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Kaduna Govt Warns Citizens Against Embracing Calls For Massive Protests

- Calls for caution amidst cash swap hardship
- el-Rufai assures market leaders of imminent legal solution

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kaduna State Government has appealed for caution and vigilance by all citizens, amidst the prevailing situation arising from the ongoing cash swap and currency redesign policy, while advising citizens against engaging in massive protests.

The call was made in a statement signed by the Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State, Honourable Samuel Aruwan, made available yesterday.

"The Government is aware that certain individuals and groups have made plans to organize massive protests, seizing on the acute shortage of cash and attendant hardships faced by citizens.

"Citizens are reminded that care must be taken not to play into the plans of devious elements seeking to create crisis in this crucial period. Citizens are thus advised to ignore these calls for massive protests in the interest of public security," it said.

According to the statement, the government expressed sincerest empathy over the



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Human Capital Development: Governor Inuwa Flags Off 2nd Phase Of Empowerment Programme

*2,000 Benefit From Over 60, 000 Empowerment Items
*Youths, Women, PWDs, Artisans, Others Among Beneficiaries

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Ebonyi APGA Guber Candidate Attack:

Police Inspector Dies After 5 Days In Hospital



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N300m CSR Road In Malam Aminu Kano Airport - Donor Explains Rationale

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, of CITA Group, Dr. Thomas Olaleye Ogungbangbe who powered 300 million Naira road project linking Aminu Kano International Airport Kano, Kano State has described the gesture as conformity with the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy of his firm.

The Prince from Ajagbusi Ekun ruling house of Iloko-ljèsà, Oriade Local

Government Area of Osun State, who is renowned for his philanthropic and humanitarian disposition, disclosed this to New Nigerian after the commissioning of the project held recently.

"This construction of the road network is one of various community development projects embarked upon by CITA Group which is in line with our CSR policy and CSR involves individuals within a business recognising the various ways that their business processes negatively affect people

and the communities they serve and then devising a solution to help tackle it.

"Despite its transformative power and positive influence on businesses and firms, corporate social responsibility is still a poorly understood concept amongst business leaders and executives in Nigeria, which has resulted in them undertaking a more voluntary and philanthropic approach to CSR.

"However, CSR Initiatives in Nigeria and Africa at large go beyond charitable giving. It is the corporate

world's ethical and economic responsibility and, as such, should be treated as a priority", Dr. Thomas Ogungbangbe who is the Chief Executive Officer and the pioneer Chairman of Aviation Fuel Marketers Association of Nigeria, (AFMAN) noted. Prince Ogungbangbe who is an experienced world class business manager that has over the years, demonstrated achievements in value creation in key industries has however, revealed that more of these CSR projects are presently being powered by the group at different locations.



Dr. Thomas Olaleye Ogungbangbe assisted during commissioning of the project

Court Strikes Out Appeal Against Otu, Others

By; VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

An Appeal Court sitting in Calabar, Calabar Judicial Division has struck out an Appeal brought before the court by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Sandy Ojang Onor against All Progressives' Congress (APC) as 1st Respondent, Prince Bassey Otu and Hon. Peter Odey as 2nd and 3rd Respondent for lack of merit and a cost of five hundred thousand Naira also awarded against them.

It would be recalled that the Appellant, PDP and Sandy Onor had filed an Appeal in suit No. CA/c/392/2022 to challenge the judgement of a Federal High Court over

the same matter which was also thrown out for lack of merits.

They are challenging the nationality status of Hon Odey, his eligibility to run for the position of a Deputy Governorship candidate for APC because he did not officially resign from PDP and then that he swore an oath of allegiance to the King of United Kingdom.

In a unanimous judgement by the three Justices, RC Agbo, O.F Omoleye, and B.B Aliyu. Justice O.F Omoleye who read the judgement on behalf of other Justices submitted that on the issue of membership of a political party.

The Appellant has no business in the affairs of

another political party and upheld the decision of the trial court, maintaining that the issue of political party membership was not justiciable therefore, the court lacked the jurisdiction to determine it. When commenting on the judgement, counsel to the Appellant, First Baba Isa said he would wait until he gets a copy of the judgement and then would advise his client accordingly, adding that the appeal court is not the final court in this matter.

"This is not the final court in this matter, the supreme court is the final court and it's only the client that has the final say, whether to stop here or to go to the supreme court he added".

But counsel to the Respondents Benson Egbano who stood in for the lead council Chief Mike Ozechome SAN commended the justices for what he described as a sound judgement.

"The judgement was a very sound one in many aspect because it was a unanimous decision and all the matters were resolved in favour of APC and the Governorship candidate, Prince Bassey Edet Otu and Deputy Governorship candidate Hon Peter Odey.

It is worthy to note that the court made a very sound pronouncement on cost of 500,000 Naira against PDP and Sandy Onor" He concluded.

WHO Supports Borno, Adamawa, Yobe With Health Training Facilities

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

World Health Organization (WHO) in Nigeria has supported 85,585 women and girls on consequences, roles of healthcare workers in responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV), as well as provided 1,842 survivors with first line support, 226 with clinical management for rape and 146 referred for further management in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states under the 2022 WHO-supported Mental Health (MH) and GBV services.

No fewer than 110 healthcare workers were also trained on first line support and clinical management of rape, while 32,215 patients treated with mental health conditions (including epilepsy/seizure disorder, psychotic disorders, mental retardation, etc) as well as 1,772 specialized mental healthcare sessions were conducted and 255 healthcare workers trained on identification of GBV survivors and provision of mental healthcare services.

A statement issued on Tuesday by WHO Health Emergencies Response Manager, Borno State, Dr Beatrice Muraguri and made available to journalists in Maiduguri, also said that under the 2022 WHO-supported Hard-To-Reach Mobile Health Teams, 773,081 clients were seen and treated, 672,780 children were immunized, 339,459 MUAC were screened for malnutrition and 238,350 children were provided with vitamin A supplement.

While 73 562 pregnant women were provided with ANC services, 71,207 persons were confirmed with malaria, using ROT kits, 16,960 persons confirmed with severe cases were referred, 1,074 persons were provided with HIV counseling/testing and 288 women received GBV first line support.

The statement added that more than 400,000 MUAC screening for children between six to 59 months was conducted with over 10,000 cases referred to the nearest treatment center where 400 healthcare workers capacity was built (governments and partners) on management of SAM with Medical complications and integrated management of acute malnutrition/orientation on IYCF.

WHO also supported over 25 stabilization centers with supplies (equipments, drugs, medical consumables) and on-the-job coaching and mentoring under the 2022 WHO-supported Nutrition Services.

It further deployed 546 Community Oriented Resource Persons (CORPs)/ Supervisors to provide treatment for integrated childhood illness diseases, screened and treated 141,577 children for malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea, reached out to 135,913 persons with health promotion messages including 51,719 children to complete immunization and 125,278 children were screened for malnutrition.

Health Information Management WHO-supported services in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states supported over 1,500 Community Informants engaged on Events Based Surveillance (EBS), trained 377 persons on Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HERAMS) and the effective use of DHS-2 platform.

Similarly, over 100 volunteers were trained and deployed to conduct active case search in hospitals locations, supported the roll out of government owned surveillance system (SORMAS) and trained health care workers on effective covid-19 sample collection and under the RCCE 2032 Interventions in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, WHO reached out to 1,737,400 persons with integrated health risk messages.

Produced 55,000 copies of IEC materials to support partners in RCCE interventions, aired 2,590 spot announcements on integrated health risk messages across 10 radio houses, found and referred 563 suspected cases of epidemic 0 prime diseases for further management.

WHO also trained the capacities of 170 health care workers on infodemic management and interpersonal health risk messaging and covered 58 densely populated communities through motorized interventions to improve risk perception and enhance COVID-19 vaccination among others.

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tight situation, and urged for calm and restraint as efforts continue to be made towards easing the difficulties.

"Along these lines, Governor Nasir el-Rufai on Tuesday met with the leadership of the Kaduna State Markets Traders Association, to reiterate

appeals for patience and calm.

"The Governor assured the meeting that legal means were being vigorously explored in tandem with other state governments, towards relieving the present sufferings. He disclosed that the outcomes of these processes were

expected imminently," Aruwan said.

He explained that with the governor at the meeting, were the Senator representing Kaduna Central Senatorial District, Senator Uba Sani, the Administrator, Kaduna Capital Territory Authority, Hafiz Bayero and Commissioner, Internal

Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan.

"In the meantime, the Security Operations Room remains open to receive reports of incidents, suspicious activities or disturbances, on the phone lines 09034000060 and 08170189999," it concluded.



Ebonyi APGA Guber Candidate Attack: Police Inspector Dies After 5 Days In Hospital

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

As a result of the bullet injuries sustained during last week's attack on the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) gubernatorial candidate in Ebonyi State, a police inspector whose name was given as Ibrahim Gudu has died in the early hours of yesterday, five days after the attack.

Mr. Gudu was shot on the chest during the attack on the APGA governorship candidate in Ebonyi, Prof. Bernard Odoh, last Thursday night.

Prof. Odoh was ambushed and attacked on Thursday night, while returning from campaign in Ezzaegu, Ishielu Local Government Area of the state when unknown gunmen launched attack on his convoy which gave rise to many casualties, including his



driver, among others.

The incident occurred at the Rest House axis of the Abakaliki/Enugu Expressway. Odoh's driver, a Civil Defence Officer popularly known as 'Ogbo', died during the attack, while Gudu and some other persons in the convoy sustained varying degrees of injuries and were hospitalized till his death, yesterday morning.

Gudu's death was confirmed by the Director of Media and Publicity of Odoh's campaign organisation, Mr. Charles Otu in a statement made available to newsmen in Abakaliki, capital of Ebonyi State.

Tax Harmonisation: FIRS Signs MoU With LIRS For Joint Operations, Audit

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) on Monday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lagos Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) where the two tax authorities would collaborate on joint tax audit, investigation and automatic exchange of information.

According to a statement signed Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman, FIRS (Media & Communication), Johannes Oluwatobi Wojuola, dated Tuesday February 7, 2023, the MoU signing ceremony which took place at the State House, Marina, Lagos State, Monday was executed by the Executive Chairman, FIRS, Mr. Muhammad Nami, and the Executive Chairman, LIRS, Mr. Ayodele Subair, and was witnessed by the Honorable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba as well as the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The MoU which establishes a joint FIRS, LIRS Audit and Investigation team obliges the two tax authorities to share relevant information that would assist both parties in their tax administration and enforcement roles, while also providing for capacity

building between both authorities.

Speaking during the ceremony, the FIRS Executive Chairman noted that the cooperation would enable the two authorities to work as a team to achieve these objectives.

"We will carry out joint audit and investigation as a team; we will also conduct automatic exchange of information for gathering data for the purpose of tax administration. With that information, we would be able to carry out tax administration seamlessly.

"In addition to that, what we are going to introduce administratively because of our joint operation, is to ensure that we are able to implement presumptive tax regime as far as issues of tax administration is concerned.

"But that is going to happen after we are done with the regulation we are putting together with the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, which the Honourable Minister of Finance would issue in due course.

"The presumptive tax would be for the purpose of Personal Income Tax and also Ground Rent administration in Lagos State.

"Another key issue I want to emphasize is

capacity building. There are certain things we know as FIRS and would like to share with the State Inland Revenue Service. And there are also areas of specialization you have that we expect you to share with us through capacity building.

"The major objective of this collaboration is to raise enough funds for Lagos State government and the Federal Government to be able to fund their budgetary requirements," the FIRS boss stated.

In his message to the people of Lagos, Mr. Nami stated that "civilisation globally does not happen by accident," but that "people or citizens of various jurisdictions, states and countries globally make it happen through the taxes they pay."

Mr. Nami explained that without funds received by the government through taxes, governments all over the globe would not be able to provide critical infrastructures such as roads, hospitals, internationally rated airports, schools and be able to cater for security and safety of their citizens.

He stated that "with this collaboration, we are confident that Lagos State would earn more revenue from taxes, and be able to deliver to Lagosians a 4th Mainland Bridge, a Lekki International Airport — which it has already conceived — and

other critical infrastructure. I appeal to the Lagos State Government to continue to give Lagosians—particularly taxpaying residents—value for the taxes they pay."

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu in his remarks stated that this collaboration commenced over a year ago with the intention to improve the fiscal space of the country.

He noted that the country's tax to GDP ratio, at around six to eight percent was unimpressive and unacceptable, stating that other nationals within the Sub-Saharan region are doing better.

"Other nations even within the Sub-Sahara region are doing between 14 to 15 percent. If you talk about developed countries, they are doing 35 to 40% and that is what makes them developed countries because indeed, it is really an avenue for you to support your government and hold them accountable."

Mr. Sanwo-Olu noted that with this collaboration, the State was on track to rise above its N1.7 trillion to within the region of four to five trillion Naira.

The Honorable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba commended the two tax authorities for this landmark agreement, and appealed to other states to follow suit.

ITF Trains 120 Youth Under NISDP In Kaduna State

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Industrial Training Fund (ITF) has trained 120 youth on solar installations, aluminum and hairdressers under National Industrial Skills Development Programme in Kaduna State.

The Director General of the ITF Sir Joseph Ari stated this during the closing ceremony of the programme held at Mogadishu, in Kaduna.

According to Sir Joseph Ari, the National Industrial Skills Development has equipped over five hundred thousand Nigerians nationwide with skills for employability and entrepreneurship for them to become self-reliance.

He explained that the

Industrial Training Fund over the years has developed numerous skills intervention programmes to promote entrepreneurship, employability, job and wealth creation to reduce youth restiveness and also promote the diversification of the Nigerian economy.

The DG who was represented by the Deputy Director, Mr. Martin Hussani Shepga, said the programmes were specifically designed to breed to transform the economic landscape of the country.

These programmes include the National Industrial Skills Development, Women Skills Empowerment, Agric-preneurship skills empowerment for the

physically challenged among others.

Sir, Joseph Ari appealed to governments, private sector, NGOs and politicians to partner the fund by sponsoring additional trainees or buying start up packs for the beneficiaries of the programme.

In his speech, the Commissioner for Business, Innovation and Technology Professor Kabir Mato warned the trainees that selling of the start up packs is a criminal act and anyone found would faced the wrath of the law.

He assured that Kaduna State Government would partner the office of ITF in Kaduna State for the training of staff for the development of the state.

Earlier, in his welcome

address, the Area Manager of ITF in Kaduna State, Engineer Garba Hassan commended Kaduna State Government for supporting the program in the state.

In a vote of thanks, the Head of Training Kaduna Area Office, Mr. Daniel Jambhadi commended the trainees, the state government and others for making the program a success.

Engineer Garba Hassan narrated that the fund was established in 1971 with the aim at training youths to become self reliance and support their community.

Industrial Training Fund was established in 1971 with the aim at training youths to become self reliance and support their community.



IPMAN Makes U-turn On Suspension Of Sale Of Petroleum Products

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

The directives given to members of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) not to sell petroleum products in their filling stations nationwide have been suspended.

The National Chairman of the Association, Alhaji Mohammed Kuluwa said in a statement titled, "Re - Suspension of Service " that, "having met with the concerned authority, all

filling stations should be open with immediate effect continue selling."

He said, "while the association continues with further consultation and accordingly keep you inform."

Earlier, a directive was handed out by IPMAN and published by New Nigerian with the heading, "More Trouble For Nigerians As IPMAN Orders Members To Suspend Selling Of Petroleum Products".

It read, "Nigerians may be heading for another round

of hardship, as the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) has directed its members to suspend selling of the petroleum products at all filling stations in the country.

"A statement by the National Chairman of the Association, Alhaji Mohammed Kuluwa made available to the New Nigerian in Katsina yesterday, also directed the Petroleum Marketers to

suspend Payment of ordering Product from the source until further notice.

"Alhaji Mohammed Kuluwa explained that, the suspension followed the critical situation as it affects their sourcing and selling of product at lost.

"Alhaji Kuluwa emphasized the action of the authority to impose the selling of the Product at a lost price on their side". The latest statement has however, put to rest the suspension of services.

Over 4000 People Feared Perished In Turkiye-Syria Double Earthquake

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Over four thousand people have been feared dead in a double-Earthquake of 9.8 magnitude that pounded Turkiye and Syria on Monday January 6, 2023.

The 18-Kilometer deep Earthquake with epicenter in South East Turkiye and Northern part of Syria, sent tremors across five countries in the Middle East, including Cyprus, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt. Geological experts added that the vibrations of the quakes were also felt in far away scandinavian nations of Denmark and Greenland. World Health Organization (WHO) fears death toll from the natural disaster could increase eight-fold as red alert for rescue efforts has been activated in the two affected countries, calling for relief materials for survivors from countries across the World. President of Turkiye

Reccep Erdogan while declaring a weeklong national mourning across the country, solicited supports from global leaders for Ankara.

In Syria, a war-torn nation, rescue efforts for survivors were ongoing as of the time of filling this report.

Damascus reported to have lost over 1,500 people in the double quake that ponded an already devastated community, compounding the miseries of displaced populations in Aleppo and other locations.

World leaders have been sending solidarity and condolence messages to leaders and people of the worst hit Middle East neighbors.

President Joe Biden of the United States his UK counterpart prime minister Rishi Sunak and other heads of government were among early World leaders who sent messages of sympathy to the affected leaders.



Good Governance: Gombe NLC Rates Governor Inuwa High, Offers To Mobilize Support For Him Ahead 2023 Elections

***Gombe Governor praises synergy between his government, organized labour**
***Donates 18-Seater bus to NLC**

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

After listening to the endless lists of unprecedented achievements by the Inuwa Yahaya-led administration in the last three and a half years, the Gombe State Council of the Nigeria Labour Congress, (NLC) yesterday spoke with one voice that not only has the Governor performed excellently well, but also deserves their support for a second term if the wheel of advancement in the State needs further progress.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, said that this came to the fore during an interactive session organized by the Political Commission of the Nigeria Labour Congress, for all candidates of political parties in Gombe State.

The leadership of the NLC who had earlier in the day attended the flag off ceremony for the presentation of Cheques to retirees in the state by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, said they are convinced that the governor means well for the people of Gombe State and deserves support and solidarity of workers.

During the cheque presentation ceremony, some certain facts emerged like the payment of about 7.9 billion Naira backlogs of retirees' entitlements in the state even though an inherited liability, yet, for his sensitivity to the plight of the common man, Governor Inuwa paid it as well as massively promoting civil servants who had been rendered stagnant on same levels for years.

Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress, represented by the Vice Chairman, Comrade Bappayo Abdulmumini, said Governor Inuwa Yahaya's political antecedent in the last three and a half years have made him exceptional in terms of good governance.

Passing a vote of confidence on the Inuwa Yahaya's administration, the labour leader said, "We were mandated by our national leadership to interact with all gubernatorial candidates and come up with MoU for onward submission to the national Secretariat but here in Gombe State we have resolved not to sign any MoU with you because our Union has

been on the same page with your government's policies and programs ever since you came on board.

"Judging by what you have done so far for Gombe State's civil servants; coupled with other laudable human oriented policies and projects you executed, we have no choice than to mobilise for you. I am aware you won in 2019 with over 300,000 votes. Here, we have over 60,000 persons under our umbrella. If each one of us can mobilise at least five votes, it means labour alone can give you up to what you got the last time, and I am sure that will guarantee victory for you".

Speaking during the interactive session, Governor Inuwa Yahaya maintained that his administration is genuinely committed to people oriented policies, with a concomitant effect on public service and human capital development in the State.

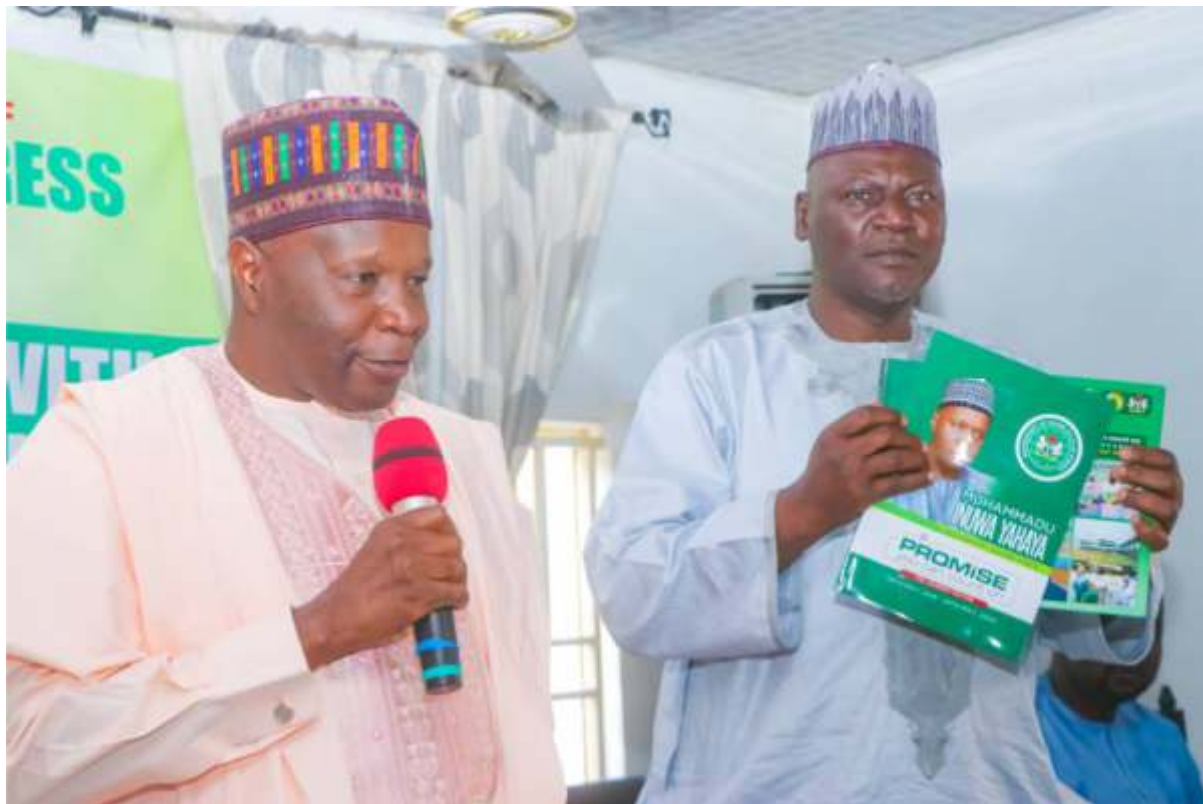
He reiterated that he has fully kept to his 2019 Manifesto within the span of three and a half years of his stewardship and that the facts and figures on ground attest to his performance as outlined in his campaign promises.

"No rationale mind will score this administration less considering the developmental projects we executed in various sectors of the economy including public service development", Governor Inuwa Yahaya declared to the NLC members.

The Governor praised the synergy existing between his administration and the organized labour. "The NLC is a partner in progress as far as good governance is concerned. That is why this administration runs an open governance to an extent of opening up to you about the true financial status of the government for trust, transparency and accountability".

Explaining further some of his policy thrust to the gathering, Governor Inuwa said the economy is the fulcrum within which all policies revolve and that the Gombe State economy is largely agro allied hence most farmers are either into crop or livestock production, that is why his government ensured the reactivation of moribund fertiliser blending plant in the State.

He said that his administration has paid remarkable attention to



the needs of Gombe State farmers with funds, fertilizer and other supportive measures.

"Today, we are constructing a multi-billion-naira industrial park in Dadinkowa to absorb our teeming youths in gainful employment. Government alone cannot employ everybody but can provide an enabling environment for private sector to thrive that is why we work assiduously to ensure the successful take off of the industrial park", he said.

Governor Inuwa said that "another giant stride of this our administration is that of road construction across the state under the Network Eleven-100. He specifically cited the Degri-Talasse Road in Balanga local government area which all previous administrations failed to construct but his government was able to do it to ensure that means of livelihood of residents of the communities is improved which by implication will enhance socio-economic activities in the area.

He noted that the road construction projects have opened up real development in Gombe State considering the progress of reasonable kilometres executed in all the Local Government Areas.

Looking back, the Governor said he had improved public service development tremendously considering the decadent situation he met on assumption of office.

He invited the leadership of the NLC to go round all the local governments in the state and fact-check all his claims.

Governor said his

administration inherited over 120 billion debt characterized by mismanagement of local government funds, misconduct in civil service, ghost worker's syndrome and host of shady deals but took the situation head-on to right the wrongs.

He lamented that "Despite the Federal government's budget support meant to clear backlog of civil servants' entitlements such as Excess Crude, Paris Club Refund, Bail Out and similar other supports but previous administration failed to pay retirees' entitlements".

"But when we came on board, as at today we have paid 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 State government workers and today we approved the payment of 2017 State government pensioners". He said with a sense of fulfilment.

"Our administration has also approved the immediate promotion of over 26,000 LG workers which other previous governments abdicated from doing despite the several FG intervention in that direction", he added.

In the area of healthcare delivery, Governor Inuwa Yahaya said aside from Gombe Health Insurance Scheme (Go-Health) introduced by his administration, Primary Healthcares Centres across the 114 wards in the State were upgraded optimally, General Hospitals in Bajoga and Kaltungo were equally upgraded while new general hospital is being constructed in Kumo Town of Akko LGA.

Governor Inuwa explained that one of his administration's

responses to the issue of unemployment is in the areas of provision of critical infrastructures, including the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park Project, first of its kind in the history of the state which was designed to fire up further development in other sectors of the economy; the agricultural sector, which will increase the GDP, help farmers to have accessibility to markets and get proper pricing that will give reward for hardwork.

Speaking to the secret of his administration's remarkable success in the midst of lean finances and the recent global Covid-19 pandemic, Governor Inuwa said "It is not because we don't know how to enjoy. You think we don't know how to fly to Dubai, America and London? It is because we have the feeling for the people as our priority and our priority is the people and you are part of the them. It is our prudence that has given us capacity to pay. I'm an accountant, a professional for that matter and a business man as well; so I know how to get value for my money", he said jokingly.

As a token of appreciation and a show of solidarity for the NLC's cooperation and understanding, the Governor presented the key of an 18-Seater bus to the NLC to further enhance its operational efficiency.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya was at the Labour House in company of the Director-General, APC Campaign Council, Barrister Zubair Muhammad Umar, Commissioners, APC stalwart, Dr Bala Bello Tinka among others.

Delta: APC Nat'l Youth Leader inaugurates Jagaban Movement, Charges Members To Deliver Tinubu, Omo-Agege

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Youth Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon. Dayo Israel, has inaugurated the Delta State chapter of the Jagaban Foot Soldiers Movement, a special grassroots mobilization unit of local canvassers and influential young members of the party commissioned to engage voters and secure their support for the party ahead of the general elections on Feb 25 and March 11.

Israel, who continued his nationwide youth mobilization tour with recent visits to the creeks and states in the south-south region, was in Delta on Monday for the event which had in attendance local youth leaders of the party across the wards and LG of the state alongside other stakeholders.

In his address, he emphasized the importance of the forthcoming election to the future of Nigeria's bustling youth population, while urging the members to do all they can to ensure the victory of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the country's next president due to his demonstrated capacity to harness talents and transform potential into development, according to him.

"As members of the Jagaban Foot Soldiers Movement, you have an important role to play in this election. Your efforts will make a difference for our party. You must, therefore, take this responsibility with great diligence and knock on doors, visit every village, and talk to every man and woman, to ensure that everyone commits to the victory of our party and the election of our leader, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu," he said.

"Our goal is to secure the emergence of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and DSP Ovie Omo-Agege as both President and Governor respectively so that Delta State can enjoy a progressive and growth-focused synergy that is obvious in other progressive-led states across the country."

Israel encouraged the members to utilize the tools they have been supplied, including a data-gathering record sheet, pledge cards, shirts, caps and other merchandize to collect important insights and implement other effective local mobilization tactics that will deliver results on election day.

He assured them of deserving reward upon victory, noting that the era of labouring for the party with nothing to show for it is now a thing of the past.

Earlier, in the company of other leaders of the party, the National Youth Leader joined the APC Governorship candidate in Delta, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege, in an interactive session with educators in the state where the candidate highlighted his plans to fix basic education in the state and ensure quality service delivery.

Israel who was a member of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) before his elevation as the National Youth Leader also brought his experience to bear, noting the importance of a strong basic and secondary education to sustainable development, skills acquisition, and innovation.

His visit to Delta State marks a continuation of the South-South leg of his nationwide tour with recent visits to Rivers and Bayelsa States where he visited the creeks to bring the message of Tinubu's Renewed Hope to resident communities of the area.



Dayo Israel

3 Internet Fraudsters Sentenced To Community Service In Abuja

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A Federal High Court, Abuja, has sentenced three Internet fraudsters, popularly called 'Yahoo boys', to community service in Abuja.

The three young boys were arraigned for fraud by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Abuja Zonal Command.

The EFCC, in a statement on Tuesday, gave the names of the three culprits as: Victor Joseph, Mohammed

Edogi Mohammed and Johnson Nifemi, who were sentenced on Monday, were arraigned on one count each bothering on internet fraud.

According to the statement, Joseph allegedly pretended to be a marine engineer named Zhang Li and obtained N150,000 from one Xiao, a Chinese citizen.

Mohammed, the second suspect, also posed as Bryan Alex on various social media apps and obtained N1,500,000 from Lekin Elli, Williana and

Flavio and Nifemi, the third suspect, posed as an American engineer with the name John Alpha and defrauded Jane Appado, a United States of America citizen of \$170.

The FCT High Court, Gwagwalada, presided by Justice A.I. Akobi, awarded the sentence of community service after finding the suspects guilty of the crime.

The statement explained, "Joseph allegedly pretended to be a marine engineer named Zhang Li and obtained N150,000

(One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira Only) from one Xiao, a Chinese citizen, while Mohammed also posed as a Bryan Alex on various social media apps and obtained N1,500,000 (One Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira Only) from Lekin Elli, Williana and Flavio. Nifemi impersonated one John Alpha, an American engineer and defrauded one Jane Appado, a United States of America citizen of \$170 (One hundred and seventy US Dollars)."

Buhari Deserves Applause For Development Of Critical Infrastructure - Minister



President Muhammadu Buhari flanked by Governor Ganduje of Kano State (left) and Minister of Transportation, Muazu Sambo.

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Minister Of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo has commended President Muhammadu Buhari on the commissioning of the Dala Inland Dry Port, Zawachiki, Kano.

The Minister said Buhari deserves to be commended for his unwavering support of the development of critical infrastructure assets geared towards the development of the country.

Sambo also recalled that President Muhammadu Buhari recently commissioned the Lekki Deep Seaport in Lagos, adding that the commissioning of the Dala Inland Dry Port is another testament to the commitment that the President had made to Nigeria.

"Generations to come will remember the exemplary leadership you provided in this and other areas.

"The importance of Kano State as the commercial capital of Northern Nigeria with huge agricultural trade in local and export volumes is well documented. The State has a sizable number of industrial concerns across most sectors of the economy not only suited but most qualified for an Inland

Dry Port.

"Your Excellency Mr President may recall that the Inland Dry Port Project was conceived as part of the Federal Government's Ports reform programme designed to amongst others, decongest the seaports while taking shipping and port services closer to importers and exporters in the hinterland.

"Subsequently, the Federal Executive Council approved the establishment of this critical transport infrastructure at chosen locations across the country to be concessioned to private sector operators on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) with a strategic framework to Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model," he said.

Sambo revealed that Dala Inland Dry Port at Zawachiki in Kano was among the six Inland Dry Ports approved and concessioned to Messrs Dala Inland Dry Port Nigeria Limited.

He said the Nigerian Shippers Council is the regulator and driver of the process and that the Ministerial Implementation Committee led by the Permanent Secretary provides strategic guidance and oversight.

Sambo said that the dry port would be

a Customs port in accordance with the provisions of the Customs and Excise Management Act, Cap. C45 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and would have all the prerequisites of an international port including Customs, Immigration, Port Health Officials and Government security agencies.

He further appreciated the Executive Governor of Kano State, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje for what he described as the Governor's bold commitment to providing an enabling environment and critical support which made the Dala Inland Dry Port a reality.

"It is in the realization of this project that I officially declared Dala Inland Dry Port (DIDP) as a Port of Origin and Final Destination on the 5th of August, 2022 towards the commencement of commercial operations.

"I wish to call on National and International maritime practitioners, Shippers, Shipping Companies, landlocked countries and port users to take full advantage of this facility for the import and export of their cargo following today's commissioning of the dry port by Mr President," he said.

Human Capital Development: Governor Inuwa Flags Off 2nd Phase Of Empowerment Programme

*2,000 Benefit From Over 60, 000 Empowerment Items

*Youths, Women, PWDs, Artisans, Others Among Beneficiaries

*We'll Continue To Take Holistic Steps To Improve The Lives Of Our People - Gombe Governor

*First Lady, Asma'u Inuwa Yahaya Tasks Beneficiaries To Make Good Use Of The Items To Improve Their Livelihoods

By; JACOB
ONJEWU
DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has flagged off yet another phase of empowerment programme as part of his administration's broader goal of addressing the human capital deficit in Gombe State.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government

House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Tuesday February 7, 2023.

Speaking during the inauguration, the Governor said, his administration attaches much priority to human capital development owing to the central role it plays in the overall development of the society, maintaining that his government is determined to continue taking holistic developmental steps in order to improve the lives of the people by creating employment and income generating opportunities.

He said the second phase of the empowerment programme will cover over 2000 beneficiaries selected across five categories of small business, trade and artisan and associations. "Today, we are supporting a total of 2000 traders, mostly women", he remarked.

About the composition of the beneficiaries, the governor said, the 2000 beneficiaries of the project would include: 200 tea and indomie noodles sellers, 200 rice cake sellers, 200 Bean cake sellers, and 200 Soya Beans cake sellers and 200 people with special needs while 500 members of Sickle Cell Group as well as members of the Nigerian Automatic Technician Association, NATA and Gombe Automobile and Allied Technicians Association of Nigeria GATAN.

He said that through these direct multicultural interventions his administration has we touched the lives of over 10,000 citizens across the state, projecting that more than a hundred thousand citizens will indirectly benefit from the programme.

"Through the collective

multiplier effects of these interventions, more than 100,000 citizens will indirectly benefit from these programmes". He said.

He also used the occasion to unveil the plan to empower additional 25 associations. "In the same way, subsequent battles will follow where about 25 trades and artisan associations and clubs will be empowered.

He urged the beneficiaries to make good use of the items and consider the gesture as opportunity to achieve financial independence and help their families, contemporaries and the larger society, calling on people to vote for the APC in the forthcoming elections for sustainable development and long term prosperity.

He explained that since the inception of his administration in 2019, he deemed it pertinent to establish Human Capital Development Office to coordinate and facilitate activities relating to the advancement and management of the state's human resources base in tandem with the national human capital development agenda.

"The aim of the programme is to foster skill development and growth in order to harness the creative potential of our young people. Our people are our greatest assets, far greater than any mineral resources. The greatest investment any society can make is investing in upgrading the quality of its human capital.

"Our mission is to equip our youths with skills and expertise to meet the demands of a 21st century knowledge-based economy", he added.

To buttress his disposition, Governor Inuwa recounted some of the efforts made by his

administration in the past three and a half years towards ensuring substantial investment in the thematic areas of health, nutrition, education etc to boost the human capital development and ensure sustainable growth.

"We adopted a holistic approach to improve the health system by establishing or renovating one primary healthcare center in each of the 114 wards of the state. In addition, we upgraded the state specialist hospital, Gombe, and renovated the general hospitals in Kaltungo and Bajoga, while we are building a brand new 200-bed-capacity General Hospital in Kumo", he noted.

To revive the integrity of education, governor Inuwa explained that his administration declared a state of emergency in the sector, consistently increasing the capital allocation to the sector. "We consistently increased the capital allocation by 60% in 2020, 2021 and 2022. This translated into the renovation of 153 schools, construction and renovation of over 1200 classrooms across the state, and thanks to these measures, we are able to significantly improve the performance of our public schools candidates in the national examination such as the West African Senior School Certificate, from 31% in 2019 to 73% in 2021."

Other important human capital development undertaken by the government include: At Risk Children project, which engages over 500 youth facilitators who are receiving 30,000 naira monthly under whom 18,000 beneficiaries are currently being served across the eleven LGAs of the state, recruitment of 500

officers for Gombe State Security, Traffic and Environmental Corps, Distribution of 1000 Tricycles circles in order to support self-reliance and improve access to public transportation, establishment of the Citizenship and Leadership Training Center at Boltongo in order to promote character development, citizenship and leadership skills among others.

"Part of our efforts is the establishment of the Industrial Park at Dadin Kowa which occupies a 1000 hectares of land and is created to house many major factories as well as numerous small and medium sized businesses. Approximately, 15,000 direct jobs and over 100,000 indirect jobs are expected to be created by this project alone."

In fulfilment of his campaign promise to develop women's productivity through training and support, he reiterated his commitment to empower women especially those running small scale businesses in order to help them realize their full potentials to stimulate overall economic growth in fulfillment of his 2019 campaign promises.

Earlier in her remarks, the First Lady, Dr. Asma'u Inuwa Yahaya thanked the governor for churning out pro-women policies and programmes geared towards addressing the plight of especially vulnerable groups through meaningful intervention to make them self-reliant.

"Thank you, your excellency for accepting to share the beneficiaries of today's programme 50/50 between men and women as it has never happened in any of the previous administrations in the state", she

noted.

She urged the beneficiaries to use the items for the intended purpose, "please I beg you, do not sell out any of the items that will be given to you. They are meant to support you and make you self-reliant to support yourselves and your families".

In his welcome address, the Special Adviser to the governor on Human Capital Development, Barrister Sani Ahmad Haruna commended Governor Inuwa for providing formidable platforms for training of youths, women and other vulnerable groups, explaining that, the second phase of the empowerment programme is a consolidation on the ongoing human capital development initiatives, adding that all the programmes will be run concurrently.

Barrister Sani said the over 60,000 items distributed include: Sugar packs, Indomie packs, crates of eggs, takeaway packs, gas cillinders, rice, frying pans, beans, soya beans, flour, cooking oil, mechanical sets, Drugs for Sickle Cell Anemia Patients, among others.

Responding at the instance of the beneficiaries, Dr Ishiyaku Adamu, the Chairman, National Association of Blinds, Gombe State Chapter; Ibrahim Musa, Chairman Sickle Cell Club; Abbas Adamu Abdu Gadam, Secretary Tea and Indomie Sellers Association among other representatives, commended Governor Inuwa's visions in empowering the less privileged and the vulnerable groups of the society, describing the governor as humanitarian par excellence, assuring to support his reelection bid for sustainable development of Gombe State.



4.3m Girls Risk Female Genital Mutilation In Nigeria This Year - UNICEF, UNFPA

**Pledge to eliminate FGM in Nigeria*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

As the world mark 2023 international day of zero tolerance for Female Gender Mutilation (FGM), United Nations Education Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Sexual and Reproductive Health Agency (UNFPA) have disclosed that 4.3 million girls are at risk of FGM in Nigeria this year 2023.

They also pledged to eliminate FGM in Nigeria due to the risk related to it in the country.

A statement issued and signed by Dr. Ijeoma Onuoha-Ogwe, the UNICEF Communication Officer (Advocacy, Media & Ext. Relations) on Monday and made available to journalists in Maiduguri, said this year, 4.3 million girls are at risk of female genital mutilation and according to latest estimates, this number is projected to reach 4.6 million by 2030, as conflict, climate change, rising poverty and inequality continue to hinder efforts to transform gender and social norms that underpin this harmful practice and disrupt programmes that help protect girls.

It also stated that FGM remains widespread in Nigeria, with an estimated 19.9 million survivors, Nigeria accounts for the third highest number of women and girls who have undergone FGM worldwide, with the risk of cutting highest in the first five years (86% of girls circumcised before age 5 - National Demographic and Health Survey 2018).

While FGM prevalence in Nigeria is decreasing among women aged 15-49 according to data from the 2021 Multiple Indicator Survey (MICS) (18% to 15% 2016-17/2021).

Similarly, the prevalence among girls aged 0-14 decreased from 25% to 8% during the same time period (MICS 2021).

It said further that this significant decrease in prevalence among girls aged 0-14 is a welcome development, given that an estimated 86% of females aged 15-49 were subjected to FGM before the age of 5 (NDHS 2018).

At the same time, 12 states had a prevalence higher than the national prevalence, ranging from 9% in Edo to 35% in Kwara and Kano.

The statement further said that FGM violates the rights of women and girls and limits their

opportunities for the future in health, education and income.

"Rooted in gender inequality and power imbalances, it is an act of gender-based violence that harms girls' bodies, dims their futures, and endangers their lives," it said.

It added that the changing gender and social norms that encourage FGM is critical. "Men and boys are powerful allies in the effort. Increasingly they are challenging power dynamics within their families and communities and supporting women and girls as agents of change."

The UNFPA - UNICEF global Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM has supported over 3,000 initiatives within the last five years where men and boys actively advocate to bring an end to the practice.

"In Nigeria, since implementation began in 2018, UNJP has supported the engagement of 807 men's and boys' networks to actively advocate to bring an end to the practice while it has done this by providing opportunities and safe spaces for critical reflection on gender discrimination, power dynamics, positive masculinities and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education targeting men and boys, so they

understand the consequences of FGM.

"Men and boys remain key partners in addressing gender inequalities and harmful practices as we all collaboratively join hands to deliver the global promise of eliminating FGM by 2030", said Ulla E. Mueller, UNFPA Resident Representative. "As a result of our collective efforts, we are witnessing significant opposition from men and boys to FGM. Today, men and boys are more receptive to change than before, and in some communities,

they are more likely to disapprove of female genital mutilation and domestic violence than women and girls", said Cristian Munduate, UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative. "This year, on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, we call on all stakeholders to, partner with and engage men and boys to shift unequal power relations and challenge the attitudes and behaviours caused by gender inequality that leads to FGM.

Integrate gender-transformative approaches and changing social

norms into anti-FGM programmes.

Invest in national-level policies and legislation protecting the rights of girls and women, including the development of national action plans to end FGM. "Today is a reminder of the urgent need for even more targeted and concerted efforts to turn our shared goal of ending FGM into a reality. We must work together with all stakeholders – including men and boys – to protect the millions of girls and women at risk and consign this practice to history," Munduate, UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative said.

It would be recalled that the UNFPA – UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: "Delivering the Global Promise" works to eliminate female genital mutilation through interventions in 17 countries where the practice is prevalent.

The programme creates opportunities for girls and women to realize their rights in health, education, income and equality to help end the power imbalances that underpin this harmful practice.



2023: Mammoth Crowd Receives Sardaunan Badarawa In Birnin Gwari, Giwa LG

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

People's Democratic Party (PDP), Kaduna Central Senatorial Candidate in February general election, Hon. Usman Ibrahim a traditional title holder, Sardaunan Badarawa was on Monday and Tuesday January 6th and 7th received by a mammoth crowd in Birnin Gwari and Giwa local government areas of Kaduna Central Zone.

Hon. Ibrahim was in both areas in continuation of his campaign tour of seven local government areas in Kaduna Central Senatorial Zone ahead the 2023 general election slated for February 25 this year.

He promised the people already overwhelmed by activities of bandits to work in collaboration

with critical stakeholders to ensure the return of adequate security of life and property to the farming community.

The senatorial hopeful disclosed that he was already in talks with a Europe-based security experts, specialized in tackling asymmetric warfare using modern methods and technology, adding that the plan would be actualized when elected.

Sardaunan Badarawa who also holds the traditional title of Santurakin Hausa lamented a nearly total state of neglect which he said the people of the town had been subjected to, urging them to vote credible individuals with interest of the masses at hearts.

He reminded voters in the town how they were deceived and cajoled in 2019 to elect people

who would later abandon the suffering farmers of Birnin Gwari and Giwa to their fate and the mercy of bandits whom he noted imposed taxes on hapless villagers with reckless impunity while authorities preferred to look on.

"The people of this town and others across the Kaduna Central Senatorial Zone have suffered enough in the hands of this administration which has zero plan on how to provide security and improve the lots of people.

"The agrarian status of this town, I promise you will be restored and farmers shall go about their activities without fear of being molested, killed or kidnapped.

"We will ensure we prioritize your welfare, wellbeing and all those things that matter and make

life worthwhile so you will feel the impacts of governance.

"APC has failed you and will fail you again a hundred times if you return them to power because the party has no conscience and compassion for the masses.

"Imagine the hardship you have been subjected to for close to eight years now since you voted this party into power.

"The present administration has now decided to give you a patting gift by removing from circulation naira and fuel, the most important products of life, making life so difficult and unbearable for the masses.

"It is time you showed them how powerful you're by making the right choice through the ballot by electing our presidential, governorship and all candidates

for your good and the development of your community.

"Education which is the fulcrum of attaining development and economic prosperity will receive primary attention by ensuring your children access quality education that has been made difficult by this APC admin which hiked tuition fees beyond the reach of the poor.

"I want to assure you today that you won't be disappointed by voting me and all other contestants under the PDP because I have been doing so much for people to improve their social and economic status, this can be attested to by thousands of beneficiaries.

"If voted, I shall do more for you and make sure dividends of democracy are brought to your doorsteps," he pledged.





COMMUNITY FOCUS

Success Story Of UNICEF, Other Dev Agencies To End FGM In Ebonyi Community

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Female Genital Mutilation has been a harmful cultural practices that has lasted for decades in some communities and local government areas in Ebonyi State.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) Female Genital Mutilation comprises all procedures involving the removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Most often, FGM is practiced on girls and young women under 18. FGM has no health benefits. On the contrary, the practice can cause life-lasting physical and psychological trauma.

This obnoxious practices in some communities has made so many women and girls vulnerable to diseases and hard labour during childbirth, which do result in total deformity and untimely death.

Based on this prevailing circumstances surrounding Female Genital Mutilation and its health consequences, our reporter focuses on the success stories of FGM and UNICEF interventions with other Development Agencies to end female genital mutilation in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

While interacting with some opinion leaders and NOA officials in Ohaukwu LGA of Ebonyi State over the success story recorded by UNICEF and other development agencies like NOA to end female genital mutilation in their various towns and villages, the traditional ruler of Amaeku Mgbo in Ohaukwu LGA, HRH Eze Peter Awoke Ekuma, while Chronicling his experience in the fight against the ugly practice, stated that the worst evil a person can do to each other is female genital mutilation.

The royal father explained that he started fighting against FGM in 1975 which made some people to sue him to court, but because he was fighting a just cause, he won the case.

He also noted that with UNICEF interventions with other partners through their sensitization campaigns and other measures taken as the traditional ruler, FGM practice has been reduced drastically in various communities in Ohaukwu.

"The worst evil a person can do to each other is Female Genital Mutilation. I started the fight in 1975. As I speak to you now, circumcision is no longer in practice in Ohaukwu LGA, courtesy of UNICEF and other agencies like NOA. They have fought a good fight. As a traditional ruler, I have set up a number of committees to monitor FGM activities in Amaeku Mgbo Community in Ohaukwu and since five years till date, I have not found one, it is no longer in practice in this area.

"I have championed this fight against female genital mutilation since 1975 in Ohaukwu, Ngbo, Ishia and Effium.

When asked about the success story

recorded through UNICEF interventions, he said, "We have so many success stories because I toured the whole places myself to find out if there is any woman that brought her daughter to any clinic for circumcision. I told the villagers to always report to me.

"Before now, young women die of bleeding during cut with razor, while others contact diseases because of contamination. Sometimes, the woman will die with unborn child but now, all these things have been stopped with the aid of UNICEF interventions. I have been charged to court because of this in 1975 and I won the case."

Chief Ekuma also added that the challenges they are facing is from some misguided elements who are yet to agree that FGM is bad.

While speaking on the measures put in place to stop FGM, he said, "the measures we put to tackle this is that, anybody found in the practice will pay fifty thousand naira (#50,000) as a fine. While the person that brought the information will be offered twenty thousand naira (#20,000), and I have a strong committee working on this."

He appreciated the efforts National Orientation Agency (NOA) in sensitization and provision of necessary information to curb the menace.

On her part, Mrs. Elechi Onyekachi, a National Orientation and Mobilization

Officer in Ohaukwu, acknowledged the fact that the practice was in vogue with some cultural practices that encourages it, but with the interventions of UNICEF, there has been a lot of success stories since there has not been any record of FGM recently.

"Our people are practicing Female Genital Mutilation. There is an age you will reach in Amike Community, they will now take you to the play group, but before then, you will stay inside your parents room for three months and won't be doing anything. The will provide you with locally made powder to robe on your body.

"At the peak of the celebration, your people will bring you out and bath you so that you will be beautiful and sparkling during the festival and after that, circumcision will take place.

"Throughout this period, their movement is restricted. This is done between 15 to 18 years, when that person starts menstruating.

"I have been championing this for over eight years since I got job with National Orientation Agency.

"My success story is that, it is very difficult for you to see anybody doing such practices in my community. Before now, it is very hard to convince people. Sometimes, people will tell you that what you are doing is not good and they won't listen to you, but as time went by, they will

see reasons to obey.

Mrs. Onyekachi said that when they started earlier, they were told to engage with traditional rulers and community leaders like the town union president, women leaders, among others because they will assist to convince the people to stop it.

She added that the few that are still doing it, are doing it in a hidden place, saying that when they visited Amechi community, all the traditional birth attendants that were promoting it were invited, and after speaking with them, through the support of UNICEF, they openly declared that they are not going to involve in such practices again.

"As it is presently, I don't think my people are still doing it."

Concerning the measures taken to stop it, she explained that they will always meet with women during their August meetings and also the youth by going to churches to talk to them, including having meetings with traditional rulers and social clubs on this issue because it is a continuous engagement.

"The health workers are also working with us. We do have

meetings with the community champions regularly and we have our register from various communities, where they file information about their place.

Mrs. Elom Rose from Okposhi Ehekun and Mrs. Nwankwo Evelyn from Amike community respectively, were not left out as they shared their horrible experiences over FGM.

Mrs. Elom regretted that out of her six children, five were cut out of ignorance, which made her join the campaign against FGM when she realized her mistakes, while Mrs. Nwankwo Evelyn lauded the efforts of UNICEF in the war against FGM, saying that she has been in the fight for over six years and UNICEF in collaboration with NOA, has been championing this in order to have a better society.

They all expressed satisfaction over the activities of UNICEF and NOA to stop this ugly trend that has eaten deep into the society.

In 2003, the United Nations declared February 6th of every year as "International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.

The date has since been celebrated in pursuant of the need to stem awareness and campaigns with aim to ending this harmful practice.



WHO Country Representative Tasks Development Partners On Resilience, Capacity Building

**Holds North East 2022 End-Term Health Emergencies Response Joint Operations Review Meeting*



By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The World Health Organization (WHO) Country Representative Nigeria, Dr. Walter Kazadi has called on Humanitarian and Development Partners in Nigeria to as a matter of importance and great concern, redouble their efforts on resilience and capacity building of the people affected by conflict in North East and other parts of the country.

He also called on all the partners to synergize and develop team work habit with strategic attitude towards impact and evidenced based projects and programmes implementation towards improving livelihood support and assistance on emergencies by way of responding to pandemics promptly in collaboration with the government to ensuring they meet up with what the state governments want from the donors.

Dr. Kazadi stated this in his visual opening remarks on Monday at the 2022 World Health Emergencies Programme in North East Nigeria '3-day 12th End-Term Joint Operational Review of Humanitarian Health Response Meeting held at Grand Pinnacle Hotels Conference Hall Maiduguri.

He also emphasized the need for

the humanitarian partners across board to continue to support the vulnerable and refugees by way of providing them and their communities with all the necessary and adequate services as well as prioritize building of capacity and resilience of the people.

The WHO Country Representative reiterated the need for impact based and evidence based projects and programmes as priority for implementation by the partners and other stakeholders, pointing out that, "it is high time the development partners followed or complied with the demands of the state governments where they operate."

He further urged the partners to develop and prioritize their humanitarian activities in the conflict affected states, especially, on health, livelihood support, safety security of the people affected by the conflict, as well as the vulnerable and climate change effects.

Dr. Walter who emphasized on evidence based programmes to be implemented by the partners and all relevant stakeholders and not for them to just concentrate on only humanitarian support to the people, but to be holding capacity building and resilience training of the people and other

collaborating stakeholders in the society in order to transform the communities and improve on transition of the nation's democracy by way of building capacity of the political and community leaders towards peace building and development. Earlier, the Borno State Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Professor Arab Alhaji Bukar in his welcome address at the meeting, appreciated the huge support of the WHO and other development partners to the state government on healthcare services and facilities in responding to emergency cases like cholera, COVID-19, measles and malaria among others.

He added that WHO has been supporting and assisting the state government on healthcare facilities and services, as well as establishments in all the 27 LGAs of the state, apart from promoting and upgrading primary healthcare facilities to secondary healthcare level.

Professor Arab however, noted that a lot has been done to the state by WHO and that encouraged the state government to also play its role by investing huge amount of money on healthcare services and facilities as well as recruitment of medical; doctors and nurses in addition to building the capacity

of the medical and health personnel within and outside the state.

He further noted that the state government has impacted largely and positively on the people in both urban and rural; areas and supported responses on emergency cases in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, etc and will continue to collaborate and work with them to improve health and living conditions of the people of the state to stand on its own without WHO support or Federal Government support in future.

The Hon. Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire represented by the FMOH Director of Health Emergencies and Response, Mrs. Olufunmilola Bolape Adegbite, said the WHO end of term joint operations review, meeting cannot be over emphasized due to the significant roles the humanitarian partners have played in the year under review even beyond health matters especially in the North East conflict areas and other parts of the country.

The Minister noted that the ministry is responsible for the coordination and supervision of the development partners and agencies on health matters and emergencies, stressing that, the ministry has been enjoying and

working in collaboration with the WHO and the country has benefitted immensely from the WHO and other partners support and assistance in many aspects.

He further promised to work assiduously and collaborate with the WHO and other partners in healthcare services and facilities across the nation, while thanking them for their support and assistance.

While the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs :Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouq represented by a Director of the Ministry, Hajiya Zainab Dalhatu, said the ministry plays an essential role as the coordinating and supervising Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and other social development essential services across the country.

She noted also that the ministry does this in synergy and collaboration with the development partners, governments and agencies to ensure that the identified problems or challenges are addressed through proper coordination for the targeted population to benefit from the humanitarian projects, programmes and services to

Continued on Page 12

2023: Buhari Joins Tinubu Katsina Campaign Rally

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

President Muhammad Buhari has led Asuwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu campaign in Katsina State.

The President who arrived Umar Musa Yar'adua International Airport Katsina at evening hours, was received by Governor Aminu Bello Masari, his deputy Alhaji Mannir Yakubu, Speaker State House of Assembly, Alhaji Tasi'u Musa Maigari and the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate, Asuwaju Bola Ahmed and his running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima.

Also at the airport, were, National Chairman of the APC Senator Abdullahi Adamu, Speaker House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila and some federal legislators, Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi

Sirika, some APC governors led by the Director General of Tinubu-Shettima Campaign Council, Governor Simon Lalong of Plateau State.

Shortly after arrival, Governor Aminu Masari led the President to the palace of the Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Abdulmumin Kabir Usman.

Governor Masari reminded Nigerian electorate that leadership at any level requires committed personalities who know the right direction.

The governor was speaking at the Asiwaju-Shettima presidential campaign rally held at Muhammadu Dikko Stadium in Katsina.

Alhaji Aminu Masari observed that Nigeria's politics never attracted the full participation of youth like during the Buhari administration.

The governor, who recalled various social intervention programmes initiated by the Buhari-led government, urged the electorate to vote wisely in ensuring serious candidates fielded by the APC emerge victorious at the coming general elections.

In an address before raising the hands of the APC presidential and gubernatorial candidates, President Muhammadu Buhari enjoined Nigerians to vote for APC candidates at all levels.

The President registered condolences over the loss of dozens of members of a vigilante group from Bakori and some residents. The APC National Chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu presented a flag to the Katsina State APC gubernatorial candidate, Dr. Dikko Umar Radda.

Also speaking, the APC presidential candidate,

Asuwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu who regretted the killings in Bakori, said the party and all meaning Nigerians share in the sorrow.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu who donated the sum of one hundred million Naira to the victims, assured of eliminating banditry if elected.

The State APC gubernatorial candidate, Dr. Dikko Umar Radda expressed gratitude to people of the state for their support and large turn out to welcome the presidential candidate.

Chairman Progressives Governors Forum, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu of Kebbi State also registered condolence to President Muhammadu Buhari, government and people of Katsina State over the killings.

The rally also sympathized and offered special prayers for the victims.

WHO Country Representative Tasks Development Partners On Resilience, Capacity Building

improve the living conditions of the people and address disaster matters by way of providing livelihood support and assistance to the people; especially, the vulnerable, IDPs and refugees.

The Minister explained further that the Ministry is also working closely with the ECOWAS and some partners on the missing people affected by insurgency, flood disaster and other conflicts or disaster, while appealing to the partners to improve on their collaboration and impact on the people; and vulnerable, including IDPs and refugees.

She called on the partners to improve on their support and associated towards sustainable livelihood support and bring lasting solutions to the conflict by way of working together in synergy with one another and working as a team in the North East region during the post insurgency era to achieve the master plan of the rebuilding project of the conflict North East zone.

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Director General, Ahmed Habib, represented by the Zonal Coordinator, North East, Mohammed Aji Usman, said the agency has been working effectively with all the development partners and state governments as well as relevant stakeholders of the North East region like WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, etc.

He noted that the agency works seriously in those states directly or adversely affected by the Insurgency and flood or fire disaster to assist and support victims and survivors of conflicts and disaster demanding for humanitarian support and assistance, who are vulnerable, internally displaced persons and refugees in the North East. Adamawa and Yobe states commissioners representatives, Mr. M. Yakubu and Mohammed

Lawan, in their goodwill messages, appreciated WHO and highlighted the positive achievements on state health sectors, particularly, areas of WHO support and assisted projects and programmes as well as medical and health facilities including emergencies responses while acknowledging the WHO collaborative support and appreciating WHO for its positive role during COVID-19, measles vaccine, malaria and cholera emergencies. Representative of UN agencies, the UNICEF Health Manager, Borno State, Mr. Clement Adams said WHO in collaboration with other development partners have done a lot and still implementing healthcare projects and carrying emergencies response programmes positively in the North East, adding that all the partners have made significant impact in terms of emergencies response on health matters and the areas like education, girl child and gender based violence among others.

He also noted that UNICEF and other partners have been working closely with WHO, supporting ministries of health and responding to emergencies like cholera, COVID-19, measles, malaria, etc, while pledging continuous collaboration and marshalling assistance to the people of the North East to improve public health.

While the Chairman of Association of NGOs, Mr. Abraham called on WHO and other development partners to continue to empower NGOs in order to actively carry out their services positively.

Highlights of the meeting included, paper/reports presentations on PowerPoint, group photographs and interactive session with various stakeholders from Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states of the North East Nigeria.

Dattijo Doles Out N10m To Traders, Small Businesses Across Kaduna Central

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

A total number of 1,000 small and medium scale business owners have received a funding support from Muhammad Sani Dattijo, the All Progressive Congress (APC) candidate for Kaduna Central Senatorial district.

According to the candidate, the support is meant to revive small businesses across the Kaduna Central Senatorial District including businesses in Giwa, Birnin Gwari, Igabi, Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Chikun and Kajuru local government areas.

Recall that the APC Senatorial Candidate, had last week Monday, announced a funding support of ten million Naira (N10,000,000) to support petty traders and other small

business owners across Kaduna Central Senatorial District during a business engagement meeting with the leadership of Kaduna Traders Union with representatives from markets across seven local government areas.

At a flag off ceremony held Tuesday in Kaduna, Dattijo said, "as an individual, I am truly concerned about how the 2019 COVID pandemic and the recent slowdown in the global economy has impacted on small businesses leading to economic hardship among our people especially women and youth. Our support to resuscitates small businesses that ultimately empowers our people is a major pillar of why we are seeking to represent our people."

In his remarks, the Chairman Kaduna State

Market Union, Alhaji Abdurrahman expressed delight and commended the Senatorial candidate for the gesture and urged others to emulate him.

According to Alhaji Abdurrahman; "due to the impact of COVID-19, so many of our people were affected leading to severe economic hardship and collapse of several small businesses with direct consequences on their families and dependants. We are therefore appreciative of Dattijo and wish to urge others to emulate him".

A joint committee saddled with the responsibility of identifying beneficiaries from across the 7 local government areas of Kaduna Central Senatorial District had finalized modalities to fast-track disbursement of the funds to deserving businesses across Kaduna Central Senatorial

District.

Similarly, the Senatorial Candidate on Saturday, also empowered 1,000 women with grinding machines and climate change friendly stoves to eradicate poverty among them.

Dattijo said it was The first phase of the distribution scheme which was flagged off by the Deputy Governor of the state, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe under the same Dattijo Empowerment and Development Initiative (DEDI).

Dattijo further urged the business community to mobilize it's members ahead of the forthcoming general elections towards the victory of the All Progressives Congress (APC) at the polls promising to further support small businesses especially market women and youth when elected.

C'River: IPAC Gives 24hrs Ultimatum To INEC Over BVAS Inspection

By: Vitalis Ugoh, Calabar

The Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Cross River State, has raised an alarm over suspicion that the forthcoming general election in the state might be rigged if BVAS were left unchecked by the council.

As a result, it has demanded to inspect and take full record of the IMEI number of the 3,281 BVAS machines which is in INEC custody and deployed for the elections in the state.

A statement issued in Calabar and made available to newsmen by IPAC Chairman, Comrade Anthony Bissonng Attah, alleged that, "there is a plan by powerful political forces to use security personnel and INEC officials as an unholy trinity to rig elections in the state".

The statement maintained that IPAC in the state has enjoyed a

smooth working relationship with INEC throughout the process of filing candidates, that is why unlike other states of the Federation, they had limited cases of post primaries litigation. The statement read: "however, this relationship encountered a major test a fourth night ago. This test was packaged in the social media post authored by Citizen Agba Jalingo where he alleged that BVAS meant for state were being chauffeured at night into the governor's lodge."

"When this information filtered to us, as an organized body, we approached the REC exactly two weeks ago to ascertain the real state of the BVAS".

The statement added "we were told the other side of the story after which we demanded to inspect the BVAS to see things for ourselves.

"The REC gleefully accepted and

asked us to return to the Secretariat by 2pm the following day to enable us to inspect the machines in the company of the Police and the DSS. On arriving INEC Secretariat the next day, we were barred from seeing the BVAS."

It further stressed that the only way we can trust the electoral umpire going forward is to inspect the BVAS in addition to taking record of the IMEI of all the 3,281 machines sent to Cross River State to reignite and renew their confidence in the commission."

The statement added, "It is very appalling to inform you that up till this moment we haven't been allowed to inspect the BVAS machine. We are here therefore to let the general public note that we maintain our reservation on the true state of the BVAS machine.

"In fact, we are even tempted to

align ourselves with the allegation by Agba Jalingo because it's very obvious there is something INEC is not telling us."

"The current stalemate orchestrated by the Resident Electoral Commissioner cast a lot of doubt about the level of transparency of the commission in CRS. While we reaffirm our trust in the Prof Mahmood Yakubu, we cannot say same about Pastor Prof. Gabriel Yomere."

It reaffirms its readiness to deploy all political arsenals to ensure that unlike previous elections, this current election turns out to be the best ever conducted in the history of state and called on the public to support IPAC to ensure that the importance well-meaning Nigerians places on the 2023 election will not be truncated.

An earlier statement signed by

the state REC of INEC, Prof. Gabriel Yomere said "INEC Cross River State office hereby states that this is not true. In a bid to ascertain the fact of the publication, the Commission went into physically counting all the BVAS sent to Cross River State and confirmed that none was missing."

"The information is a deliberate falsehood by mischief makers intended to mislead the public and unduly ignite anxiety'.

Cross Riverians and members of the general republic are enjoined to ignore the information as the number of BVAS deployed from INEC headquarters to Cross River State Office is intact and adequately secured.

"INEC Cross River State Office cautions all citizens against circulating fake news capable of heating the polity and undermining the neutrality and integrity of the Commission".

C'River Chief Judge Frees 42 Inmates From Prison

By: VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

Forty-two Inmates regained their freedom recently as Justice Akon Ikpeme, the Cross River State Chief Judge, embarked upon Custodian Centres decongestion across the state.

One Ukeme Udoette who had been remanded in prison custody for three years without trial for stealing palm fruits worth N2,000, also regained his freedom.

Others released included Emediong James, who had spent four years in jail awaiting trial for stealing a power generating set worth 70,000.

Also released, was one Udoh Bassey for stealing a phone worth 20,000 Naira and had spent two years at the Calabar Custodial Centre.

Justice Ikpeme who began a tour of the Custodial Centres across the state with a visit to the Calabar Centre, said, "it is a dream fulfilled for me to take a look at the cases of those sentenced and the ones pending trial to review some where the need arises".

Several inmates at the centre with various charges arrested by the police ranging from "illegal nuisance" to armed robbery, stealing of palm fruits, burglary, "unlawful intercourse" and so on, were lined up by

officials of Custodial Centre at Afokan before Justice Ikpeme.

She took time to go through each of the charges and at the end, discharged 42 of the inmates either for "missing case files", poor health or over staying in jail beyond the stipulated time they would have spent in jail to serve the sentence had trial taken place and found guilty.

Twenty of those released were young men between the ages of sixteen and twenty five, who were arrested at various times in Akamkpa, a community in the outskirts of Calabar and dumped in the centre for long



Udoette

period on charges of stealing palm fruits from a .palm plantation.

"You illegally enter a palm plantation that does not belong to you and steal palm fruits. I am giving you a second chance and if you are brought back here for stealing

palm fruits or any other crime, you would not be given the opportunity to be released but remain here till your trial is completed." She warned each set of palm fruits thieves brought before her.

A pathetic case was that of Grace Effiong a

73 year old grandmother who was jailed for two years for forgery and after serving the sentence, she was released from the centre, but when her complainants saw her on the streets of Calabar, they went back to the Magistrate and obtained an Exparte Motion and she was re-arrested and dumped in prison indefinitely."

Justice Ikpeme who frowned at such action, called on the Magistrates to be more circumspect before taking any action.

She disclosed at the end of the exercise in Calabar, that her visit to the centre was a dream fulfilled for her to listen to cases and to review some, where the inmates have been kept in custody beyond the stipulated time without trial, stating that Senator Ben Ayade, the governor of the state gave approval and facilitated the tour of the centres.

Earlier, the Controller of the State Correctional Centre, Suwanu Kinane described the visit as a welcome development and assured that the centre would ensure that inmates that need to be taken to court are taken there on time and complained that operational vehicles are few on the centre, which is the reason some inmates are not taken to court if there was a conflict in the courts location.

Experts Visit ABU For Verification At Centres Of Excellence

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

A team of experts from the World Bank, National Universities Commission (NUC) and Association of African Universities (AAU) visited Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) to verify the quality of the infrastructure and utilisation of the Information Communication

Technology (ICT) network.

The teams led by Mrs. Irene Dufie Addai, was at the institution's Africa Centre of Excellence on New Pedagogies in Engineering Education (ACENPEE) and Africa Centre of Excellence on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB).

They commended the University

for the quality of lecture rooms inspected and urged that students hostels should further be improved.

Speaking when members of the team called on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, Mrs. Addai disclosed that ABU had qualified for the allocation of two million dollars for the improvement of its infrastructure

and ICT facilities.

Also speaking, the representative of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Mr. Obiechefu Ukwuagu, urged the University Management to consider all the identified areas that needed intervention and give the centres all the necessary support to achieve the objectives

for which they were established.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, represented by the Director, Directorate of University Advancement, Prof. Sani Abba Aliyu, appreciated the team for the visit and assured that the University would remain committed towards achieving the set objective.

Again, Governor Inuwa Puts Smiles On Faces of Senior Citizens, Pays N3bn Backlog Of Gratuity To Over 5,000 Retirees

*Says so far, N7.9bn out of N21bn inherited paid

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

For the fourth time in less than four years, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has yet again, put smiles on the faces of senior citizens in Gombe State with the commencement of payment of another tranche of over 3 billion naira as backlog of gratuity to more than 5,000 State and local government retirees.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Monday February 6, 2023, said that with dance steps, broad smiles and songs of appreciation, the retirees received their cheques during the flag off ceremony of the payment held at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Gombe.

The payments covers retirees from both the employment of the State and the Local Governments. In his remarks before presenting the Cheques to the beneficiaries, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, maintained that the era of civil servants working and dying without enjoying their gratuities and pensions are over. "You have laboured in the service of our dear state, you must also enjoy the fruits of your labour", he declared.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya said that notwithstanding the gloomy pictures on ground when he came to power, he has consistently kept faith with all the promises he made to the people of Gombe State.

"Our administration inherited a backlog of over N21bn gratuities for both the State and LGA retirees from the past administration. State pensions obligation was over 14bn while LGA was over 7bn bringing a total of over N21bn in 2019".

He said that as at today, his administration has paid State Pensioners their 2014, 2015, 2016 and today 2017 entitlements, disclosing that the total payout for state retirees including today's payment stands at N6.6bn.

"As for the LGA retirees who have not been paid in 11 years, the 11 LGA's will today begin payment of a total of N1.3bn. Payment period ranges between 1 and 4 years depending on their financial capacities. The LGA's will continue to reduce their backlogs as their finances improve".

"The State retirees were last paid in 2013 while LGA retirees were last paid in 2011. This means that the last administration only paid 2 years gratuity to state workers while the LGA were only paid 6 months throughout the 8-year



tenure of the last administration". Governor Inuwa revealed that the total gratuity payment by his administration as at today stands at N7.9bn.

"I believe this fulfils my promise that I will not owe a year of gratuity during my years as Governor. And Insha Allah, I feel fulfilled that I have kept my promise. And that this promise is being fulfilled to retirees who served diligently, loyally and meritoriously is a great joy to my conscience", he said joyfully.

Governor Inuwa said he and his team are firm believers of integrity in governance.

"When we came to power, we promised the ordinary people; the down trodden that we will make life easier and better for them. We said we will provide quality education, good health care

delivery system. We must not shy away from taking our responsibilities. The ordinary people are part of us. We must not leave anybody behind. We must work in tandem. We must all work together in collaboration", Governor Inuwa said.

He called for the the cooperation of the citizens for his administration to be able to serve them better, even as he admonished civil servants and politicians to live a life of sacrifice and sincerity.

"When we came in in 2019, we inherited a very sad situation. But today, the remarkable progress we have been able to make is available for all to see", he said.

The Governor also encouraged the Local Governments to be creative in their respective areas, maintaining that "the state

government has given them free hands to operate. But they must produce good results for the people to benefit".

"Going forward I want to advise that all the local government should go and sit down with Nulge and NLC..and do a review of how they will survive. The public institution must work, the public schools must work, the public hospitals must work. The retirees must not be allowed to suffer. When the public institutions work, you pay less and enjoy more. The public system belongs to everybody. The population is increasing by the day, the future looks bleak".

"In Gombe State, all local government are autonomous, but administratively me must monitor. We are operating democracy but if you have local governments who will go and spend all your money how do we explain that. Election is coming I hope you will keep your eyes open and do the needful. You must work hard and sacrifice", he concluded.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Deputy Governor, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau, who shared his experience as a retired Customs officer, praised Governor Yahaya's sincerity of purpose in keeping his promises to the senior citizens who have served in the state.

He said that in the last three and a half years, it has been good news for retirees in the state.

In his remarks, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Ibrahim Dasuki Jalo maintained that all the local government councils in Gombe state now have positive balances in their accounts which makes it possible for them to pay salaries, pensions, gratuities and other entitlements as at when due as against the ugly trend before the coming of the present administration.

He revealed that before the inception of the administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya, local government councils had to take bank loans to pay workers salaries.

The Chairman of Pensions and Gratuity Disbursement Committee, Muhammad Buba Gombe extolled the virtues of Governor Inuwa Yahaya, saying "that apart from being methodical in his administrative style, the Governor is also a conscientious administrator who means well for his people and employs a good follow up mechanism to ensure that everyone gets what is due to him or her.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Yakubu Kala Hinna explained that the retirees are full of appreciation for Governor Inuwa's faithfulness in payment of their benefits as he promised them, assuring of their unflinching support and that of their families towards his second term bid.

Gunmen Kill Three, Injure Two In Plateau

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

An attack on Maiyanga Community in Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau State by gunmen has left three persons dead. The attack which occurred on Sunday night, also left

two others with various degrees of gunshot injuries. A source told New Nigerian that those who sustained the gunshots are presently receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

The source explained, "The incident happened last night (Sunday) when the

gunmen stormed Maiyanga community and started shooting sporadically leading to the death of three persons and two sustained injuries."

He confirmed that the attack on the community was reported to the police, but they arrived some hours after the gunmen had left.

He appealed to government to deploy security personnel to the area to avert further occurrence.

Alabo Alfred, the spokesman for the Plateau State Police Command, when contacted, did not respond to calls made to him on the incident.



Kogi Court Jails EFCC Boss For Contempt, Orders His Arrest

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A Kogi State High Court presided over by Justice R.O. Ayoola has committed the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to prison for disobeying court order.

The court also directed the Inspector-General of Police to effect Bawa's arrest and remand him in Kuje prison for the next 14 days until he purges himself of the contempt.

Justice Ayoola in his ruling on Monday, granted the application for committal to prison of the EFCC chairman for disobeying a court ruling delivered on November 30, 2022, wherein the EFCC chairman was directed to produce the applicant in the case, Ali Bello.

Ali Bello had dragged Bawa to court for arresting and detaining him illegally, with the court ruling in his favour, only for the EFCC to arraign him for alleged money laundering three days after the ruling.

The EFCC's applications

for setting aside and stay of execution of the ruling were refused for want of merit.

The Court had, in Form 49, Order IX, Rule 13, marked: "HCL/697M/2022" and titled: "Notice to Show Cause Why Order of Committal Should not be Made," asked the EFCC Chairman to appear before it on January 18, 2022 to explain why he should not be jailed for flouting the order given on December 12, 2022 in a case filed by Ali Bello against EFCC and Bawa, as the 1st and 2nd respondents, respectively. The court ordered that the EFCC and Bawa be served the motion of notice together with Form 49 by substituted means.

The court had declared the arrest and detention of the applicant in the face of a subsisting Court order made by a Court of competent jurisdiction and without a warrant of arrest "or being informed of the offence for which he was arrested" as unlawful, unconstitutional, and in contravention of the personal liberty and dignity of human person

guaranteed under Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended). The court had also ordered the respondents to tender an apology to the applicant in a national newspaper and awarded N10 million compensation for him.

The Form 49, issued on December 15, 2022, and addressed to Bawa read, "Take notice that the Applicant will on the 18th day of January, 2023 at the hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter, apply to this Court for an order for your committal to prison for having disobeyed the order of this Court made on 12th day of December, 2022 that:

"That arrest and detention of the Applicant on the 29th November, 2022 by the 1st and 2nd Respondents in the face of a subsisting Court Order made by a Court of competent jurisdiction and without a warrant of arrest or being informed of the offence for which he was arrested is unlawful, unconstitutional and contravenes the Applicant's

right to personal liberty and dignity of human person guaranteed under Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and Articles 5 and 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

"Perpetual injunction restraining the Respondents, their agents, servants, privies, or however called from further arrest, detention, harassment and intimidation of the Applicant.

"An order directing the Respondents to tender an apology to the Applicant in any of the National Daily having nationwide coverage for the illegal detention and harassment of the Applicant.

"An Award of the sum of Ten Million Naira as general damages jointly and severally against the Respondents for the unlawful detention and harassment of the Applicant."

This followed an application by Counsel to Ali Bello, S.A. Abass.

Rivers Police Apprehends 5 Bandits, Recovers 6 Firearms, 20 Cartridges, Assorted Military Accoutrements

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A Command on Thursday, 26th January 2023, at about 1140hrs on stop and search duty along Elele Owerri Road intercepted a Toyota Sienna with Reg. No. KNE 194 AJ with six occupants with assorted arms and ammunition recovered from them.

The recovered firearms, as "M" Age 27yrs, (3), Mudi gathered, include, three Moses "M" Age 25yrs, (4), English-made single Ibrahim John "M" Age 35yrs, (5) Abdul Faruk "M" automatic revolver barrels, Age 23yrs and (6) Nuhu and 20 AA live cartridges. Imadi "M" all of Kogi State.

Other exhibits said to have been recovered include "Following a thorough four police belts, five search conducted in the knives, two military vehicle, the police team cardigans, three operational recovered five arms, (Three boots, one Civil Defence English-made single operation hat, two long-sleeve singlets engraved made automatic revolver with Nigerian Hunters and barrels), and twenty AA Forest Security Services live cartridges.

(NHFSS), four face caps, "Also recovered were four two woven caps, ten GSM police belts, five knives, handsets, five ID cards, two two military cardigans, touch lights, a bag three operational boats, one containing chaplets, rings, Civil Defence operation beads, anointing oil, one hat, two long-sleeved Civil Defence operation singlets engraved with trousers, and one Muslim Nigerian Hunters and neck pullover. Forest Security Services

Our correspondent reliably (NHFSS), four face caps, gathered that the suspects two woven caps, ten GSM were arrested during a stop handsets, five ID cards, two and search duty along Elele touch lights, a bag Owerri Road in a Toyota containing chaplets, rings, Sienna car marked No KNE beads, anointing oil, one 194 AJ on Thursday 26th Civil Defence operation January, 2023 at about trousers, and one Muslim 11.40pm. neck pullover.

The suspects were "A full-scale investigation identified as Momo Junior, has already commenced 27, Mudi Moses, 25, and those found culpable Ibrahim John, 35, Abdul will be charged in court at Faruk, 23, Nuhu Imadi the conclusion of the and Boniface Owoicho, investigation.

Driver, Age 55, all from "The Command urges all Kogi State. residents of Rivers State to remain calm, vigilant and The Rivers State Police report any suspicious Command spokesperson activity to the police with SP Grace Iringe-Koko the following emergency confirmed the arrest in a release made available to numbers: 08039213071, journalists on Tuesday. 08098880134".

It reads, "Operatives of the Rivers State Police



Musa Saye

Atiku Abubakar Would Develop Nigeria To Exemplary Heights - Musa Saye

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) presidential candidate for the forthcoming general elections, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar would renew Nigeria and restore its lost glory of elected.

This was expressed by Alhaji Musa Saye, one of the frontline PDP members in a chat with newsmen in Kano, prior to the presidential candidate's campaign visit to Kano, where he described Atiku Abubakar as a tested and trusted person.

He said that, "our presidential candidate is somebody who knows

Nigeria's problems and he held the position of vice president for eight years, which is a clear indication that his administration would facilitate national development in every sector".

Musa Saye reiterated his belief that Nigeria would be better under the PDP government because the party's manifesto was carefully compiled to suit livelihood at both rural and urban locations.

The politician called on the good people of Nigeria who are eligible, to vote for Atiku Abubakar and People's Democratic Party in order to benefit from even provision of democratic dividends.

Chidama: SGF's Loyalist Empowers Hundreds Of Adamawa Youth With Business Items

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In his nature as a humanist whose philanthropic works to the people of Adamawa is without limit, this time around, Pharmacist Jesse Chidama who is an ardent loyalist and supporter of Barrister Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the

Government of the Federation (SGF) has empowered over 150 Adamawa youth with business startup packs.

This is third graduating set since he unveiled the Jesse Chidama Foundation in Yola, Adamawa State, with a vision to fight poverty and create job opportunities to the teeming unemployed in

the state.

Jesse while recounting his humble background in poverty in Garaha Community during the graduation ceremony in Hong, said God has given him an opportunity to help others.

The benefitting youth who are from Gombi and Hong local government areas

Jesse said, is not politicking, neither is he canvassing votes of anyone, but a gesture he felt led to do for his people.

The Chairman of the occasion, Chief Emmanuel Bello said Chidama Foundation is doing what God wants for humanity and he will partner with the foundation.



Bauchi Varsity Lecturer Kicks Against Naira Notes Change Extension

By: MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi

A lecturer with the Bauchi state University, Dr. Yusuf Musa Yahaya has criticized the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for extending the deadline from January 31 to February 10, saying the move would continue to subject the ordinary citizens to untold hardships.

He described as unfavourable to the Nigerian economy the extension of the deadline of changing the old Naira with the redesigned ones particularly looking at the current circumstances created by the change of currency.

Dr. Yahaya who is the head of Political Science Department of the Bauchi State University, Yuli Campus, stated, "Scarcity has already been created, people are suffering. You

can go to ATM without cash, you can go to POS you don't have new Naira notes, if you go to banks, they don't attend to customers".

He told the press in Bauchi on Monday that the January 31, should have been maintained so that normalcy can return, but it has been extended to another ten days which means that the hardship would have to continue for the next ten days.

"Once the deadline is maintained, it means that CBN has to pump into the economy to allow for speedy circulation of the currency, and things would return to normalcy. The target is not even circulation of money, but a cashless policy of the CBN that would strengthen the economy", Yahaya said.

The varsity lecturer regretted the pressure from whom he described as political class with

unnecessary excuses for the CBN to extend the deadline for their selfish motives that eventually forced the Central Bank to extend the deadline to 10th February, 2023.

Dr. Yahaya advised the Central Bank that in exercising its constitutional right, it should stick to the laws governing its operations, adding "Laws are meant to be respected and maintained, CBN should look at the untold hardships this policy is causing to people at the grassroots".

Also contributing, the head of Economics Department of the Bauchi University, Dr. Umar Bala said however that the extension of 31st January deadline is okay because it would afford more rural communities the opportunity to key into the banking system.

He explained that the digital economy of cashless

policy has to a significant aspect also curbed the armed robbery, especially between the North and Southern part of the country, saying gone are the days when robbers are having field days on those regional routes.

Dr. Bala therefore advised the central bank to exert more efforts on sensitization on whichever policy they would want introduce in the system, stressing that hundreds of thousands of villagers are still ignorant about the cashless policy of the apex bank.

"So my emphasis is on sensitization by the apex bank, firstly the people to accept the money, secondly the money would not be available because it is not swap, it is go and deposit because the amount they printed is not equivalent to the new ones, so you cannot swap",

Queen Lilian Adebayo Urges Christian Women To Vote SDP For Better Nigeria

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Wife of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) presidential candidate, Prince Adewole Adebayo, Queen Lilian Adebayo has urged Christian women to vote right by voting the SDP candidate because he is one that speaks for citizens and not himself.

While representing her husband at the Royal Light Chapel Faith Hill Prophetic Assembly's service on Sunday February 5, she urged the women to look inwards and vote for a party that would listen to the sufferings of Nigerians.

She said, "Mothers are the ones who suffer the most because you see your children, you can't pay their fees, you can't send your children out all by themselves. So I'm just here to say these things to us that regardless of what you see on TV or what you hear, we should look inward, who do we really want to rule this country the way that we will all want, that will not put himself first but will put the country first and the people of this country, the citizens".

Citing the story of Jesse and David in the bible, Queen Lilian said Christians should understand

that a good leader comes from the lord, and Nigerians shouldn't be fazed by the candidates that have been presented as 'frontrunners' in the election.

"This time is a very important time because we all need to choose right this coming election. We cannot take it for granted, and as Christians we all know that a good leader comes from the Lord. We have to play our parts as Christians as we all know the story of David in the Bible".

She described Prince Adebayo as the only fearless candidate who has spoken outrightly concerning the ills of the country, hence why he should be voted in.

"God only knows who he has chosen, fit to be the leader, to be president and that's what I've come to talk about here, to talk about the person of my husband. His name is Prince Adewole Adebayo; he is the presidential candidate of the Social Democratic party SDP.

"He might appear to look like the underdog, the media don't want to put him in front; they hear him but they thought to put him behind, not to put him in forefront so people will hear him talk about the problems of this country.



"So we should all come out this time around and vote right. Vote right means to look at all the candidates, what they've said and choose which one has spoken for you and not himself. And I can assure you that we have that person in my husband, who has come out boldly to speak the problems of this country while

others are shying away from it.

"I plead for the support of everyone. The party logo is a horse, so on that day of election, you'll see the horse on the ballot paper, so that's the one you'll vote for, the president of this country", she said.

The ministering Bishop, Justice Great Oluwafemi Itomog

ministered on the topic: "Every step of faith has been ordered divinely as a step of victory".

Queen Lilian's Entourage comprised of Madam Hannatu Molkulong - SDP FCT women leader, Madam Podibeze Peter - SDP AMAC Women leader, Mrs Pat Paul, Madam Christie Anteh and Grace Omugbe Anthony.



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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
- Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions, and it is payable only at the end of a campaign (to be deducted from balance pay).
- COPY DATE:** for all the Title Heads is two working days for the North and three working days for the South.
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- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
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TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Great Scientific Achievements Of Iran At The International Level

By: MAJID KAMRANI

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to achieve great progress with the help of God and relying on local knowledge and the power of its people.

Establishing a government based on religious democracy and giving life to the spirit of anti-arrogance and decolonization in the region has made Iran a leading country and a thinker against oppressive countries, and despite all the problems and obstacles created by these countries, Iran has proudly celebrates the fourth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

In this article, an attempt is made to refer only to the achievements of Iran in the field of international and regional science and knowledge. It is clear that Iran's progress in other fields such as military, economic, political and social is not hidden from anyone and it will definitely be mentioned in other opportunities. First in the Islamic world at the height of the growth of world science.

Iran's 31% growth in presenting the best articles made Iran take the first place in the Islamic world in presenting the best scientific articles.

First rank in Asia and fifth in the world in laser knowledge

This knowledge has many applications in many fields, including the medical industry, telecommunications, military, laboratory agriculture and research, although this technology is very complex, but despite the cruel sanctions, the Islamic Republic has managed to rank first in Asia and fifth in the world after the United States, France, Germany and Russia in laser knowledge.

Second country with the knowledge of making neural prosthesis

After 20 years of research and research, Iranian researchers succeeded in making a neural prosthesis for standing and walking people with spinal cord injury called Parawalk, and the monopoly of the United States has been broken by the existence of this knowledge and technology. The first country as "Bioimplant generator"

Iran is the first country in the world to produce bio-implant knowledge in the world and the



first country to produce bio-implant in the world.

The fourth country with stone paper formulations

Using this paper as a substitute for plastic containers is one of its unique features. In the process of paper production, limestone must be crushed and turned into micronized powder. Based on a special formulation, this product is combined with other materials and stone paper is produced, which Iran is the fourth country to have.

Eighth place in the production of fuel rods.

On Sunday, January 11, 2011, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran officially announced the production of plates and rods of nuclear fuel containing uranium by localizing the production of plates and rods. Iran's nuclear fuel was named as the eighth producer of this strategic product.

Iran is the second producer of esoral medicine

In 2002, research to obtain iron-reducing drug production technology began at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, after various scientific evaluations and clinical trials, it was registered in the drug list of the country and unveiled on 05/04/2016. Iran is the second country in the world producing

thalassemia oral iron removal drug under the brand name Esoral.

Iran is the first producer of animal bone building powder

The origin of this powder is animal production and it is taken from the bones of six-month-old cow fetuses. Previously, powders originating from human corpses were used. Which have disadvantages such as the possibility of transmission and spread of dangerous infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis B and C.

The first oil waste recycling in the world

The prominent elites of the country in the Kermanshah Refinery managed to invent a new and completely unique method to process oil sludge and for the first time in the world to convert oil waste into crude oil using injected nanocomposites or catalysts.

Robot surgeon "Sina Iran" is the second country in the world

The science of making medical robots is a collection of several sciences that include software engineering and artificial intelligence in medical engineering.

Surgery is mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. Iran was able to

break the monopoly of the United States and become the second country in the world to produce this type of robot.

Iran is the fifth country with the technology to manufacture STM vegetative tunnel microscopes

The project of making STM vegetative tunnel microscopes started in 2013 and after the success in making its prototype, the construction of 5 microscopes started with the support of the Special Headquarters for the Development of Nanotechnology, and after three years of efforts, on Saturday 2/29/2016, from The first domestically made STM device was unveiled under the brand name Nama. 5 countries with the technology to make stm vegetative tunnel microscopes joined

Iran's amazing nuclear achievements

In 2007, Tehran's research reactor, which was only used for research and medicine and produced medicinal isotopes, faced a fuel shortage crisis, and Argentina, which had been responsible for supplying fuel to the reactor until now, was in breach of contract with the intervention of the United States.

In September 2019, Iran announced that it had succeeded

in producing 25 kilograms of 20% uranium in Natanz, and thus Iran also joined the nuclear club of the world. Enrichment experience at a higher level 4 increasing the nuclear escape capability with 20% uranium.

"Henna" Iran is the fifth cloned goat in the world

Following the series of successful researches of Royan Research Institute researchers and after the birth of the first cloned sheep named Royana on 8/7/2015, goat cloning with the ultimate goal of achieving domestic capability in the production of transgenic animals and ultimately the production of recombinant drugs is on the agenda.

This beautiful hybrid female goat was named Henna because of its fawn and white appearance, after the countries of

America, England, and Canada And China, Iran is the fifth country in the world in goat simulation.

Iran is the ninth producer of heavy water in the world.

The production of heavy water is one of the most complex technologies in the world today, in biology, physics, and the treatment of incurable diseases, nuclear medicine, and the production of various types of radio, drugs, and industrial radioisotopes in all types of nuclear reactors as a moderator. With these advances, Iran became the 9th heavy water producer in the world.

Iran is the third country in dam building industry.

Due to being in a semi-arid climate, Iran has always faced the problem of water shortage, and for this reason, the dam building industry has always been in the center of attention. Iran the third largest dam-building country in the world and an exporter of dam-building services to more than Out of 20 countries in the world, China and Turkey are in the first and second places in the world.

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

Recreating The Holocaust in Their Own Image

By Owei Lakemfa

THE month of January 2023 has been one of the bloodiest in the Palestine with at least 35 killed in various Israeli raids. Uncharacteristically, some Israelis were also killed. This happened when a lone Palestinian, armed with a handgun killed seven Israelis in East Jerusalem, the traditional home of the Palestinians.

Last year, 170 Palestinians were killed in Israeli raids with about 10,000 injured. The Israeli system does not discriminate between adults and minors; Israeli forces between September 29, 2000 and December 26, 2008, killed 1,084 Palestinian children. Many of these conflicts arose out of the forced displacement and resettlement of Palestinians into internally displaced peoples camps, and the continuous illegal encroachment of Israeli settlers on more Palestinian lands like Jenin.

“It was also in Namibia that the German establishment first experimented the mass killing methods like gassing people which they used in the Holocaust. Perhaps if the world had stood against the Namibian genocide, that of the Jews, four decades later, would have been avoided. In April 1915, the Turks began the extermination of the Armenian people. About 1.5 million Armenians were massacred. Maybe, if the world had risen up against the Armenian genocide, that against the Jews would not have occurred. But because the powerful arm of humanity rather than criminalise genocide, has been selective on which mass slaughter is acceptable and which is not, we continue to experience the horror, and in some cases, the perpetrators get away with it.”

The January 2023 killings in the Palestine coincided with this year's International Holocaust Remembrance Day which held on Friday January 27. It marked the horrific mass murder of six million Jews by Nazi Germany. There can be nothing more despicable than the Holocaust. There can be no excuse. But there is something about selective memory in world affairs. Without intending in any way to down play the horrific holocaust, how come the international community does not remember the 15 million Africans

massacred in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by the Belgians under King Leopold II? For the massacre of six million Jews, West Germany agreed in September 1952 to pay Israel \$714 million as reparation. Why is Belgium not made to pay reparation for 15 million massacred Africans? Rather, Belgium continues to keep the wealth and artefacts stolen from the DRC. Why does 'The International Community' pretend the genocide in the DRC never occurred?

The criminal Holocaust was carried out between 1941 and 1945, but about four decades before, genocide was visited by the same German establishment on the Namibian people. In that first genocide of the 21st century, the Germans who wanted to turn that beautiful country into a White Settler state, killed 65,000 of the 80,000 indigenous Herero people, and over 10,000 or half of the population of the Nama people.

It was also in Namibia that the German establishment first experimented the mass killing methods like gassing people which they used in the Holocaust. Perhaps if the world had stood against the Namibian genocide, that of the Jews, four decades later, would have been avoided.

In April 1915, the Turks began the extermination of the Armenian people. About 1.5 million Armenians were massacred. Maybe, if the world had risen up against the Armenian genocide, that against the Jews would not have occurred. But because the powerful arm of humanity rather than criminalise genocide, has been selective on which mass slaughter is acceptable and which is not, we continue to experience the horror, and in some cases, the perpetrators get away with it.

However, that a people were victims of genocide does not mean they would condemn the next genocide or even not perpetuate their own. This is the case of the genocide being carried out against the Palestinians by the Israeli State. This has gone on for decades, yet the 'international community' is not only silent, but states like the United States of America (USA) has never hidden its full support for the Israeli establishment which is perpetrating these crimes against

humanity.

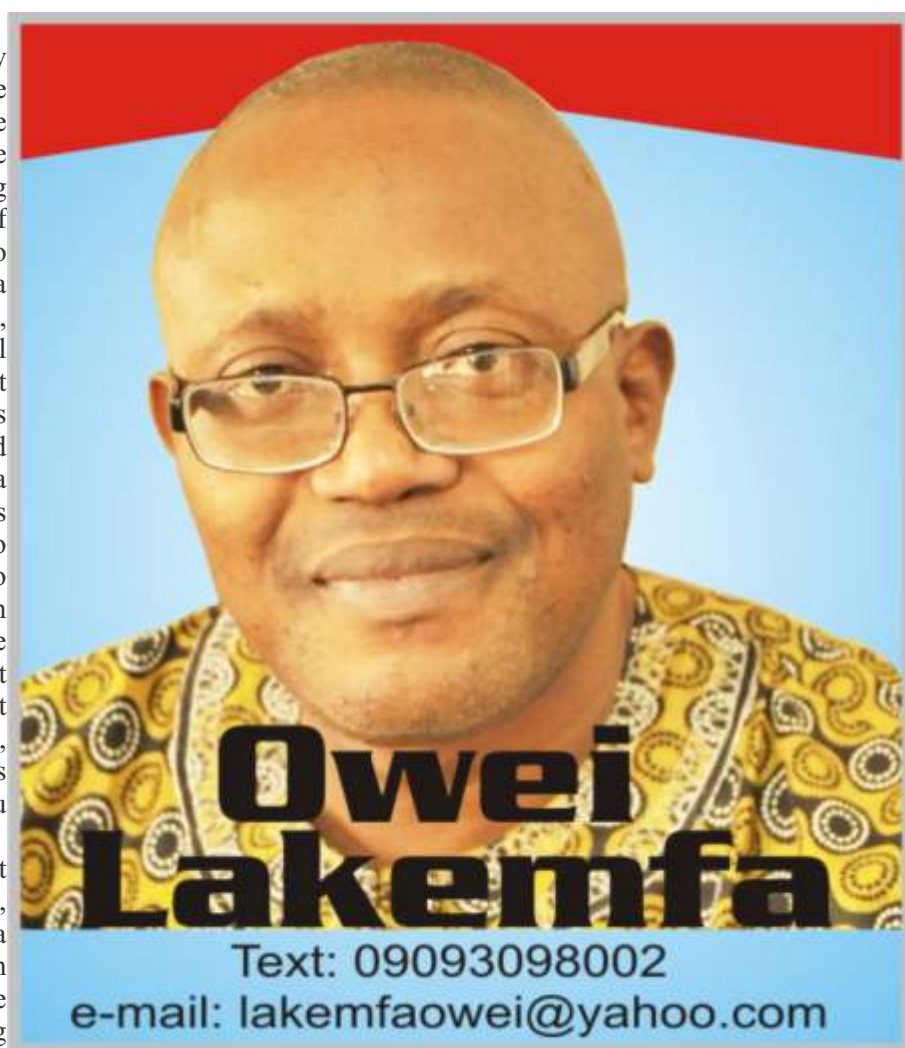
Israel has in the last few years become even more emboldened to perpetrate its genocide against the Palestinians following the ascension of President Joe Biden to power in the USA. In a speech in July, 2022, Biden said: “seeing Israel thrive, seeing the wildest dreams of Israel's founding fathers and mothers grow into a reality that Israel's children enjoy today, to me is close to miraculous...A nation that has forged peace before and can do it again...And a nation that will never dwell alone, because as long as there's the United States you will never be alone.”

“The Israeli Zionist ideology, like Nazism, sees the Jews as a superior race to whom God had given the Palestine; a land flowing with milk and honey. They project themselves as God's 'Chosen People' who are superior to their Palestinian neighbours. The leading Israeli ideologues like Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu see the Palestinians as inferior beings, hence killing them, as they have done for decades and stealing their lands, is a spiritual duty.”

Except for the Belgian genocide in the DRC which was based on economic greed, perpetrators of genocide are usually guided by self-righteous ideology which gives them a sense of superiority and makes them see their victims as inferior beings.

Nazism, the ideology of Hitler's Germany, saw the Aryan as a racially pure and superior people with the divine duty to rule the world. They saw the Jews as inferior beings who may contaminate them. So, to them, in exterminating the Jews, they were not killing human beings.

This was the same ideology that informed the Apartheid system which saw Whites as superior with the divine right to own South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, and if necessary, to eliminate the indigenous Black population, which to them, are inferior beings.



The Israeli Zionist ideology, like Nazism, sees the Jews as a superior race to whom God had given the Palestine; a land flowing with milk and honey. They project themselves as God's 'Chosen People' who are superior to their Palestinian neighbours. The leading Israeli ideologues like Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu see the Palestinians as inferior beings, hence killing them, as they have done for decades and stealing their lands, is a spiritual duty.

This is also why the Israeli State, using its secret service, the MOSSAD, goes around the world killing those they see as the enemies of Israeli. This is why Israel in its massacres, does not differentiate between adults and children.

After building a terrorist state, the Israeli establishment is always raiding and killing the Palestinians in the name of fighting 'terrorism' and terrorists. It is so lawless and disdainful of international conventions and opinions that the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate has a list of 46 journalists killed since 2000 by the Israeli military.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organisation (UNESCO) has documented 21 journalists in the Palestine killed by the Israeli military since 2002. The most infamous murder of a journalist was that of Palestinian-American journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, who while standing with colleagues with a bold press tag on her, was taken out by an Israeli military marksman.

To the Israeli establishment, anybody opposed to its genocide in the Palestine is a terrorist. This is why they are always attacking and bombing Iran and its military facilities. This is why they bomb Syria without provocation.

The civilised world knows that the Palestine belongs to two major nationalities; the Israelis and the Palestinians, hence it has settled for a two-state solution in which both peoples would live in secured states of their own. But the Israeli establishment which is today peopled mainly by far right elements, wants to steal what is left of the Palestinian lands after its aggressive land grab began in 1967. In doing this, Israel is ready to exterminate the Palestinians thereby creating a new Holocaust in their own image.

I Will Bridge Gap Between Poor, Rich In Akwa Ibom - Pastor Umo Eno



By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Akwa Ibom State Governorship Candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Pastor Umo Eno has pledged to bridge existing gap between the poor and the rich in the state if elected the Governor in the forthcoming general election.

Eno who said this at a special town hall meeting organized by Connect Initiative for the guber candidate to interface with stakeholders across professional groups in the state, said that his economic blueprint goal would largely push towards poverty reduction and agricultural revolution.

"I understand the language of the ordinary citizen. Poverty reduction is my foremost economic blueprint goal and I will do everything within my powers to take some steps to help bridge the gap between the poor and the rich", he said.

He listed other economic blueprint goals to include; job creation, price stability, sustainable economic growth, improved standard of living, environmental sustainability, highly educated youths, healthy and skilled populace,

safety and security.

"The rate of unemployment is growing, we need to do so much to ensure that our youths have work to do. We want to ensure they have a skill sets that would help them do the jobs available, we need to improve our standard of living by giving people the basic necessities of life", he stated.

While acknowledging the speedy transformation of Akwa Ibom State by successive Governors, the PDP governorship candidate says he is out to consolidate on such economic gains to expand frontiers of the state economy.

Setting out his plans for the health sector, Eno pledged to revitalize the Primary Health Care Centers, set up senior citizens Health scheme, revive and upgrade existing PHCs across the state, establish a medical city and incorporate the aspect of wellness and health spas, amongst others.

"We will reassess the free maternal, newborn and child health care services for the less privilege and vulnerable people in the state to make it more sustainable.

"We will make the rural areas very attractive that every doctor would want

to go there. But you must stay there when you get the money. We will give you an incentive that you would not be able to reject. We will build rural markets, hospitals and make them attractive", he assured

He listed his policy directions to include; ensuring the safety and security of lives and property, reduction of illiteracy, provision of high standard education system, digital inclusiveness in all education and training programmes, promotion of research and development activities, quality and affordable healthcare.

He used the occasion to appeal to other contestants in the race to eschew mudslinging and other forms of character assassination in their electioneering, but to campaign in a way that would continue to promote existing peaceful coexistence in the state.

Interacting with the professionals and members of socio-cultural organisations, Eno who assured that he had noted their concerns, promised to look into issues raised especially in areas he may not have had sufficient information.

Issues raised cut across legal, engineering,

architectural, union matters, commerce and industry, ICT, non-indigenes, media, etc.

Earlier, Chairman of the occasion, Prof Akpan Ekpo commended Connect Initiative for putting up the special Town Hall meeting and applauded the PDP gubernatorial candidate for accepting to interact with professionals across sectors in the state.

Represented by Prof Trenchard Ibia, Ekpo advised participants to organize themselves into sectors and sub-sectors and interact in a way that would benefit or add value to their professional groups.

Speaking on behalf of Connect Initiative, organizers of the special interaction with profession bodies, Dr Frank Ekpeyong said The aim of the town hall meeting was to provide a platform where Pastor Eno can directly engage with critical stakeholders on the concerns and challenges facing the different sectors of the society and provide the opportunity for the stakeholders to converse, inquire and secure commitments from the candidate as it regards his plans for Akwa Ibom State.

2023 Polls: Makinde, Other G-5 Governors Cannot Stop Atiku From Winning - Engr Babalola

**Says decision on Atiku cannot hold water in Oyo State*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

With few weeks to the 2023 general elections, a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, Engineer Femi Babalola has declared that Governor Seyi Makinde and other G-5 Governors cannot stop the party's Presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar from winning the election.

The PDP Chieftain said this in Ibadan on Monday, while speaking with journalists on the forthcoming general elections in country particularly the Presidential polls.

Engineer Babalola emphasized that it is now glaring that the stand of the G5 Governors will not in any way affect the fortunes of Alhaji Abubakar Atiku as the PDP Presidential candidate as their decision cannot hold water in Oyo state. He stressed that he and others PDP Chieftains in Oyo state loyal to Alhaji Atiku's Presidential cause have put in place necessary efforts at ensuring that Alhaji Atiku will win convincingly in Oyo state and the country as whole, adding, the threat of G-5 governors cannot affect Atiku's victory.

"I can assure you that, with efforts we have put in place so far and the ongoing ones, Makinde's stand will not affect the fortunes of Abubakar Atiku in Oyo state, which have been displayed severally. People came out en-masse, party members came out and they were chanting Atiku! Atiku! Atiku! And they said that is the person they wanted in the presence of G5-Governors", he said.

Engr Babalola added. "Atiku will win, members know their own, no matter what. The freedom walk was excellent in turn out, the stance of party members in the presence of G-5 was also another sign of victory in Oyo state".

"We are leaving no stone unturned, we are working assiduously to compliment already established acceptability of Atiku in the state".

The PDP leader maintained that considering the situation in the country, there is no doubt in the fact that Nigeria now needs Alhaji Atiku who has been at the presidency before as Vice President for eight years to bring the country back to its foot.

"It is like Nigeria is lost somewhere in the moon. When you say something is in the trenches, you know where it is. The state at which we are now is that we don't know where the country is. As far as I am concerned, we need Atiku, who has done this before. Of all those contesting, he is the one who has done it before".

Engr Babalola said "He has been the Vice-President for eight years. He has seen it all. That is the kind of person we need now. We don't need a learner. We don't need someone that will come in and learn on the job. Someone who will say give me the first two years to settle down, I want to take my time and see what is going on in this villa."

Speaking further, Engineer Babalola pointed out that "State politics and regional politics are different from National politics. National governance is different from state or regional governance. I stand by Atiku. He is qualified. He is competent. He has done it before, saying, "if you look at it again, he is one man that identifies talents. Atiku brought 90% of all the people that worked with Obasanjo during his tenure".



Engineer Femi Babalola

Trust Dialogue on the 2023 Presidential Agenda

By Jibrin Ibrahim

YESTERDAY, I participated in the Annual Trust Dialogue on the theme of interrogating the 2023 Presidential Agenda. In his opening remarks, the Chair of the occasion, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, expressed the strong view that we must be optimistic that positive change was possible and that indeed the time has come to do things differently with millions of young Nigerians ready to perform their civic duty. INEC and the State must ensure they do the needful to ensure that riggers are kept out of the ring and the choices of citizens are respected.

One issue of concern that was debated was the introduction of the new naira at a critical time of election related tension. The worst part of the policy move is that the Central Bank simply does not have enough of the new currency to swap, so markets and indeed the economy is likely to collapse at a time when the elections are to be organised. Many wondered what the intention of government is in trying to instigate a national crisis at election time. Are there other plans we are not aware of?

“Let’s first note that corruption is illicit activity not just in statute but expressly addressed even in the Constitution. We know two things about corruption that have provided structural constraints for those who have tried to fight it. First, that the entire public service is configured to engage in massive corruption and hide their tracks. I have not heard the candidates explain how they will reconfigure the public service to serve the public rather than themselves.”

I made the point that the presidential election agenda for Nigeria has been set since the Jonathan administration. That Nigeria was facing an existential crisis because the three core maladies of insecurity, corruption and economic crisis have been allowed to deepen and fester to the level where the corporate existence of the country was at risk. Jonathan promised a breath of fresh air for the country and he was elected

but failed to deliver. The disappointment with the performance of the Jonathan regime created an opening for serial contender for the presidency, Muhammadu Buhari, to promise he could deliver. He got the mandate but woefully failed to deliver after eight years on the job. His failure was a massive disappointment for the country because there was very high expectation that he had the character, integrity and grit to deliver. It turned out that Nigerians knew him less than they thought.

This is what sets the stage for the 2023 presidential agenda. The candidates are telling us they know the problems and promise to deliver solutions. This is simply not good enough. The real issue is that Nigeria desperately needs a president with sound vision on the way forward and the capacity and integrity to perform to our expectations. Going through the manifestoes of the presidential candidates, what we see is a long list of the problems and an affirmation that they will all be solved.

There is very little on the modalities that would be used to solve them, the resources required, milestones and processes. All the candidates, for example, promised to successfully combat corruption; good! The question is; how?

Let’s first note that corruption is illicit activity not just in statute but expressly addressed even in the Constitution. We know two things about corruption that have provided structural constraints for those who have tried to fight it. First, that the entire public service is configured to engage in massive corruption and hide their tracks. I have not heard the candidates explain how they will reconfigure the public service to serve the public rather than themselves.

The second thing we know is that majority of the party barons are in politics to create openings for themselves to access public resources for their personal aggrandisement. I have not heard most of the candidates express their vision of how they

can combat corruption while surrounded by an entourage that is in politics precisely for the purpose of engaging in corruption.

I have looked at how some of the presidential candidates have explained they will combat insecurity in their manifestoes. The APC, PDP, LP, NNPP, PRP and YPP have all promised to:

I. Better equip the armed forces and police

II. Massively increase the number of service personnel

III. Improve professionalism of security forces

IV. Implement community and state policing

V. Build capacity of the Nigerian police

VI. Provide improved training and training facilities

VII. Construct adequate housing for security staff, etc.

“The Chair of the Trust Dialogue, in his opening remarks, wondered whether all the words we are hearing from the candidates were not words of desperados for power rather than democrats seeking to deepen our democracy. There are certainly many desperados but our task as citizens is to sift through the candidates and identify those with the democratic ethos who also have the competence, strength and integrity to take the country forward.”

These are obvious wish lists for addressing the problems. For these promises to make sense, there is need to address how all these would be financed in a context in which the Nigerian State is almost bankrupt. As these are only a small part of a very long list of “to do” promises, what are the priorities in terms of things that could be



Jibrin Ibrahim

addressed immediately and which other ones would need to be set aside for future programming. How would the National Assembly be persuaded to pass the necessary legislation? These are the issues that the people need to know to make an assessment about which candidate is the most convincing in translating their wish list into concrete action?

Some participants at the event raised serious concerns about the establishment of state police. They argued that state governors have virtually all become dictators in their states with no respect for separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary. Given them state police could therefore be a license for them to detain and jail all their political opponents thereby increasing insecurity and ultimately destroying the democratic system itself.

The other issue that virtually all candidates have made promises on is diversifying the economy, industrialising the economy, embarking on the pathway of the

digital economy and transforming agriculture to feed the nation and export processed agricultural products. I love all these ideas, but I know that in previous electoral cycles, the same promises had been made with nothing to show at the end of the day.

The Chair of the Trust Dialogue, in his opening remarks, wondered whether all the words we are hearing from the candidates were not words of desperados for power rather than democrats seeking to deepen our democracy. There are certainly many desperados but our task as citizens is to sift through the candidates and identify those with the democratic ethos who also have the competence, strength and integrity to take the country forward.

Ibrahim is a professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development. He is also the Chair of the Editorial Board of Abuja-based online newspaper, PREMIUM TIMES.

Peseiro Charges Golden Eaglets To Keep Working Hard

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Head Coach of the Super Eagles, José Santos Peseiro has said that he is convinced that Nigeria is a country flowing with an abundance of football talents, after watching the training sessions of the U-17 boys, Golden Eaglets on Monday morning at the NFF/FIFA Goal Project pitch, Moshood Abiola

National Stadium in Abuja.

The Portuguese tactician admitted that he was very impressed with the performance of the players, and charged them to keep improving their game as preparations for the Africa U17 Cup of Nations in Algeria hot up. He also admonished players that would eventually be dropped not to be dejected as that

would not be the end of their football career.

"I am impressed with what I have seen with the performance of the players here. Nigeria is known for having very talented players, so I am therefore not surprised with the performance of these players," Peseiro said.

"You have to keep working hard and keep

improving your game.

Unfortunately, not all the players here will be selected. You should not give up if you fail to make the final team," he added.

The Golden Eaglets have been drawn in Group B of the Africa U-17 Cup of Nations in Algeria, where the team will trade tackles with Zambia, Morocco and South Africa in the city of Constantine.



Peseiro in a pose with Golden Eaglets' Head Coach Nduka Ugbade and his players.

NGO Distributes Grains To IDPs In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Displaced victims of bandits attacks and kidnapping from 11 communities in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State have received bags of maize from a Non-Government Organization, Resilient Aid and Dialogue Initiative (RADI).

About one hundred and forty (140) IDPs shared 50 bags of the grains among themselves.

The victims have been displaced from their communities after repeated attacks from suspected armed herdsmen who have also been kidnapping and terrorizing them from their

farms.

This has led to hundreds of rural dwellers abandoning their communities in Kaduna state for safer places around Local Government headquarters and the metropolis.

Reuben Buhari, while sharing the grains to the displaced victims in Kasuwan Magani, explained that the grains being distributed came through a scheme called Fertilizer Birth Initiative.

He explained, "This is a scheme that adopts a local practice in most of the communities in Kaduna state. We supply fertilizers from a donor to IDPs who can farm but are unable to buy fertilizer. After harvest,

the beneficiaries each return a bag or two of grains. We gather these bags of grains and then share it to other IDPs who were unable to farm. In this way, we ensure that those who can farm get fertilizer, while those who can't get food. It means they also have seedlings for the next farming season."

Explaining further, Alheri Magaji explained that for the project, funding was provided by the U.S Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs with Meridian International Center as the implementing partner.

According to him, "This is the first phase of the

distribution, we are going to carry out another one next week in a different community where we had gathered grains."

The communities the IDPs come from include Kikwari, Mokorozankarya, Maikori, and Ungwan Aku which have been abandoned by the people since 2022. Others include Robo, Karamai Kasau, Kallah, and give which have also not been spared from attacks since 2022.

Kajuru Local Government Area in Kaduna State is among several other LGAs that have borne the brunt of consistent attacks from armed herdsmen who have also been kidnapping people.

Northern Elders Advise Buhari To Handle Elections With Caution

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Northern Elders Council (NEC), a socio-political organisation, has advised President Muhammadu Buhari that to ensure a rancour-free and transparent general elections, he must handle all situations leading to the exercise with caution.

Malam Tanko Yakasai, a leader of NEC described those as non-state actors within the corridors of power to use closeness to leadership to generate chaos and derail the electoral process for their selfish gains.

The NEC in a statement, enjoined President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration, in the interest of the country, to be wary of such elements.

Malam Yakasai, had weeks ago, expressed support for the presidential candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, assuring that it would be making more policy statements in the coming days after its next congress on the state of the nation.

"NEC, at all times, will not shy away from its commitment to peace, unity and stability of Nigeria," Malam Yakasai said in the statement.

He expressed hope that Nigerians would not get it wrong at the coming polls by joining forces with progressive elements, stressing that the group has taken stock of developments in the nation's political space.

About 700,000 Africans Of 1.1m Cancer Die Annually - WHO

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has revealed that 700,000 persons have died of the 1.1 million new cancer cases occur each year in Africa.

Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa, made the revelation in a statement marking this year's World Cancer Day themed, 'Close the Care Gap: Uniting Our Voices and Taking Action.'

According to her, Africa accounts for nearly 50 per cent of the global childhood cancer burden by 2050 with the current projections.

She explained, "Childhood cancer incidence in sub-Saharan Africa was estimated at 56.3 per million population with significant data challenges."

According to her, data estimates show a considerable increase in cancer mortality to nearly one million deaths per year by 2030, without urgent and bold interventions.

She said, "We should recall that the most common cancers in adults include breast (16.5%), cervical (13.1%), prostate (9.4%), Colorectal (6%), and liver (4.6%) cancers, contributing to nearly half of the new cancer cases."

Moeti further explained that in Africa, 12 countries had valid National Cancer Control Plans.

Eleven (11) additional countries, according to her, are being supported by WHO in developing or updating their National Cancer Control Plans aligned to the global cancer initiatives coupled with the presence of governance structures at the government level to implement cancer plans.

She expressed delight that 51 per cent of countries in Africa have steadily increased Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination national introduction.

WHO Regional Director for Africa, noted that stumbling blocks remained on the continent's path in low availability of population-based cancer registries, limited health promotion, inadequate access to primary prevention and early detection services, scarcity of diagnostic facilities that increase delays in diagnosis and treatment, among others despite the achievements made.

She said there was the need to develop/update national cancer control plans, provide sustainable financing and invest in cancer registration by government.

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C'River: PRP Stakeholders Visit Guber Candidate Usani Over Attempted Assassination

By: VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

Stakeholders of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) in Cross River State have felicitated with Dr. Usani Usani at his country home of Nko, Yakurr Local Government Area recently after a failed assassination attempt on his life.

They were Ntufam Ebuta Simon Akor, Senatorial

Candidate for Central Senatorial District, and Hon. Amba Bitty, Candidate for Etung State Constituency.

In a remark, Ntufam Ebuta expressed appreciation to God for sparing the life of Pst Usani Usani and his entourage while praying for quick recovery of the injured and unconstitutional release of the one still in captivity.

He condemned the attack in its entirety and called on security operatives to unravel the mystery behind it.

Also, Hon Amba Bitty said the dastardly act orchestrated by evil people against innocent and law-abiding citizens in the State calls for concern.

In a related development, some party faithful from Abi Local Government

Area also paid a solidarity visit to Barr Egbe Eworo Echeng who was one of the victims.

It would be recalled that Pst Usani Usani, PRP Governorship Candidate in Cross River on Friday narrowly escaped an assassination attempt between Ehom and Betem community of Biase Local Government Area of Cross River State.



Some of the PRP stakeholders during the visit

RRS Nabs 2 Ex Convicts, One Other Over Alleged Robbery

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two ex-convicts along with one other have reportedly been arrested by operatives of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) over alleged robbery in Lagos.

Our correspondent gathered that the suspects were nabbed for robbing a passer-by on Olowopopo Way beside Otedola Bridge.

Identified as Osazee Festus, 33, Matial Anthony, 23, both ex-convicts, and Osinachi Nwachukw were said to have been apprehended in the early hours of Saturday, February 04, 2023.

The Police Public Relations Officer of Lagos State Command SP Benjamin Hundeyin made the disclosure in a statement yesterday.

He disclosed that, "The trio, wielding a cutlass, accosted their victim at about 6:20 a.m. and dispossessed him of his Samsung A19 mobile phone."

"The victim promptly alerted RRS officers close to the scene, who swiftly arrested two of the suspects and recovered the phone. Investigations following the arrests led to the arrest of the third suspect."

"Osazee was released from prison on February 02,

2023 after eight months behind bars while Anthony regained freedom in June 2022".

Meanwhile, Commander of

the RRS, CSP Olayinka Egbeyemi, has transferred the three suspects to the Command Headquarters for further investigations.



The suspects

Peseiro Charges Golden Eaglets To Keep Working Hard

Story on Page 23

ECWA Clergy Authors Book On Southern Kaduna People

*Recounts yesterday, today, tomorrow of the people's ugly stories bedeviled by injustices



Philemon Cletus Gado

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A thought-provoking book written by Philemon Cletus Gado, a Pastor with the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) on Southern Kaduna people who he said are bedeviled by a structure injustice has been scheduled for unveiling. Gado recounted the yesterday, today, and tomorrow of the people, exposing their great destiny bedeviled by the injustice structured by the present system to exclude, marginalize and deny them a right of corporate existence. Gado an advocate of peace and social justice in the book, narrated how the people of Southern Kaduna under different oppressive regimes have suffered severe injustice for centuries.

Gado, a dynamic preacher who is also a lecturer with ECWA Theology Seminary Kagoro, proffered a solution in believing to give birth to a new and greater Southern Kaduna.

Gado, like Martin Luther

Jnr, who stood firm to fight the injustice of racial discrimination against blacks in the USA, offered options that will overcome and nip to the bud, injustice and oppression constantly served the people of Southern Kaduna.

Provost of Jos Evangelical Theology School (JETS), Sunday Bobai Agang who forwarded the book, said Gado has a penchant for passion for the freedom fighters and the liberation of the people he described, as a blessing to humanity.

Erudite Theologians like Professor Samuel Waje Kunhiyop, and Professor Momola Armstrong added their provocative voices and calls to the people of Southern Kaduna to unite in facing the challenges confronting them.

The public presentation and launching of the book is scheduled for Friday February 10, 2023 at New Choice Hall, Kafachan, under the distinguished Chairmanship of Hon Barr Sunday Marshall Katung, Southern Kaduna People's Democratic Party (PDP) Senatorial candidate.