for Saturday 4th of February 2023 from 8am to 2:30pm accordingly in all affected LGAs and polling units in the state".

Speaking further, the REC tasked registered voters in the affected polling units to appear on the scheduled date with their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) for the mock

exercise",

"No doubt the exercise will help to reassure the general public of the robustness of our system and to further strengthen our processes ahead of the general election in the state. It should be noted that at the end of the exercise the 12 BVAS machines involved will be reconfigured before they are deployed for the general elections in the state".

Dr Tella stressed further that the commission "is fully ready for the coming election as series of training are being conducted and will yet be conducted for both staff and ad-hoc staff members in order to have a seamless election in the state."

He emphasized that, "Presidential/National assembly election will hold on 25th of February 2023, while that of the governorship and state House of Assembly elections will come up on 11th March, 2023 as scheduled." and that

the commission "is to deploy technology for the conduct of the forthcoming elections through the use of BVAS for accreditation and verification of voters and uploading of voters results through INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) on Election day.

"Collection of PVCs at the 33 INEC Offices has been further extended for 8 days with additional two hours which is expected to end on Sunday, 5th February 2023 starting from 9am to 5pm on daily basis, including Saturday and Sunday. As I speak to you we have so far distributed over 402,321 PVCs in the state. We still have over 800,000 uncollected PVCs at our various 33 INEC local government area offices, I urge members of the public to have their PVCs collected today because their PVC is their power on election day."

1 Div Troops Dislodge Bandits, Rescue 30 Kidnapped Victims Along Kaduna-Birnin Gwari Highway

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A fighting patrol from 1 Div today Thursday 2 February 2023 had a meeting engagement with armed bandits kidnapping commuters at Manini village along Kaduna - Birnin Gwari road.

This was made known in a statement signed by the Acting Deputy Director Army Public Relations, 1 Division Nigerian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Musa Yahaya.

It said the troops who were escorting the the Chief of Defence Training and Operations Maj Gen SE Udonwa who was on operational visits to

Operation Whirl Punch Headquarters in Birnin Gwari engaged the bandits and overpowered them forcing the criminal element to withdraw in disarray.

The gallant troops rescued 30 kidnapped victims, recovered two motorcycles and immediately cleared the highway for free flow of vehicular traffic. The rescued victims were escorted to Uda and Birnin Gwari to continue their journey.

The Chief of Defence Training and Operations, Maj Gen SE Udonwa, has commended the troops for their professionalism and resilience.



About 160,000 Children Acquire HIV In 2021 - WHO

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

About 160,000 children in 2021, acquired the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the World Health Organisation, has revealed.

According to WHO, globally, every five minutes, a child dies from AIDS-related causes.

A statement issued on Wednesday by the global health body, explained that plans have been laid by twelve African countries

and have committed themselves to end AIDS in children by 2030.

The statement said, "Currently, around the world, a child dies from AIDS-related causes every five minutes."

It explained that only half (52 per cent) of children living with HIV are on life-saving treatment, far behind adults of whom three quarters (76 per cent) are receiving antiretrovirals.

The statement further explained that children accounted for 15 per cent

of all AIDS-related deaths, despite the fact that only four per cent of the total number of people living with HIV are children.

It said that Nigeria, Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as the twelve countries with high HIV burdens and have joined the alliance to ensure that the 2030 target is met.

According to Dr Tedros

Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the WHO, assured that the organisation is committed to leaving no stone unturned towards ensuring that children in need of HIV treatment are not left behind.

Dr Ghebreyesus said that more than 40 years since AIDS first emerged, we have come a long way in preventing infections among children and increasing access to treatment, but progress has stalled.

CNPP Replies Tinubu Campaigners Over Corruption In NNPC

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Conference Of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has responded to the insinuations by a group associated with the Presidential and Vice-presidential candidates of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Kashim Shettima that the CNPP was engaging in what it described as "Cheap Blackmail" for accusing the management of incompetence and corruption.

The group, Tinubu Shettima Network (TSN), had maligned the CNPP for calling on President Muhammadu Buhari to purge the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) of an alleged corrupt management team if the president wishes to end the perennial fuel scarcity in the country.

The group had said, "We expected CNPP to blame OPEC quota on oil thieves and the recent fuel scarcity on marketers rather NNPC. Is it NNPC staff that are stealing oil. It is a cartel and the security agencies and politicians are involved and this has been happening since 1983 in this country?"

However in a reply issued by the CNPP Secretary General, Chief Willy Ezugwu, the CNPP noted that "in the first place, the use of a group associated with Tinubu to respond to a glaring case of incompetence manifesting in fuel scarcity and unfortunate hike in pump price of petrol is a confirmation of the CNPP position."

The CNPP added that Tinubu is the only politician in Nigeria who receives missing bullion vans according to his spokesperson, Comrade Ayodele Adewale who told the world that bullion vans pictured in his house was missing road.

"So, when one Kailani Muhammad, an associate of Tinubu speaks on corruption related defence, no citizen can take him seriously. The corrupt will most likely defend the corrupt.

"The CNPP, as the umbrella association of registered political parties and political associations in Nigeria, reiterates that setting up a 14-man Committee by President Muhammadu Buhari to find lasting solutions to the problems surrounding the supply and distribution chain of petroleum products in the country was an open indictment of the management team of the newly registered NNPC Limited.

"The Tinubu group had argued that since the repositioning of NNPC, nobody or leader can deep hands in NNPC's coffers to steal money, but since the company was registered, unending fuel scarcity has worsened hardship burdens Nigerians have to bear under the APC government.

"Some experts have revealed that Nigeria losses about 600,000 barrels of crude oil per day to oil thieves while other put the stolen crude oil at 80 percent of Nigeria's daily production.

"A vessel takes days to load crude oil and if as much as 600,000 barrels of crude oil per day is stolen, NNPC must be complicit or incompetent.

"The NNPC has been accused by military sources of providing valid papers for some vessels after the illegal vessels have been arrested.

"That's why many experts have continued to wonder aloud how vessels with stolen crude manage to beat the security agencies, especially the navy, to enter the country to illegally take the crude without connivance of NNPC officials.

"Therefore, it is not out of blackmail for CNPP to point accusing fingers on the NNPC management over continued oil theft and subsidy scam. It's out of genuine concern as the corrupt cannot effectively fight corruption.

"This is why NNPC continued to defend allegation that it has been inflating figures released for the daily consumption of Premium Motor Spirit (petrol) in the country.

"Recall that the Comptroller-General of Customs, Col. Hameed Ali, and the state governors have at different times alleged an inflation by almost 50 percent in the NNPC figures on petrol consumption and demanded a probe of oil subsidy payments from 2015 till date to no avail", the CNPP stated.



Rivers: APC National Youth Leader inaugurates Jagaban Movement

**Tonye Cole, State Party Excros Affirm Support For Tinubu*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Youth Leader of the All Progressives

Congress (APC), Hon. Dayo Israel, has inaugurated the Rivers State chapter of the Jagaban Movement, a national grassroots youth mobilization unit structured into regions, states, LGAs, Wards, and Polling Units, with the objective of mobilizing young voters in favor of Bola Tinubu and other candidates of the party in the general elections.

The event took place in Port Harcourt on Wednesday, against the background of Wike's reported decision to throw his weight behind the APC presidential candidate, a momentous decision

predicted to help Tinubu's ambition in Rivers State and the South-South region where the governor commands great influence and power.

Mr. Israel, who since the inauguration of the APC National Youth Wing Campaign Council last month in Kaduna State, has continued his tour of the country to flag-off local youth mobilization efforts organized under the Jagaban Movement, urged members of the Rivers State chapter to prove their mettle and ensure that the party wins the state.

Dismissing critical reports and unverified rumors about the health of the party's presidential candidate, he claimed that the former Lagos governor boasts of a work

rate better than another candidate in the election, with daily trips to different parts of the country to provide insight into his governance manifesto alongside other meetings with important stakeholders where sector-focused issues are deliberated.

He charged them to study the candidate's manifesto and use the knowledge of same to win the hearts of young people in the nooks and crannies of the state. He also encouraged the smart and effective utilization of tools made available to them, including the Canvasser's Record Sheet, a data-gathering tool designed to help the party prosecute the election with up-to-date data on local voting trends and demographics.

The event was attended by Tonye Cole, the governorship candidate of the party who seized the moment to debunk notions of a rumored deal struck with the opposition to aid his emergence at the polls. He reiterated his total and enduring loyalty to Tinubu and the APC, while providing assurances of meaningful support to the state's chapter of the Jagaban Movement to attain success in its important youth mobilization quest.

Other party leaders, including members of the state's executives, were also present at the event, with each of them taking turns to pledge their allegiance to the cause and express optimism of victory come the 25th of February.

Insecurity: Umahi Distributes 22 Operational Vehicles, 150 Motorcycles To Security Agencies

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor David Nweze Umahi has pledged the preparedness of his administration to ensure adequate security for citizens both before, during and after the general elections.

Governor Umahi announced this while distributing 22 utility trucks and 150 motorcycles to security agencies in the state.

Governor Umahi said the donation is to complement efforts of security agencies in tackling insecurity in the state.

"Security is of utmost importance to us in Ebonyi State and we have been doing our best in this direction, it is never enough and we realize that you cannot pursue these criminals without vehicles, we needed brand new vehicles. I want to appeal to the users, let nobody use these vehicles alone, always be in a convoy." He said.

The governor appealed to the security agencies to use the vehicles only for the purposes they were procured for which is the safety of citizens.

"These vehicles should not be on the road alone, it should be about three or four on the road equipped with the right gadgets because of bandits, I don't want to hear that these vehicles are burnt or stolen." He warned.

The governor assured of his



determination to continue to assist the security agencies to tackle insecurity in the state.

"I will give you all the cooperation, I will give you all the support to ensure you succeed, I will not send you against the opposition but do not support the opposition to destabilize the peace of the state, I will not support that, we want equal treatment for the ruling party and the opposition." He

said.

Governor Umahi appealed to security agencies to curtail the number of orderlies assigned to politicians in the state in order to beef up personnel available for security of people and their property.

"The opposition is putting uniform on non-security persons and are parading as security officers and constituting insecurity, we will no longer

allow it, we will confront it." He declared.

Earlier, the Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Kenneth Ugbala appreciated the security agencies for their efforts in securing of lives and property and expressed hope that the new vehicles would assist them more in carrying out their responsibilities.

On behalf of the security agencies, the Commissioner of

Police, Garba Aliyu thanked the governor for his donation and assured that the gesture would spur the security agencies to greater productivity.

Out of the newly procured vehicles, the Police got five and 50 motorcycles, the Cantonment Commander, five and 30 motorcycles, Special Army Unit got Five and 30 motorcycles, DSS one, while the Ebubeagu Security outfit got two and 40

Redesigned Naira Notes: CBN Faults Banks For Bogging Down Swap Programme

By; MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has apportioned blames on commercial banks for withholding the redesigned Naira notes in their vaults without necessarily disbursing the money to their agents for onward withdrawal by customers.

The apex bank's Deputy Director Currency Operations, Mrs. Elizabeth Amos expressed this in Bauchi, when she led monitoring team to the state that comprised officials of the CBN, EFCC and ICPC to ascertain the level of disbursement under the bank's ongoing swap exercise.

"In some commercial banks, we have seen over 80 to 90 per cent of what was disbursed to the commercial banks still in their vaults", the CBN deputy director told the press in Bauchi on Wednesday.

She said, "What we do is to look at the allocations given to the commercial banks, trace it to their books, see how much was loaded into their ATM machines, and how much money they gave to their agents.

"We are looking at the ATM machines, looking at the records of how much each of the ATMs carries, and look at the total amounts withdrawn by individual customers", Elizabeth further disclosed her team's mission.

"The team is also to look at the spread sheets in their systems and see if what was loaded was



actually what was withdrawn by the customers. If there are areas of discrepancies, we ask questions and seek for clarifications", she said.

Mrs. Elizabeth Amos however, said that they were able to track

much of the money, adding, "But we also have some issues that we will take up with them. We queried them for not giving to their agents the money they were supposed to give.

"These monies are supposed to

be given to their agents that are listed and registered with them to carry out this swap, but to our dismay, most of the banks we visited have not been forthcoming in the swap".

Elizabeth further explained that the visiting monitoring team to Bauchi from Abuja similarly asked the banks to call their agents for collection of the monies for swap with their customers.

The team noted with concern that most of the ATMs it visited were down, until they talked to the banks' management staff to reactivate them, stressing "They come out with one issue or another which we did not totally agree with.

"So we instruct them to make sure that all their ATMs machines are full to capacity, and make sure that at any given time, there is any issue, they address it immediately", Elizabeth concluded.

C' River: INEC To Test Run Accreditation With BVAS Before Election

By; VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Cross River State is set to conduct a mock accreditation with the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) to technically evaluate its usage in the state.

This is in furtherance of the technical evaluation of the device, which is part of preparations for the conduct of 2023 general elections.

This was disclosed by the Head of Voter Education INEC in Cross River State, Anthonia Nwobi, in an interactive session with journalists in Calabar.

According to her, "the mock accreditation would help to test the credibility of the BVAS.

She added that the exercise would help to test the viability of both hard and software between February 4 to February 11, 2023 stressing that the mock accreditation exercise scheduled for Saturday 4, 2023 will hold in twelve selected

polling units across three Senatorial districts of the state.

"INEC Cross River State on February 1, 2023, signed by Anthonia Nwobi, maintained that the exercise will hold across six LGAs of the state to ascertain the functionality of BVAS in the field".

INEC statement reads, "The exercise will commence at 8:00am and close at 2:00pm stressing that only registered voters with the Permanent Voter Cards in the respective Polling Units would be eligible to participate in the mock accreditation."

The Commission appeals to Cross riverians particularly those participating registered voters to abide by instructions of official deployed for the exercise for a successful outcome.

"It appealed for peaceful and orderly conduct in and around the period of the mock accreditation exercise, assuring that the outcome of the exercise will be shared with the public."

February Polls: Tinubu Capable To Rule - Senator Marafa

By; ADAM MUH'D, Gusau

All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Coordinator in Zamfara State, Sen. Kabir Marafa has expressed confidence that APC presidential candidate, Bola Ahmad Tinubu has all qualities and capabilities to rule Nigeria, if given the mandate in the upcoming election.

Sen. Marafa disclosed this at a press conference on Wednesday following the outcome of the APC Presidential Rally of Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu who visited Zamfara last Saturday.

Sen. Marafa said, "Tinubu is capable of handling the presidency with even distribution of the national cake".

He maintained that, Tinubu held detailed

discussions with all key stakeholders in the Zamfara APC.

The Presidential Coordinator however, said during the discussions, Tinubu promised to tackle agriculture, mining, rail line and textiles problems facing the state.

"During our meeting with Bola Tinubu, we raised issues of concern to the APC Presidential Candidate and he promised to address it when he gets to office," he added.

Sen. Marafa therefore, urged the people of the state to turn out in mass to elect APC during the polls.

He expressed satisfaction over the massive support from the APC members in welcoming Asiwaju Bola Tinubu for the Presidential Rally.

Scholarship: Zulum Sends 19 Orphaned-youth For Medicine In Egypt; Pays N250m

**Approves dollars as parting gifts*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum on Tuesday bid farewell to 19 youth, most of who grew up as orphans and vulnerable indigenes of Borno State.

The students will soon be departing for Suez City in Egypt, to study and obtain Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery (MBBS) degrees on full government scholarship, for a duration of five years.

The scholarship to Suez University for which Zulum released N250m is one of the outcomes of a visit to some Egyptian Universities by Governor

Zulum in November, 2020.

The governor had during that trip, promised to approve scholarship for youth from the most deprived family backgrounds in Borno State to study in Egypt, other countries and across Nigeria.

Zulum, later in February 2022, made a follow up visit to the Egyptian embassy in Abuja for a meeting with Ambassador Ihab Awad, to discuss the educational partnership.

The 19 youth who benefitted from that partnership were selected from Borno's 27 local government areas, comprising of 12 young men and seven young

women.

Governor Zulum received the 19 beneficiaries at the Government House, Maiduguri.

They were led by Commissioner for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Babagana Mustapha Mallambe, whose ministry supervises Borno State Scholarship Board.

Zulum congratulated the youth and urged them to focus on their studies and be good ambassadors of Borno and Nigeria.

The governor announced the release of 500 U.S Dollars as special parting gifts to each of the 19 students.

He also said each of them

will be receiving 200 U.S Dollars every month in addition to the provision of accommodation and some logistics.

Mallambe explained that the beneficiaries will be departing for Egypt on February 11, 2023.

Chairman of Borno State Scholarship Board, Malam Baba Isa, confirmed that all payments and necessary documentation had been concluded.

Dr Tamos Khazim in charge of testing and selection, noted that the students were admitted after passing pre-qualification examinations.



Dambatta/Makoda Electorate Campaign For Dr Wailare In Clans

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

As the presidential, Senatorial and House of Representatives election is fast approaching, the residents across Dambatta and Makoda Federal Constituency remain committed, campaigning for Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare, PDP House of Representatives candidate in clans.

Similarly, all categories of people were seen busy campaigning for the candidate by making regular interaction with the electorate about the impact of electing Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare to represent the constituency that consists Dambatta

and Makoda local government areas.

Malam Yau Daurawa in Makoda Local Government Area told New Nigerian that, "We resolved to vote Dr. Wailare because we realized that he has a good blueprint that would transform our communities which were neglected for long time. As you have seen, we are having discussions with people about the 25th February election and our votes are for Dr. Wailare of PDP".

Similarly, our correspondent who visited a Fulani settlement at Dan Marke, spotted some women making some discussions about

the eligible candidate that would represent their clan better and assured that they are set to make a real change by electing the person they trust, who is Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare.

Most of the people that had chats with our correspondent called on the national electoral body, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure that election materials reach rural communities early to enable those who reside in clans to vote successfully. In his response, Dr. Wailare who answered the call of the people of Dambatta and Makoda Federal Constituency to

contest, reassured that, "I would represent my people with all my strength because I want to ensure that all the 21 wards that make the federal constituency benefit from the dividends of democracy because I have developmental plans that would bring real change across the constituency".

He thanked the entire people of Dambatta and Makoda local government areas for supporting his journey, while promising to ensure even representation without bias.

He assured that PDP would bring good change at all levels.

NSCDC Apprehends 12 Suspects Over Oil Pipeline Vandalism, Possession Of Large Quantities Of Illicit Drugs



The suspects nabbed by NSCDC



The tanker nabbed with illegal Diesel

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Nemesis has caught up with 12 suspected economic saboteurs following their arrest by operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Lagos in connection with oil pipeline vandalisation and possession of large quantities of illicit drugs.

All the suspects were reportedly apprehended by operatives attached to the Anti-Vandal Unit of the Lagos State Command of the Corps.

Our correspondent reliably gathered that seven out of the suspects were nabbed with illegally possessed Automotive Gas Oil popularly known as

Diesel, while the others were arrested with the hard drugs.

The spokesperson of the Lagos Command of the Corps DSC Abolurin Oluwaseun, who confirmed the breakthrough, disclosed that all the suspects have been transferred to the state headquarters for further investigations.

While giving the breakdown of the arrest, he said, "On Friday, 27th January, 2023, at about 8:13am the Anti-Vandal team arrested two suspects on board a short Mark Tanker with registration number T - 1401LA loaded with suspected adulterated AGO also known as diesel, along Lekki - Ikate road, in Lekki axis of the State.

" In another operation, on

Sunday, 29th January, 2023, at about 21:45hrs, the Marine team of the Unit also made arrest of five (5) suspects, who were paddling a boat loaded with yet unquantified litres of suspected adulterated AGO, at CMS Water ways axis of the State.

"Furthermore, in another development, on Monday, 30th January, 2023, at about 03:00hrs at wee hours, the aforementioned team, who were on routine surveillance and patrol, intercepted two (2) boats loaded with fifty four bags of cannabis sativa also known as Indian hemp and arrested five (5) suspects connected to the crime, at the Ijora water ways axis of Lagos.

"The twelve (12) suspects have

since been brought to the Command for further interrogation and investigation on the matters, being presently handled, by the Intelligence and Investigation Department of the Command".

Abolurin stated that the breakthrough was in line with the renewed and re - invigorated efforts of the new State Commandant Usman Ishaq Alfadarai against oil pipeline vandalism, illegal dealings in petroleum products, economic sabotage and other forms of criminalities in the State.

While applauding the excellent and gallant performance of the operatives, the Commandant Alfadarai seized the occasion to further reiterate the Command's

readiness and commitment to ensuring a zero tolerance against oil pipeline vandalism and other forms of criminality in the State.

He further assured the government and the good people of Lagos State of his unflinching commitment and dedication towards sustaining the already established peace and security in the State.

Alfadarai promised that the Corps will continue to work assiduously and laboriously, with the Government and other security services or agencies and stakeholders in the state, to further proffer solutions to any form of security challenges that may want to raise their ugly heads, especially now that the general election is around the corner.

Tinubu Will Win 2023 Presidential Election - Folarin

**Says he remains most experienced among Oyo Guber candidates*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Teslim Folarin on Tuesday evening, said the party's Presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu will win the February 25 Presidential election.

Featuring at the Oyo State NUJ Correspondents' Chapel Guest of the month programme in Ibadan, the APC governorship candidate disclosed that Asiwaju Tinubu, " is coming to restructure Nigeria for better."

Senator Folarin emphasized that, "the APC Presidential candidate with the present situation, Asiwaju Tinubu is what Nigeria needs to overcome all its woes and move forward

the way it should be and regain its glory among the comity of nations".

Senator Folarin declared that Asiwaju Tinubu will win the February 25 Presidential election and that as at now, the APC Presidential candidate is Leo Messi of Nigeria politics, saying, " we know Asiwaju Tinubu will win the Presidential election".

"We have 3.3 million register voters in Oyo State, we know Asiwaju will win and we are looking for ways to maximize the win, that is what prompted us to be going round the state again to solicit for the vote of the people, our target is to win between 1.5 to two million votes", he said.

Senator Folarin added, " of

course, the presidential election will be different from the governorship, our projection is that Asiwaju will get 80% of votes in Oyo State, that is why all what we have been doing is consistently over 80%.

"We at times pull like one thousand people everyday, but we are also being scientific, we are getting figures everyday between 830 to 840, you can give three per cent margin error, that is still consistent of our projection. National Assembly members will make up the projection, they will win, when they win, I will come back here and discuss the way forward for the governorship elections."

Commenting on his 2023 ambition, Senator Folarin declared that he remains the best

and most experienced among governorship candidates in Oyo State, and that the incumbent governor of the state, Engineer Seyi Makinde did not plan and prepared to become the governor but came in " as a learner."

The APC governorship candidate noted that his administration will improve on the utilisation of the natural resources which Oyo State is blessed with to improve the state Internally Generated Revenue and stabilize the state economically and that his administration will declare emergency in the state education system, stressing that, "education is now a disaster in Oyo State".

Lamenting that it is unfortunate that, "it is only in Oyo State that motor garages are better than

schools", the APC governorship candidate stressed that his administration would look into the poor state of education system in the state with a view to revamp it and that in doing this, he will not hesitate to involve the critical stakeholders.

Senator Folarin maintained that if elected as governor of Oyo State, his administration will have zero tolerance for violence and thuggery in and across the state, adding that issues of state sponsored thuggery would be addressed on his first day in office as the governor of the state, adding, " Security of lives and property of people in the state underpin whatever achievement anybody want to achieve as the governor of the state, we are trying to confront it and we shall do it."m



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Community Development: Zulum Unveils Chibok Water Project

**Opens schools in Damboa, Askira*

By ; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum on Monday January 30, unveiled a water project with capacity to store and distribute one million, two hundred and fifty thousand litres of water at Mboa village in Chibok Local Government Area (LGA) in Southern part of Borno State.

Mboa village is located five kilometres away from Chibok Town, headquarters of Chibok

LGA and with that proximity, the commissioned water project will serve over 40,000 residents of not just Mboa Village, but also of Chibok town and neighboring communities.

The water facility was designed with a storage capacity of a 750,000-litre surface and a 500,000-litre overhead tank with water sources from 20 motorised boreholes.

“One of the major challenges of Chibok town has been lack of potable

drinking water.

“During our electioneering campaign, we promised you that if elected we shall address the water problems you face. This night we are here to commission a multi-million naira project which was executed to provide Chibok and its environs with water.

“I am very happy to be here to commission this project, let me also commend the Commissioner of Water Resources for a job well done”, Zulum declared.

Conducting the governor

round the project, Commissioner of Water Resources, Engr. Tijjani Alkali, explained that the water project would be powered by 36,000 watts of solar and a 100 kva generating set.

After the water project in Chibok, Governor Zulum also, stopped over at Gumsuri, a community in Damboa LGA, to commission a senior secondary school on the same Monday night.

Meanwhile, before Chibok

and Damboa, Zulum was in Askira Town, Headquarters of Askira Uba LGA.

The governor there, commissioned a new junior secondary school in Askira town with classroom to contain about 1,000 students.

At the commissioning, each student was presented with uniforms, reading and writing materials as well as bicycles to ease transportation especially for those coming from distant places.



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By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

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While applauding the excellent and gallant performance of the operatives, the Commandant Alfararai seized the occasion to further reiterate the Command's readiness and commitment to ensuring a zero tolerance against oil pipeline vandalism and other forms of criminality in the State. He further assured the



The suspects nabbed by NSCDC

government and the good people of Lagos State of his unflinching commitment and dedication towards sustaining the already established peace and security in the State.

Alfararai promised that the Corps will continue to work assiduously and laboriously,

with the Government and other security services or agencies and stakeholders in the state, to further proffer solutions to any form of security challenges that may want to raise their ugly heads, especially now that the general election is around the corner.

Kaduna PFN Seeks God's Intervention On 2023 General Election, Census

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) Kaduna State Chapter has moved to seek God's intervention for free, fair and creditable general elections.

In an event tagged, "Oh land, hear the word of the Lord", which took place on Wednesday in Kaduna attracting ministers across the state, PFN made a peaceful declaration for a hitch-free forthcoming elections in the country.

The State Chairman of the Organisation, Apostle

Emmanuel Bako Egoh, explained that the 2023 general elections is very important to them as watch men in the land, saying that their coming together seeks God's divine intervention against anything that will lead to loss of lives and destruction of valuables.

According to him, "We're here for the church to step-in because the country is at a cross road in making major decisions that will affect the destiny and the future of the nation."

He explained that the general elections and the census coming up this year are two critical assignments that are taking place, stressing that they require Nigerians to fully participate in order to get it right for the development of the country.

The country, according to him, must get it right this time around by voting credible people with the fear of God that will heal the land for Nigerians to move forward in all spheres of life.

He called on the elders of the church to step in and speak over the land so that the will of God will prevail over people, advising that those with personal ambitions should not



use other powers to play over the minds of the people.

He opined that the future of the country is bleak, pointing out

that it is the more reason why he brought elders of the church from across the state to make a decree concerning the election for God's intervention.

He said that the country must have the correct data in terms of learning and government execution of projects, making this year's census crucial.

He lamented that over the years, figures were over bloated in some areas, while others are very low and the people could not get their own benefit from the federal level.

He reiterated that National Population Commission (NPC) must get the population of every region right in order to know the areas that require government intervention and for a correct thing be done for the overall development of Nigeria.

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT!

This is to announce the demise of our father, son and brother, ASC1 Garba Peter Sunday which sad event occurred on 16th July, 2022 after a brief illness at the age of fifty-four (54 years).

Until his death, Late ASC1 Garba Peter Sunday was survived by one wife and two children. Late ASC1 GARBA was an officer of the Nigeria Customs Service.

FINAL INTERMENT!

Funeral service at ECWA Church Kakau Station, Kaduna and the interment at his residence behind Al-Yakubu Filling Station, Kakau, Kaduna on Friday July 22, 2022.

ANNOUNCER! (FAMILY)

Akwa Ibom: YPP Governorship Candidate Unveils conomic Blueprint For Itu/Ibiono

state around. He is the only one to save Itu people and the entire state, that is why you should stand with him. He will wipe your tears. Don't sell your votes, but vote for OBA for all these good things to happen", Mrs. Amba charged.

In his contribution, Mr. Atai Albert, OBA's elder brother, said the choice of the next Governor lies in the hands of

the people of Akwa Ibom, charging all to secure their voter's cards which will help them to vote for OBA.

He assured them that OBA has been fully prepared to lead the state, and will deliver when he takes over leadership.

While setting the tone for the rally, Deputy Director-General of Akwa Ubok Abasi Campaign Organization, Archbishop

Andrew Unwanta, said OBA has been chosen by God to right the wrongs in the state, while urging the masses to vote for him and other YPP candidates.

"Come May 29 this year, Senator Basse Albert Akpan, CON will be sworn-in as our next Governor. We come here as YPP to tell Itu that God has chosen your son to correct the wrongs in our state. If you vote

YPP, God will see us through", he charged the people.

Chairman of Akwa Ubok Abasi in Itu, Rt. Hon. Barr. Kennedy Ekong, while welcoming the people had earlier regretted "the backwardness of Itu in the ongoing administration".

He assured that OBA, a true son of Itu Federal Constituency, will wipe the tears of every Akwa Ibom through positively impactful leadership.

APC Govt Will Leverage On Existing Tourism Potentials In Cross River - Tinubu

**Will turn potentials Into international standard*

By: Vitalis Ugoh, Calabar

The All Progressives' Congress (APC) Presidential candidate ahead the February 25 polls, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu has said that his administration will leverage on the existing tourism potentials in the state to turn it into international standard, if elected into office. He stated this while addressing a mammoth crowd at the U. J. Essuene

Stadium, Calabar.

He was accompanied by his running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima and many other party stakeholders.

He said, "We will turn the water surroundings and the Atlantic of Cross River State to be better than Florida. "Money will come in, this state will become wonders of tourism in Nigeria. We are promise keepers," he further stated.

"We mean what we say. When we took over in Lagos, we said what we'll do in Lagos, and we did it. Today, Lagos is exceptionally rich and functional". He added.

He promised to create prosperity, jobs and create a better economy for the country. He advised voters never to trust the opposition party the People's Democratic Party (PDP) because "they mismanaged the nation's economy and privatized

assets of the country to themselves and their cronies.

He said "don't mind them with their lies of 16 years, they cannot even provide electricity to roast corn. They kept lying, electricity that is generated from our hydro, they don't know how to do it".

Earlier, Governor Ben Ayade assured that Cross River State will secure victory for Asiwaju and all APC candidates.



GOC 3 Division Visits Heads Of Security Agencies, Traditional, Religious Leaders

By: **BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos**

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division Nigerian Army and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH), Major General Abdulsalami Ibrahim, has visited heads of security agencies, traditional and religious leaders in a bid to solidify the mandate of the Nigerian military in ending criminality and restoring permanent peace to troubled communities in Plateau State and the country at large.

In separate courtesy visits to heads of security agencies, traditional and religious leaders in Jos, the Plateau state capital, the Commander emphasised the need for peaceful coexistence as a way of promoting peace in the society.

He disclosed that the importance of peace to community growth and development cannot be overemphasized. He maintained that religious tolerance plays an important role in determining the unity of people of diverse backgrounds.

Major General Ibrahim who urged the religious leaders to continually educate their followers on the importance of peace, asked for spiritual blessings from the religious leaders to enable him carry out his responsibilities of maintaining peace and safeguarding of lives and property of Plateau residents.

The commander called on the



security heads to sustain the existing relationship between their agencies and OPSH, and vowed to be neutral in the discharge of his obligation.

Speaking during one of the visits, the Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Plateau State chapter, Reverend Father Polycarp Lubo, said the Commander's remark gives hope to the Christian body.

He lauded the efforts of past commanders of Operation SAFE HAVEN in ensuring lasting peace is restored in Plateau state and environs.

Reverend Father Lubo

encouraged the Commander to stand on his principle of fairness and justice.

He suggested that military personnel wherever they are deployed should have good relationship with their traditional rulers for intelligence gathering and smooth conduct of operations.

Furthermore, the CAN chairman prayed for the success of the Commander; praying almighty God to order his footsteps in making meaningful decisions that would bring permanent peace to the state.

Corroborating the statement

made by the CAN chairman, the secretary, Jamaatu Nasril Islam (JNI) Plateau State chapter, Alhaji Musa Umar, who represented the State Chairman cautioned community leaders against inciting violence in their locality.

He called on relevant stakeholders in the corridor of peace to assist security agencies to eradicate criminality and help restore sanity to the society.

On his part, the Gbong Gwom Jos, His Royal Majesty Da Jacob Gyang Buba, believed that there can never be peace without justice.

He assured the commander of the support of the Plateau state traditional council in carrying out his duties of securing lives and property in the state. He also appreciated the security agencies for their sacrifice and commitment to a secured society.

The security agencies visited include; The State Security Service, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Nigeria Immigration Service, National Drug Enforcement Agency among others.

World Inter-faith Harmony Week 2023: Lend Voices To Campaign For Violence-free Elections - GPFN

By: **AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

The Country Director, Global Peace Foundation Nigeria (GPFN), Rev John Joseph Hayab has appealed to religious leaders in the country to add their voices to the campaign for violence-free elections in Nigeria, by building sustainable peace and harmony before, during and after the forthcoming elections.

He also called on faith and religious leaders in the country to be practical advocates in bridge building, particularly in a society that has been hitherto

polarized and divided along religious, ethnic and regional divides for the peaceful coexistence in Nigeria.

In a message to commemorate the World Inter-Faith Harmony Week 2023, the Country Director said, "Nigeria whole heartedly felicitates with the United Nations, the peace and harmony loving people of Nigeria and the entire human race on this all important occasion."

According to him, this week of global observance calls for all Muslims, Christians and

humans of other faith or no faith to engage in a dialogue based on two fundamental religious commandments of love of God and of the neighbour, stressing that they are critical to having a peaceful and harmonious society that has continued to elude humanity.

He added that building bridges across boundaries is the focus in 2023 that provides a platform for all inter-faith groups, religious leaders and all well meaning lovers of harmony to show the world that the common values outweighs the differences

Nigerians hold by providing a strong dosage of peace and harmony in the various societies.

He called on religious leaders not only to preach, but continue to dialogue with one another by showing a model of good relationship to their followers for the overall peace, unity and development of the country.

According to him, understanding that no individual or organization has the capacity or resources to alone promote peace and harmony in the society and appealed to all Civil

Society Organizations (CSO) to continue to promote activities and programmes aimed at building peaceful and harmonious coexistence in the societies and the world at large.

He explained that Global Peace Foundation stands for and preaches that as human beings, they are members of one family under God, saying that humanity must see, accept, treat and tolerate each other as friends, neighbours, colleagues, brothers and sisters irrespective of their differences so as to experience peace.

Arewa Indigenous Pastors Decry Insecurity, Seek Unity Among Muslims, Christians

**Say APC not an option*

By: **BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos**

Arewa Christians and indigenous Pastors Association (ACIPA) has expressed concerns over how the North has been turned to the poverty capital of Nigeria with daily harvest of death among Christians and Muslims. This assertion was made by the Chairman of the Association, Rev Luka Shehu at their special merit award of excellence.

He said that ACIPA remains resolved and cannot be the hunting dog or the pawn of any single powerful politician or group of politicians in their resolve to work with the likes of Sheikh Mohammad Nura Khalid.

"The inspired vision for ACIPA commenced with the clear understanding that the north is centrifugal to the destiny of Nigeria as ordained by destiny and with Jos-Plateau being vital. For this reason among others, did the forces of evil against our destiny align and resulted to the Jos 2001 crises. Today we know better and the rest is history but we shall restore back our lost glory.

"ACIPA chose not to be any of such or the hunting dogs of corrupt and desperate politicians, whose only claim to power is their "right of turn" or "chop I chop".

He revealed that in recognition of the role of some security officer's professionalism, selfless sacrifice and gallantry, "we have identified Colonel M.D. Abdulsalam of the Operation Safe Haven and S.P.



"Vigilate et Orate"

AREWA CHRISTIANS AND INDIGENOUS PASTORS ASSOCIATION

"Safon Ecclesia Ve Rabbincia"

Ayuba Akawu Iliya of the Plateau State Police Command for our special merit award of excellence.

"On behalf of the leadership of ACIPA, we congratulate our newly appointed women, youth, zonal and other leaders as coordinators as they join this train on a mission to make Nigeria great from the Northern frontiers. Congratulations".

According to him, God did not make mistake by allowing Nigeria to be into existence from different ethnic groups, tribes and regions despite what skeptics describe as the amalgamation of Britain for the colonial interest.

"Therefore, ACIPA shall resist

any and all forms of dissent and discord as much as we shall resist any fanatical religious cleric's teachings, promoting hatred between Christians and Muslims.

"In this regard, we strongly call on the government and security operatives to bring to justice in accordance to the law, those clerics whose antics promote hatred, bigotry, intolerance and unrest."

He said it is imperative, "to set the records straight with regards the recklessness and financial impunity of this administration without recourse to the plight of Nigerians and the future generations.

"That economic failure of the

federal government has since reached an alarming rate. States like Plateau that have mortgaged their people's future as a result of massive indebtedness with no investment or any infrastructural development.

"On the political spectrum, I hereby, on a clear and unmistakable term, state categorically state that, I do not see the APC as a political party forming government in 2023. This is not unconnected to the fact that in the first instance, her emergence was a permissible will rather than will of God. This was confirmed at a pro APC meeting I was privileged to attend in one of the Northern

states in 2015, with key Northerners.

"With discernment and after wide consultations, I hereby, on a clear and unmistakable term state categorically that, I do not see APC as a political party forming government in 2023.

"ACIPA in the 19 northern states including the FCT Abuja are aware of our position as we network with our allies across Southern Nigeria and especially the Nigerian National Christian Coalition (NNCC) under the leadership of Apostle Titilope Oluwadare.

"We in the North, cannot waste our votes where there is no light, especially considering the gross failure of the government on all fronts. The failed and unkept promises of decimating terrorists, revamping the economy and creating employment opportunities.

"Rather, today, I have seen the light of a glorious Nigeria. It has begun with the confusion in the camp of the titans and the unrepentant who held our nation and the people captive both spiritually and physically.

"The shaking has begun with the justice of God and cannot be stopped or manipulated no matter how delayed.

"I saw a President that will spring up surprises and he will be the Darius (Isaiah 45:1-6) over Nigeria. Many will come to judgement among the rich and the affluent. It shall be judgement from above and from man. The desolate lands shall blossom and many shall begin to rejoice," he said.

Nasarawa Airstrikes: 47 Killed, 62 Injured - Coalition Of Pastoralists

By: **AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna**

The Coalition of Pastoralists Association has said that 47 of its members were killed and 62 others with various degrees of injuries during the accidental airstrikes by the Nigerian Air Force in Nasarawa State.

The coalition recalled that last year, soldiers killed their members in Kaduna State, lamenting that the military carried out similar airstrikes on herders in Keana and Awe In Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

The National President of the

Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, Baba Ngelzarma; Vice President, Tabbital Pulaaku International Nigeria Chapter, Auwal Googa; Secretary, Farmers and Hunters Initiative for Peace and Development, Musa Usman among others, while addressing newsmen in Abuja on Tuesday on behalf of the coalition, stated that the military, federal, and Benue State governments failed to commiserate with the family of the deceased a week after the ill-fated incident.

The coalition observed that apart from the most recent

bombardment of Tuesday, January 24, 2023, in Akwanaja, there were similar airstrikes on innocent herders in Keana and Awe In Doma LGAs of Nasarawa State.

It explained, "The recent airstrikes at Akwanaja village of Rukubi Ward, Doma LGA of Nasarawa have killed at least 32 Fulani herders, 15 Hausa drivers, and truck boys while offloading cattle. Another 62 sustained various degrees of injuries, some life-threatening. Before the incident, the Benue State Livestock Guards had raided and confiscated 1,254

cows at Rukubi, Nasarawa-Benue border communities in Doma LGA of the state."

According to the coalition, the guards insisted that the herders should pay hefty penalties running to millions of Naira, saying that a negotiated ransom of N27,000,000 was agreed between the Fulani owners of the confiscated cattle and the Benue State government.

It further explained that the herders obtained a loan from commercial banks, stressing that apart from this, on December 3, 2022, soldiers killed innocent

pastoralists in Rukan Waziri, at Rafin Sarkin Fatika village.

The coalition said that one week after the tragedy, neither the Federal Government, military nor the Benue State government considered it necessary to offer a word of explanation or consolation, pointing out that on behalf of the victims of the affected bombardments, demand the immediate admittance of responsibility by the Nigerian military, unreserved apology, and condolences to the families of the deceased pastoralists.

Bauchi To Start Treating Snake Bites In Alkaleri

By; MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi

A snake bite treatment centre which would soon commence treatment of victims has been established at Duguri Village in Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Dr. Rilwanu Mohammed, Executive Secretary of the State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (BASPHCDA) told the press on the occasion of this year's World Neglected Tropical Disease (NTDs) Day in Bauchi.

He said that the state government has procured drugs worth N1 million for the treatment of patients.

According to him, the state government has procured drugs worth one million Naira for the treatment of patients in the centre while six staff were trained on management and treatment.

"We have renovated the facility and six staff were trained at Kaltungo in Gombe State to manage and treat patients coming with snake bites to the Duguri treatment centre" "The BASPHCDA also

has to procure the anti-venom which will be handed over to ward development committee (WDC) as revolving drugs.

Dr. Rilwanu Mohammed spoke of the Bauchi State Government's concern over the burden of snake bites, especially in Duguri community of the state.

Mohammed enumerated five neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) to include Onchocerciasis (River blindness), Lymphatic Filariasis (Blood in urine) and Trachoma.

He also gave the

endemicity of the disease in the state as Onchocerciasis (River blindness) in 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs), Lymphatic Filariasis (Swelling of limbs) in 11 LGAs, and Schistosomiasis (Blood in urine) in 19 Local Government Areas.

The agency chairman said, "Trachoma (Eyelashes rubbing on eyeball) is also in two LGAs. All these diseases have a devastating effect and direct link to the economy and wellbeing of humanity".

A'ibom Government Demands Apology From Tinubu Over Remarks At Rally

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

What has been noted as unwarranted remarks by Senator Bola Tinubu, the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), against the people and government of Akwa Ibom State, has elicited condemnation with government demanding an unreserved apology.

Government in a statement on Tuesday, signed by the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Comrade Ini Ememobong, queried the morality of Senator Tinubu to pay evil for good done him during his presidential campaign in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom state capital on Monday.

In the statement titled, "TINUBU'S INSULT ON AKWA IBOM PEOPLE: UNWARRANTED, UNCHARITABLE AND ANACHRONISTIC", and made available to journalists, Comrade Ememobong stated that government has also taken very seriously the threat by the Senator to mysteriously take over the Governor's Lodge in Uyo.

Recall the Akwa Ibom State Government had approved the use of the Nest of Champions International Stadium, a state-owned property, by the All Progressives Congress for their Presidential Campaign on January 30, 2023, an event that held peacefully without any negative reaction from the citizens. But at the venue, Senator Tinubu, without any provocation, was quoted to have hurled insults and threats at the government and people of the state. Questioning the legitimacy of Governor Udom Emmanuel and threatening to send reptiles to invade the Governor's lodge and eventually seizing the property.

Miffed by the development, Comrade Ememobong stated, has

necessitated the need to put some things in their due perspective for history and posterity.

His words, "The Government and people of the state did not at any time say or act in any way provocative to the person or campaign of Bola Tinubu. Instead, all the facilities used by his campaign were generously approved for their use, by the government, without any hitch or delay.

"The residence which Bola Ahmed Tinubu has threatened to take over, totally belongs to the government of our state and his threat is taken very seriously, considering his antecedents. Conversely, Akwa Ibom has been home to all Nigerians (including Yoruba people), who have, over many years, done business and even resided here, without any threat to them or their business.

"The comments by Sen. Tinubu, to say the least, is immature and totally unexpected of a person of his advanced age. That is an insult to the government and people of the state, and we demand an apology.

"Mr. Udom Emmanuel was duly elected as Governor of Akwa Ibom State and therefore, it is clearly unpresidential and undemocratic, for Sen. Tinubu to say that he "calls himself Governor".

"Sen. Tinubu should during his campaigns, concern himself with answering questions about his nebulous history and his amorphous manifestos. The Presidency of our country is a very serious business that must be treated with seriousness and intellectual depth." The Information Boss stated.

He however, called on the citizens to ignore the remarks of Sen. Tinubu and continue to co-exist peacefully with all Nigerians who are living and doing legitimate businesses in the state.

Elections: Groups Decry Non Commitment By Candidates, Party Influencers To Peace Accords

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and Interfaith Mediation Centre, Kaduna, have decried the none commitment of presidential candidates and their political parties to uphold the peace agreement signed towards having a peaceful 2023 general elections in Nigeria.

"We are simply reminding the political parties and candidates on their commitments as we gradually approach the general elections to dissuade not just themselves, but their supporters and influencers to desist from stoking up electoral violence and conflicts in the country," Auwal Ibrahim Musa, the Executive Director, CISLAC, explained while briefing newsmen on its efforts towards ensuring peaceful, free and fair elections in the country.

He added, "None of the presidential candidates has come out to calm down their spokespersons and the influencers on such statements capable of heating the polity. Such statements are not healthy for the coming elections because candidates and their influencers must maintain peace and orderliness before, during and after the elections.

"It is unfortunate that the presidential candidates

allow their spokespersons, together to sign a



influencers and members of political parties to heat up the polity by saying things that are not healthy for our political development and so, a lot is still required of them to ensure peaceful elections in the country."

He thanked the Southern Kaduna Christians and Muslims for coming

Memorandum of Understanding to uphold peace throughout the electioneering period in the region of the state, saying, "We consider the act as thoughtful, proactive, exemplary and worthy of emulation by other regions of the state as well as the federation at large."

According to him, the commitment of the political parties and their frontline candidates under the accord binds them to shunning hate speech, peddling of fake news, political thuggery and other acts that unnecessarily heat up the polity and stoke up electoral violence while focusing on issued-based campaigns.

"Ultimately also, the pact binds the stakeholders to bear on their supporters and party agents the need to maintain peace through the election period," he added.

To achieve the objectives of the various peace pacts in the state, he explained that stakeholders must abide by their commitments under the agreements, saying that political actions must continue to be in line with the spirit of the agreements.

The Executive Director lamented, "Kaduna State has had its fair share of violence over the years, this is detrimental to development. It is far easier for the state and its people to thrive in peace than combating chaos. Relationship with security agencies as well as other peace structures in the state must be strengthened to allow for early warning and early response mechanisms to be effective."

2023:

Uba Sani Promises To Empower Women

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The gubernatorial candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Uba Sani, has noted that Kaduna State is one of the most gender inclusive governments in the country. He promised to also continue to empower women when elected governor of Kaduna State. Senator Uba Sani who made this pledge at Kajuru on Wednesday, also said that his administration will appoint women into key

positions and support their businesses.

The lawmaker who represents Kaduna Central Senatorial District at the upper legislative chamber, was reacting to women's request for adequate representation during a Town Hall meeting, prior to the campaign rally.

The gubernatorial candidate also promised to support security agencies in the war against banditry and general insecurity bedeviling the area.

The federal legislator however

pointed out that security is a collective responsibility and should not be left to the federal government alone, adding that both the state and local governments, including the traditional institution as well as the citizens should contribute their quotas.

He commended Governor Nasir El Rufai for giving logistics support to the military, adding that peace has started returning in the last three weeks, owing to the attacks on criminals' hideouts.

The governorship candidate

commissioned a fully renovated and equipped Primary Healthcare Center, nurses quarters as well as an ambulance.

Speaking at the palace of Etsu Chukun, Senator Uba Sani also promised to continue with Town Hall meetings and community engagement for policy formulation and implementation.

The gubernatorial candidate noted that the appointment of the Etsu Chukun has brought peace to the chieftdom, adding that ethno-religious differences have

been reduced.

The Senator called on the people to live together in peace as this will bring about progress and development in the area.

Uba Sani also said that he is committed to completing all the ongoing road projects in Chikun Local Government Area and initiating new ones when elected into office.

A rally was held at Sabon Tasha, where the gubernatorial candidate enjoined the people to vote APC from top to bottom, for continuing development in the state and country at large.



2023: APC Square Erupts in Ecstasy As Governor Inuwa Presents Flags To State Constituency Candidates

**Says arm yourselves with PVCs to give opposition crushing defeat*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The APC square in Gombe was full to the brim with jubilant supporters and well-wishers as Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya ramped up campaign for all APC candidates ahead of the 2023 general elections.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Wednesday February 1, 2023.

Addressing the crowd, Governor Inuwa Yahaya explained that APC administration at the state and national levels, has performed unprecedentedly, especially in the areas of infrastructure, education, agriculture, security and other critical sectors that will boost the economy and provide sustainable development.

He told the multitude of jubilant crowd that his administration has performed well in expanding the social and economic frontiers of Gombe State, exploiting the state's comparative advantage and competitiveness, thereby putting it on the track of sustainable growth.

"Our administration has made its presence felt at across the state through the provision of basic amenities such as functional healthcare facilities across all the 114 political wards of the state, educational infrastructures, roads network, portable water, etc", he said.

On human capital development, the Governor said his administration has advanced the economic fortunes of many young people in the state through appointment of development facilitators, training of hundreds of youths under Gombe State Security, Traffic and Environmental Corps, GoSTEC Programme, At Risk Children, provision of empowerment materials among others, all geared towards broadening human capital resources of the state.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya also explained that, his administration upholds with utmost sincerity, the ideals of equity, justice and fairness, adding that no citizen of Gombe State will be discriminated based on gender, ethnicity, region or social status.

"We recognise the important role women play in the socio-economic development of the society, hence we have carried them along and appointed a sizeable number of them in sensitive government positions

in appreciation of their role as home makers and nation builders in addition to numerous empowerment packages targeted at them", he explained.

The governor expressed confidence that majority of Nigerians support APC and will surely give the party another chance to continue with the good works beyond 2023.

"I am optimistic that the party will continue to uphold the trust of the Nigerian people through continued provision of amenities that will improve the standard of living of a common man", he remarked.

He enjoined supporters, members and well wishers of the APC to arm themselves with their PVCs so as to give a crushing defeat to the opposition at all levels, urging them to be weary of politicians who spread the gospel of selective voting saying such individuals should be kept at arms length.

The governor presented the APC flags for Gombe North State Constituency to Hon. Ali Baba Manu and that of Gombe South to Comrade Mustapha Usman Hassan.

In their separate responses, after receiving the flags, the candidates were upbeat in the strength of the APC to win the forthcoming general elections, assuring to intensify efforts towards canvassing more votes for the party at their respective constituencies.

Also speaking, the APC candidate for Gombe/Kwami/Funakaye Federal Constituency, Hon. Abubakar Yerima assured of party's victory at national and state levels, saying that the performance of the APC especially in Gombe state is more than enough reason for the people of the state to seamlessly return Governor Inuwa Yahaya for a second term.

The governor was accompanied to the rally by the Deputy Governor, Dr Manassah Daniel Jatau, Senator Sa'idu Ahmad Alkali, Secretary to Gombe State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, Chief of Staff Government House, Alh. Abubakar Inuwa Kari, Director General Gombe APC Campaign Council, Barrister Zubairu Muhammadu Umar, Hon. Abubakar Yerima, APC candidate for Gombe Kwami Funakaye, Dr Jamilu Isiyaka Gwamna, Gombe State Director for Tinubu/Shettima Campaign, Dr Bala Bello Tinka, Commissioners, Special Advisers among other numerous party stalwarts and government functionaries.



AbdulRazaq Inaugurates Kwara APC Campaign Council, Upbeat On Party's Victory

**Gov says Kwara youth now key components of govt*

**Gov's achievements have made things easy - Senators, Reps, party leaders*

By: **BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE**
ONAO LAPO, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq on Wednesday, inaugurated the over 2000-member Kwara State All Progressives Congress (APC) Campaign Council, saying that the achievements of his administration will ease their tasks across the 193 political wards in the state.

"As a government, we have made your job easy because of what we have done in every part of the state. We met dilapidated structures across the state in primary health and education, poor infrastructure, and lack of water supply. We have gone very far to overcome that. We have done exceedingly well across sectors," AbdulRazaq said, as he inaugurated the council alongside other party leaders, including Deputy Governor Kayode Alabi.

"We have stabilised things, and the next few years will serve to consolidate on our achievements and position our state for greatness and further empower our people positively, especially young people and women.

"The previous governments couldn't even pay salaries, pensions, and gratuities in spite of huge funds that they received. Within the last two months, we have paid about N6bn to clear salary arrears, pensions, and gratuities for 2009, 2010, and now 2011.

"We will continue to upscale on what we have done in the areas of health, education, agriculture, road infrastructure, and social safety net."

AbdulRazaq congratulated all members of the council for their nomination by



the party and charged them to consolidate on the success recorded in 2019.

"You are charged to deliver our party just as you did in 2019. The immediate challenge is to deliver Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the next president of Nigeria. Then, you must deliver all our senators and House of Representatives members on the 25th of February, 2023. You should also deliver all our candidates in the March 12 governorship and House of Assembly

elections," AbdulRazaq said.

AbdulRazaq also encouraged the youths to learn from the experiences and guidance of elders to guarantee the success of the party.

State chairman of APC, Prince Sunday Fagbemi, urged members of the council to work assiduously for the victory of the party at all levels in a peaceful and orderly manner.

"We do not want violence in this election. Go about your campaign peacefully. We do not believe in

violence because our party is not known for that. We commend the police for their prompt action, which led to the arrest of a member of the opposition who nearly disrupted our campaign recently in Ilorin," he said.

Speakers at the inauguration included Senators Sadiq Umar and Lola Ashiru; Kwara Central Senatorial district candidate and Turaki of Ilorin Mallam Saliu Mustapha; House of Representatives candidates Raheem Adewuyi, Yinka Aluko, Mukhtar Sagaya, Dr Ahmed Adamu Saba; and Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly Engr Yakubu Danladi Salihu; and Director General of the Campaign Council Alhaji Yahya Seriki.

They urged members of the party to see their appointments as call to duty and those not on the list to see themselves as part of the project.

They said the victory of APC will be the continuation of more good things to come to Kwara State, adding that it is a project that all must work together to win.

All members of the party must see themselves as campaign managers and deliver their respective polling units and wards, the chieftains said.

They said the administration of AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has been good for everybody and every community, thereby making things easier for the party in the state.

The chieftains said what the Governor has done is evident across various rural communities, adding that the statistics are improving in health and education and the likes and patriots will not allow Kwara to go back to retrogressive old days.



Nigerian Ambassador To Chad Republic Commends MNJTF For Sanity In Lake Chad Basin

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The newly appointed Nigerian Ambassador to the Republic of Chad, Her Excellency, Ambassador Lami Sauda Remawa-Ahmed paid a courtesy visit to Headquarters Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) at Camp Farcha N'Djamena Chad on Tuesday.

A statement issued and signed by Lieutenant Colonel Kamarudeen Adegoke, Chief of Military Public Information Officer, N'Djamena, Chad and made available to journalists in Maiduguri on Tuesday, said she

was accompanied by the Defence Attachee of Nigeria to Chad, Col O.U. Eke and Minister (Political) in the Nigeria Embassy, Mr Nura Bappa Aliyu.

The Nigerian Ambassador who was received on arrival by the Force Commander (FC) MNJTF, Maj Gen Abdul Khalifah Ibrahim and briefed on the activities and achievements of the MNJTF among others, was given traditional ceremony at the military headquarters.

In her remarks, she commended the activities and efforts of the MNJTF and its various sectors in tackling the scourge of

BHTs/ISWAP, while recalling the dark days when the Boko Haram terrorists were operating all over the Lake Chad Basin and causing havoc.

She said the tremendous efforts of the MNJTF and other security outfits have changed the narrative favourably, while commending officers and men of the force command for their commitment, courage and hard work which was largely responsible for the successes and achievements.

The Nigerian Ambassador also appreciated the political will of the leaders of the countries of the Lake Chad Basin, who came

together to give life to this unique security outfit, while calling on the MNJTF to evolve strategies to end the conflict finally.

She ended by paying tributes to officers and men of the MNJTF who paid the supreme sacrifice in the quest for peace in the region and promised to always support the force command in its quest for total restoration of peace in the region.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Abdul Ibrahim Khalifa appreciated the Ambassador for finding time to visit Headquarters MNJTF and said

the entire force command was honored by the gesture.

He also promised to continually take the fight to the criminals until they are totally rooted out as he called for more support to the MNJTF.

High point of the visit included presentation of souvenirs, signing of the visitors book and group photograph to mark the end of the visit.

In attendance were, the Deputy Force Commander, Brig Gen Assoualai Blama, COS and other senior officers of the MNJTF.

The visit was successful and hitch free.



Good Governance And The Role Of Women

By: MAJID KAMRANI

Unreal promotion of values such as "human rights", "democracy", "freedom", "people, for the people", "independence", "development", "women's rights", "children's rights" and ... in the framework of the globalization process it is just a trick that unfortunately, some Western and powerful countries use today against independent countries and countries that have different ideas from them.

Creating terrorist groups, ethnic-religious incitement and inducing internal dissatisfaction are among the measures that these countries use continuously.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was among these countries during the 44 years after its glorious Islamic revolution. Relying on the inexhaustible power of God and relying on its brave and capable people, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to solve these problems one after the other and bring the path of development and prosperity to its people.

Undoubtedly, human power is one of the main sources of sustainable development in which people's culture, knowledge, skills and creativity play a significant role. Besides forming half of this source of development, women have always been the nurturers and guides of both halves of human society and have played a great role in the formation of the foundation of the human dimensions of development.

Right after the Iranian Islamic Revolution, Iranian women regained their original identity and human rights and got out of the state of objects and tools in the service of consumerism, and while fulfilling the important duty of motherhood and preserving their human dignity, they went through



various fields of scientific growth and progress to play influential social roles in Iranian society.

Creating equal educational opportunities between men and women, promoting women's higher education at all levels, adopting appropriate measures for the education of female students in the universities of their hometowns, comprehensive and strategic planning with regard to the training of female specialists, providing fair opportunities with emphasis based on the principle of commitment and expertise in using the capabilities of women experts in the management system as faculty members in universities, the creation of higher and university centers for women is one of these measures. As a result of these basic actions and

orientations, the position of Iranian women is briefly described below from the point of view figures and statistics.

Science and education of women in Iran

Establishment of three universities for women named Shariati University of Tehran, Al-Zahra University of Tehran and Masoumeh University of Qom

Increasing the share of female students in Iran's public universities to 56%

Increase of female faculty members to more than 33.3%

Increasing the participation of women as faculty members to 34%

Increasing the participation of women with the title of specialist doctor to 40%.

Overcoming the illiteracy of women and girls with 99.3 percent literacy

Training more than 9500 people under the title of writer and 840 people under the title of female publisher Media activities of women in Iran.

The presence of 45 female directors and actresses as members of international film festivals

Increasing the participation of women in information technology to more than 31.5 percent

Activity of 903 female filmmakers in the Iranian cinema industry

Winning 114 national awards and 128 international awards by women in world film festivals

Health and welfare of women in Iran Universal health insurance coverage for women for all city dwellers and 99 percent of villagers and nomads Performing 95% of women's childbirth operations by female

specialists in Iran.

Having 60 midwives and 3 female specialists for every 100,000 women in Iran

Increasing the life expectancy of women to 78 years for women

Reducing the infant mortality rate to 8 per 100,000 births

Iran ranks 10th with the lowest cervical cancer mortality rate in the world

Reducing the unemployment rate of women to 13.7%

Full coverage of social security insurance for housewives

Social security insurance coverage for female heads of household

Social security insurance coverage for all rural and nomadic women and girls

Majid Kamrani is the Cultural consular of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Nigeria

Salary Increase: Ochor Affirms Delta Govt's Position On RMAFC Position

**Says they support government's recommendation*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Deputy Speaker, Delta State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Ochor C. Ochor has affirmed the work of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), efforts in promoting the welfare of workers in the country. The Deputy Speaker was speaking in the Bayelsa State capital, Yenagoa, at a workshop on the review of the remuneration of political, public and judicial office holders by the Federal Government. Ochor Ochor who represented the Speaker of the Delta State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Sheriff Oborevwo, said the three arms of government had a joint agreement on the need to review the

remuneration, as inflation has made the present salary not enough. He enjoined the commission to work towards a successful exercise and make use of all available indices to work out the best remuneration. "We at Delta State, especially the three arms of government appreciate your work. However, I must tell you that the State House of Assembly has agreed on a common single presentation with the Delta State Government," he said. He pointed out that the Nigerian economy is not



strong, especially with its exchange rate and poverty in the country and high level of exchange rates. "All these indices call for a campaign to improve the economy of the nation. "This review is necessary, especially with the rising inflation rate, high level in source for foreign exchange and the Naira exchange rates," he pointed out.

Speaking on behalf of the Delta State Government, the Permanent Secretary, Government Secretary, Mr S.E. Diateke, said the government is recommending an increase of 50 per cent for the basic salary across board for all

the officers that are affected, while every other allowance remains the percentage of the basic salary.

"The Delta State Government is recommending an increase of 50 per cent across board on the basic salary, while other allowances, like transport, remains the percentage of the basic salary."

The event which was held at the Chief DSP Alamieyeseih Banquet Hall, in Yenagoa had the Majority Leader of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly Rt. Hon Monday-Bobou Edwin Obolo, Federal Commissioners of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, RMAFC, representatives of other states from the South-South.



Buhari's Agricultural Transformation Policies Profitable - Mai Unguwa.

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Dutse

President Muhammadu Buhari's agricultural transformation policies would continue to restore Nigeria's economic development that would cope with global warming in food and cash production.

This was expressed by Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga, Chairman, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) at Malam Alu Farms, during the president's working visit to the farm on Tuesday, where he described the present administration as an exemplary regime in democracy.

Mai Unguwa Jaga added that Jigawa State farmers are aware that the state's agricultural development is fully recognised under the stewardship of His Excellency, Governor Muhammadu Badaru Abubakar, which is another landmark achievement.

"President Buhari has done a commendable job in the agricultural sector and from what we have seen, Nigeria has been planted on the ridges of transformation and the farmers would benefit from the agricultural policies that are accepted by us all as we are happy with how Nigeria's agriculture is getting good," he said.



In conclusion, Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga commended the president over his concern to Jigawa State and congratulated Alhaji Farouk Adamu

Aliyu for the successful establishment of Malam Alu Farms, which provides employment opportunities to large number of people.

Fuel Scarcity: ACF Backs Subsidy Removal As Solution

*Commends Kyari-led NNPC management for proactive measures

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has thrown its weight behind the clamour for removal of subsidy as the only remedy for recurring fuel scarcity across the country.

According to the Northern political and socio-cultural organization, the best way for the National Nigerian Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) to make fuel available always, is to remove subsidy completely.

The Secretary-General of ACF, Murat Aliyu, who disclosed this in an interview, said, "For as long as we continue to import fuel, we have to subsidize it and doing so, will certainly make government resources to continue to be limited."

He vehemently kicked against the idea of borrowing money to pay for subsidy, adding that government has been shying away from the issue of subsidy and this is where the problem resides.

He further explained, "We all know that petrol, diesel, kerosene and gas are all utilities. Like we buy firewood, pay for water and pay for electricity, if we want to use it, we should pay for petrol too. It will definitely put cost on transportation and other things, but that is the reality of the situation."

While noting that if subsidy is removed, there would be enough resources to provide for security of lives and property of the citizens, education, healthcare etc, he expressed strong support for open market for marketers to do the importation and sell freely.

"I am sure if this is done, the rate will crash because products will be available. And certainly, issue of price hikes will be over. Let the market forces of demand and supply determine price of goods and services," he stated.

Meanwhile, he urged the management of Engineer Mele Kyari-led Management of National Nigerian Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) to intensify efforts to ensure the recent fuel queues at filling stations across Nigeria disappear.

On the performance of NNPC under Mele Kyari, the ACF scribe said, "If you're talking about the performance of the NNPC or the oil sector generally, I think since the Buhari administration came up, we have had less problems with fuel queues until recently."

He therefore, urged the leadership of NNPC to redeem the good image hitherto achieved in recent years as a company with improved performance and ensure that the issue of long queues in the filling stations are addressed immediately.

Fielding questions on issue of oil discovery in the North, the ACF scribe said there is not exciting news.

He explained, "In the first place, the issue of discovering oil should not be a competition matter, but something that the whole country should be happy with."

"I can tell you that if for any reason we discovered oil anywhere within the country, we should all be happy because, it's additional resources that will help provide more jobs, lead to sustainable growth and development."

"If there is oil in commercial quantities found inland, it should not be used for export, but processed for internal consumption."

"We can have modular refineries all around to produce the crude oil discovered in Gombe and Bauchi states and where there is gas, we should use it for generation of energy instead of looking at it from the export dimension. If it becomes abundant, even our neighbours can now benefit."

While stating that discovery of oil in the North is a positive thing, he advised, "It shouldn't be about export or 13 per cent derivation, but about the fact that there is enough resources for the country, for the population to enjoy."

"We in the ACF are not expressing undue excitement about oil discovery in the North."

"People look at things politically, they think North needs to also measure up because they see you as not producing anything. If you look at the Nigerian GDP, oil is responsible for less than 10 per cent, which means there is something else keeping the country together like agriculture."

"Secondly, agriculture provides more employment than any other sector, which means they engage the economy more than the oil sector."

"I think not just oil, any other resources that help, could help the masses to be more comfortable and wealthier. I think government should embark on exploration of such resources."

NFF lectures Clubs On New CAF Club Licensing System, Stadium Regulations

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) on Tuesday, organized a seminar for General Managers and Club Licensing Managers of teams in the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) and the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL), with a view to briefing them adequately on the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) new regulatory framework for the Club Licensing System and Stadium Regulations.

The regulations include a fresh edition of the CAF Men's Club Licensing Regulations, first-ever edition of the CAF Women's Club Licensing Regulations, a fresh CAF Club Licensing Quality Standard, a dedicated CAF Club Licensing Catalogue of Sanctions and a fresh CAF Stadium Regulations.

Inside the Conference Room of the NFF/FIFA Goal Project facility of the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, the Club Licensing Unit of the NFF took participants through the frameworks, regulations and requirements that strengthen the Club Licensing System for men and women's football for continental and domestic competitions, define the minimum standards that Member Associations or affiliated Leagues (as Licensors) must comply with in order to operate the Club Licensing System, establish a categorization of stadium technical requirements per type of CAF Competition and set out sanctions to be applied for lack of proper implementation by Member Associations.

The changes include: 1) CAF has moved away from the A, B and C types of criteria. Under the CAF Men's Club Licensing Regulations (edition 2022), two types of criteria are introduced: continental and domestic criteria. 'Continental'

applies to Clubs participating in CAF Interclubs competitions and the 'Domestic' must be defined by each MA for their men's top tier competition, respecting the minimum criteria and requirements established in the CAF regulations.

2) Licensors must now include as a criterion, at a minimum in their top tier men's national club competition, articles 26, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 48, 53, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 and 63 from the CAF Men's Club Licensing regulations into their National Men's Club Licensing Regulations, while adjusting the requirements in each criterion to the domestic competition regulations.

3) Improvements have been made to areas such as child protection and welfare, medical care of players, women's football teams, club administrative positions and qualifications, and tighter deadlines for overdue payables.

4) There is now a requirement for women's football teams, which means that clubs intending to participate in the CAF Interclubs competitions must have a minimum one women's first team participating in a competition sanctioned by the Member Association.

5) The purpose of the CAF Stadium Regulations is to define the technical requirements to be met by stadiums for use in football competitions under the auspices of CAF, with a view to providing the best conditions for football practice, safety, functionality and comfort for players, fans and officials.

The regulations govern the minimum structural criteria to be fulfilled by a stadium for it to be classified (in ascending order) as CAF category 1, 2, 3 or 4 based on the different types, grades and categories of matches and championships.

Peseiro Hails Flying Eagles As Team Stretches Unbeaten Run To 16

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Super Eagles Head Coach, José Santos Peseiro was present at the NFF/FIFA Goal Project pitch on Tuesday morning as Nigeria's U-20 boys, Flying Eagles mauled Capital City Football Academy 4-0 in a friendly match.

The warm-up game was another tune-up session to

the game against Junior Chipolopolo of Zambia on Saturday at the Moshood Abiola Stadium, as part of the general preparations for the Africa U20 Cup of Nations tournament in Egypt next month.

Goals from Samson Lawal, Agbalaka Solomon, Olamilekan Adams and Yahaya Ibrahim ensured the Flying Eagles extended

their unbeaten run to sixteen games.

A delighted Peseiro, while speaking with Head Coach of the Flying Eagles, Ladan Bosso said the team has a lot of quality and he is convinced that the U-20 boys will put up a performance in Egypt that would be good enough to qualify them for the FIFA U-20 World Cup finals in

Indonesia later this year.

The Portuguese tactician was at the match venue together with NFF Technical Director, Augustine Eguavoen and Super Eagles Team Administrator, Dayo Enebi Achor.

The Flying Eagles are billed to play Zambia U-20 men's team on Saturday before the team departs Nigeria for Morocco on Wednesday next week.



Super Eagles' Head Coach Jose Peseiro (right) with Flying Eagles' lead strategist Isah Ladan Bosso

Fireworks Expected As Flying Eagles Tackle Junior Chipolopolo In Abuja Today

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Egypt-bound Nigeria and Zambia U-20 teams clash in a prestige encounter at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium today evening, in what promises to be a fierce encounter with both gearing up for the Africa U-20 Cup of Nations starting in the North African nation in a fortnight.

A 35-man delegation of the 2017 Africa U-20 Cup of Nations champions landed at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport on Thursday afternoon, aboard an Ethiopian Airline flight from Addis Ababa. The delegation included 23 players and 12 officials.

They will confront the Flying Eagles, seven-time champions of Africa, at the main bowl of the Moshood Abiola National

Stadium from 4pm on Friday.

Champions of the WAFU BU20 Championship held in Niger Republic in May 2022, the Flying Eagles have been drawn to play hosts Egypt, Senegal and Mozambique in Group A of the Africa U20 Cup of Nations taking place 18th February – 12th March this year.

Zambia won the 2017 Africa U20 Cup of

Nations which they hosted, and then reached the quarter-finals of the FIFA U20 World Cup in Korea Republic the same year, before losing to Italy after extra time in Suwon.

In Egypt, Zambia will be up against Tunisia, Benin Republic and The Gambia in Group C, while Uganda, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Congo battle things out in Group B.

**Fireworks Expected
As Flying Eagles Tackle
Junior Chipolopolo
In Abuja Today**

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Zamfara NSCDC Warns Operatives Against Misconduct During Election

By: ADAMMUH'D, Gusau

The Zamfara State Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Muhammad Bello Mu'azu has strongly warned operatives of the command to shun any form of misconduct while on duty during the upcoming general election in the state.

He gave the warning at a one-day capacity building in preparation for the 2023 general election held at the state ministry for local government conference hall on Thursday.

Mu'azu also appealed to the

operatives of the command on the need to work based on the code of conduct for their primary assignment while covering the general elections in the state.

According to him, the call and warning was imperative, considering the fact that peaceful election is a matter of concern, hence the need for NSCDC operatives to monitor election harmoniously to enable the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) conduct hitch free polls.

"It is necessary for the NSCDC command under my watch to

appeal to personnel of the command to maintain their dignity and behave based on the code of conduct of NSCDC while covering elections exercise to avoid disgracing the image of the command," Mu'azu said

According to him, the NSCDC act 2003 and its amendment act 2007 empowers NSCDC to carry general security duties at national assignments like general election in a good mood and conduct.

He further revealed that any misconduct during election, the officer on duty shall report the

case to the commandant of the department of employee in accordance to the corps service rules.

"Any officer found wanting during election shall be sanctioned in accordance with the provision of the law establishing the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps irrespective of his rank," he warned.

Commandant Mu'azu urged operatives of the command to maintain zero tolerance for corruption, be civil not aggressive, polite and approachable, exhibit due

diligence and not compromise the performance of their duty on any grounds while covering the general elections.

He said adequate security personnel of the NSCDC would be deployed to each polling unit during the next election in order to ensure zero tolerance for violence across the state.

He urged senior officers of the command that participated at the capacity building to be good ambassadors in their respective local government areas and work assiduously to ensure rancour free election.

Akwa Ibom: YPP Governorship Candidate Unveils Economic Blueprint For Itu/Ibiono

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The governorship candidate of the Young Progressives Party (YPP), Senator Bassey Albert Akpan, CON has promised to make the development of health, tourism and agriculture the cardinal focus of his administration for Itu people in Akwa Ibom State if he becomes the next governor.

He also pledged to rehabilitate the Mary Slessor Hospital in Obot Itu; establish fishing facilities to aide post-harvest processing and storage of sea foods.

Senator Albert also unveiled other plans when he addressed his supporters during the second phase of the YPP ward-to-ward governorship campaign in West Itam, Itu local government area on Wednesday.

The lawmaker who identified dearth of infrastructure as one factors affecting timely transportation of agricultural produce, promised to construct the Mbak Obio Itam-Use Ikot Oku-Ididep Usuk roads; Ema Itam-Ekritam Akpanobong road, Ikot Ukab-Ikot Andem-Ikot Uso Akpan-Mbiabong road, among others.

"This is our turn. Everyone should unite. Let me suffer for your freedom. In the Bible,



YPP Akwa Ibom campaign

brothers of Joseph conspired against him, and we see how it ended. The Itu/Ibiono of our dream will be possible during the administration of YPP", he told Itu people.

OBA, as he is popularly called, promised that his government will take a robust technical audit of the abandoned Ibom Science Park Project located in Itu, for possible reactivation.

Also speaking, his wife, Pastor Imaobong Bassey Albert,

emphasized that the time has come for the Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency to produce the governor of the state.

"I know that the good people of Itu/Ibiono Federal Constituency are very hungry. We will not allow a few people to deceive us anymore. They will not divide us and continue to subject us to hunger. Life will never give you what you need. It will give you what you demand for. Now is your time. Let them not deceive

you again. We must never miss this time", she charged.

"We will go out to vote out those who didn't respect us, who took away what rightly belongs to us. Whatever they bring is to deceive you. They have deceived you and you cannot afford to be deceived a second time. This election will be credible, it will be one-man, one-vote", Mrs Albert added, while urging them to vote for OBA and all the candidates of the YPP.

While reminding them that OBA has represented them well in all the previous assignments given him, she assured them that the senator will redeem the state from the mis-governance of the last eight years.

Equally, Apostle Nyeneime Andy, state chairman of the YPP, urged all in attendance to support OBA to become the next Governor of the state so the state can experience a positive change.

He said it was because of OBA's struggle to ensure a better Akwa Ibom that some people conspired to send him to prison, adding that the price he has paid will free the state from its current deplorable condition.

Wife of the deputy governorship candidate, Mrs. Janet Amba, said just as God used one person to save the multitude in history, He is also placing OBA today to save Akwa Ibom people.

"In every generation, God chooses one person to save others. He used one person to save the world in Noah's days. He also used Jesus to save the world. He is now using OBA to save Akwa Ibom people from decay".

"OBA has traversed the state and only he knows what the people want. His blueprint will turn our

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