

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Online Newspaper

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 1 No. 38

Friday 12th August, 2022

Muharram 15, 1444

**2023 General Elections: CAN, JN1 Sign Peace Pact**

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## Number Of Kwara's Functional Firms Grew By 87.5% Under Us - Abdulrazaq *\*MAN Hails Gov for Being Pro-business, Commissions Secretariat*

By: **BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin**

**K**wara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq on Thursday said the local economy has recorded huge gains over the last three years of his

administration, with the number of active companies in Kwara growing from just 41 in 2019 to 77 in 2022, representing an impressive 87.5 percent increase.

Quoting a data from the Kwara Chambers of Commerce, Industry,

Mines and Agriculture, the Governor commended the business community for their strategic partnership with the government and said the rise is a tribute to the efforts of the administration to bring  
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## Army, Police Authorities At Loggerheads Over Shooting Of Personnel In Lagos

By: **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

**T**he authorities of the Nigeria Army 81 Division and the Lagos State Police Command seem to be at loggerheads over claims by the former that a soldier was shot by the police during an attack recently in which a police Inspector was killed by some soldiers.

Aside from the killed Inspector, two others were

said to have been abducted with their rifles during the incident, which occurred on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at the Trade Fair area of the state.

The immediate past GOC of 81 DiV Major General Umar Musa was reported to have on Tuesday, while handing over to his successor claimed that a soldier was shot by the police during the incident.

The report however  
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L-R: Dr Kamoru Yusuf; Kwara State Chairman of Manufacturer Association of Nigeria (MAN) Pharm Bioku Rahamon FPSN; Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; and President MAN Engr Mansur Ahmed; during the 8th Annual General Meeting and official commissioning of MAN's Secretariat, in Ilorin. **Photo: AKINOLAARIYO**

## CASSON Working Towards Providing Better Guidance On Career, Professionalism - Kano Poly Rector

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## Reject Being Used To Rig 2023 Elections, Kaduna Dep Gov Tells Corps

By: **FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna**

**T**he Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Tuesday said the State will continue to give the National Youth Serve Scheme maximum support towards the attainment of its objectives it will do its best to provide the conducive environment for them to carry out their assignment.

Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, expressed this at the official closing ceremony of the 2022 batch 'B' stream 2 Orientation Course of corps members posted to Kaduna State, held at NYSC temporary orientation camp, government college Kaduna.

She said, on behalf of my amiable Governor, Malam Nasir El-Rufai, this orientation is the first phase of your engagement during your service year.

"I therefore wish to congratulate you for

successfully completing the course and setting yourselves up for the next level.

"The purpose of this orientation is to prepare you for the primary responsibility of the Scheme.

"You were, therefore, equipped with the basics of the local language and culture, to enable you live by.

Dr. Hadiza noted that, you have also been instilled with capacities for endurance and discipline which you need to succeed during the service year.

"I understand that most of you were committed to the activities of the course which were also intended to prepare you for life after the national youth serve scheme.

She, therefore, commended the NYSC for providing life skills including entrepreneurial education to corps members.

"This is even more important because of

the complex nature of our societies today. Today, nothing is as it appears and change is the only constant. According to her, the traditional jobs in the public and private sectors are no longer available, however, only those with higher emotional and social quotients are able to find their footings in the fast changing world.

"Now certificates do not necessarily provide bread though good education prepares you for social and economic navigation of society.

"It is along this line that I encourage young people to continue to seek educational opportunities so that they can



**Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe**

be better placed to grapple with the upheavals tossed up by modernism.

"The youths, of which our corps members

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# Gombe Holds 1st Peace, Security Summit; Launches Operation 'Hattara'

*\*Security engagement to provide pathways to dealing with emerging security threats, Says Governor Inuwa* *\*IGP hails Gombe Governor's foresight, proactiveness in dealing with challenges*  
*\*Says Gombe Peace and Security Summit in consonance with new policing strategies*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has said that the peace and security summit convened by his administration will provide an opportunity for security personnel, government officials and other strategic stakeholders in the maintenance of law and order to aggregate and explore pressing internal issues with a view to identifying new security and community pathways of mitigating them for lasting peace and stability.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Tuesday August 9, 2022, said the governor stated this while declaring open the 1st Gombe State Peace and Security Summit with the theme "Mitigating Contemporary Security Challenges for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya observed that given the theme of the summit and the calibre of resource persons invited as well as its participants, the summit will chart a new direction for mitigating internal security matters not only here in Gombe State but in the country as a whole.

"We are all aware that our dear country is passing through a delicate period of immense security and economic challenges and risks. Criminal elements all over the country are united in their determination to threaten our common values, destroy our means of livelihood and make life brutish and miserable for our people. Since the year 2010, our gallant security forces have been battling to contain a brutal insurgency waged by the Boko Haram terrorists in Borno which rapidly spread to other states in the North-East, North-Central and North-West Subregions. Although the collective efforts of our men and women in uniform have succeeded in stopping the bombing campaigns of the Boko Haram insurgents, the colossal human and economic damage caused to our communities is still with us". He noted that while the country was struggling to arrest the menace of Boko Haram in the North-East, another security threat in the form of rural banditry, emerged in some parts of North-Central and North-Western Nigeria with significant impact on human and the economic well-being.

The Governor observed that the violent conflict which is majorly fuelled by climate change,

population growth, proliferation of small arms and light weapons and ethnicity has equally paved the way for banditry and kidnapping which has since reached an alarming proportions in many states of the federation.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya said although the present security situation in the country is generally precarious, Gombe State is relatively secure and peaceful.

"For instance, if we take a look at the Nigeria Security Tracker published monthly by Eons Intelligence (A reputable Risk and Security Consulting Organisation), Gombe State recorded the least incidences of killings, kidnapping and other violent crimes during the first quarter of this year (2022) – thanks to the combined efforts of our security agencies and other relevant stakeholders. However, it is imperative to note that Gombe State is not immune and insulated from happenings in other parts of the country. We have our own share of local security threats fuelled by political thuggery, youth restlessness and unemployment which led to the emergence of the notorious Kalare group. The proliferation of local militia groups therefore calls for a proactive approach in dealing with these emerging threats and applying local strategies for tackling them".

He said his administration was able to contain the menace of political thuggery and youth restiveness to the barest minimum through the combined efforts of the political class, security agencies, community, religious and traditional institutions thereby preventing from metamorphosing into another criminal group.

"It is in this regard that we established the Gombe State Security, Traffic and Environmental Corps (GOSTEC) were we aim to employ not less than 2000 youths with the first batch of 500 corps already engaged to support the statutory agencies in the state in maintaining law and order. This home grown initiative is aimed at harnessing the energies of our youths in state building in line with our human capital development initiative".

He said in order to consolidate on this gains, his administration is collaborating with the relevant security agencies to launch a special security task force to be named as Operation Hattara with the purpose of reinforcing security architecture in and around Gombe State.

"As you are all aware, soon after I was sworn-in as Governor, I



established the first Ministry of Internal Security and Ethical Orientation in order to provide an institutional framework at the state level to support Federal Government Security Agencies, while also providing a framework for proactive resolution of conflict. I am delighted that our decision to establish the Ministry is yielding great results, as evidenced by the decreasing rates of violent crimes and conflicts in the state"

"To further strengthen our security and crime prevention system, we introduced new mechanisms for informal intelligence gathering and established the Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre at Boltongo for regular training of our youth on informal intelligence gathering and early warning indicators. Similarly, we increased the level of involvement of traditional authorities in dispute resolution and security management in their communities. We also established security committees with dedicated telephone lines for reporting security breaches and potential threats by members of the public. Furthermore, I appointed and empowered 3 Security Advisers, one each from the Military, Police and Intelligence Service backgrounds to achieve greater cooperation and collaboration between the government and federal security agencies".

The Governor remarked that for these measures to lead to lasting peace and security, his administration established and sustained an effective partnership between the security agencies and the public.

"To develop this partnership, it is critical that we gain the support, understanding and cooperation of strategic stakeholders in the state. Also important is building a consensus between strategic security stakeholders and the security agencies on both preventive actions and how to respond to crime situations. It is my candid hope that this summit will recommend practical steps to be taken to achieve all these. Thus, your inputs, experiences and suggestions are really important to both achieving the objectives of this Security and Peace Summit and to improving our internal security management system generally". Keynote speaker and Inspector General of Police IGP Usman Baba Alkali observed that the theme of the Security Summit "Mitigating Contemporary Security Challenges for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development" would not have come at a better time when the country is battling with security challenges in all fronts.

He said the Gombe State peace and security Summit is equally coming at a critical time when the Nigerian Police Force under his leadership is working towards deepening the engagement of the concept of community partnership in crime control.

He said the policy strategy seeks to address security challenges through active citizen engagement in the identification, analysis and mitigation of threats.

IGP Alkali said community engagement like the Gombe State peace and security summit

by the state government falls perfectly within the framework of the vision of community policing.

"To this extent the Nigerian Police Force conveys its full and wholehearted support to the Government of Gombe State under the leadership of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for the vision in convening this strategic summit".

Earlier in his address of welcome, the Secretary to the Gombe State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi described the 1st Gombe State peace and security summit as historic where it underscores the untiring efforts of the present administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya towards the protection of lives and property of the citizenry.

He expressed gratitude to security Agencies in the State for working assiduously to maintain the peace in Gombe which has so far placed the State as the most peaceful in the North East sub-region.

There were goodwill messages from the GOC 3rd Armoured Division Nigerian Army, the Emir of Gombe, Dr Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III.

Shortly after formal declaration of the summit open, Governor Inuwa Yahaya in company of the Inspector General of Police Usman Baba Alkali and other top Government functionaries commissioned operational vehicles provided by Gombe state government to maintain law and order in the State in an initiative code named "Operation Hattara".

## Kaduna Govt Debunks Circulated Message, Urges Citizens To Go About Normal Activities

By ; F U N M I  
ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Government has said that its attention has been drawn to a widely circulated message advising citizens not to enter or exit Zaria,

alleging the presence of hundreds of bandits at Dumbi and Jaji along the route to Zaria.

According to a statement signed by the Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Honourable Samuel

Aruwan on Wednesday August 10, 2022, "the Kaduna State Government wishes to firmly debunk that message, and urges citizens to disregard it completely. It is an obvious attempt to spread panic".

The Kaduna State

Government assured all citizens and travelers that the Kaduna-Zaria route is safe for travel.

"Residents are urged to go about their normal activities and pay no attention to the report," it assured.



KADMAM during a multi-stakeholders accountability forum meeting recently

## Cashback Funds Approved for Health Sector, KADMAM Appeals To Kaduna Govt

By ; A L E X  
UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Kaduna State Maternal Accountability Mechanism (KADMAM), has appealed to the Kaduna State Government to ensure that funds approved for the health sector in the budget is cash backed.

KADMAM made the appeal during a multi-stakeholders accountability forum, tagged, "Bridging the Financing gaps towards achieving Universal Health Coverage for all residents" ahead of its #Openkadunahealthsector meeting where government performance in the health is presented. The meeting was supported by Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL-Ecp), E4A-Mamaye, Lafiya Programme and Save the Children International.

According to the group, "Considering the low cash backing to the health sector in both 2021 and Q1 of 2022, the Ministry of Finance and the Liquidity

Committee as a matter of urgency should increase funds release for health interventions from 23.6% to minimum of 70% in the remaining quarters of 2022, as this will go a long way in reducing maternal, perinatal and child mortality in the state."

They commended the state government for committing to the Abuja declaration's 15% minimum budget for health sector annually and urged her to sustain it.

They also asked the government to release the 1% contribution of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to increase funding and beneficiaries' service uptake for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), especially in the interest of women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

"Government should expedite action on the recruitment of health personnel, especially accountants to oversee the disbursement of funds to ensure prudent utilization of BHCPF in PHCs across the State."

In her response, Dr. Amina Mohammed Baloni, Kaduna State, Commissioner Ministry of Health, who commended the Mechanism as a worthy partner, noted that budgets are estimation of what is intend to be spend during a period.

She however, said that expenditure is a function of how much money you get, saying "even though we are not getting the kinds of money we need in a year because of the country's economic situation, we have sent a supplementary budget to the state assembly.

"The supplementary will give us a more realistic picture of what we're getting as revenue and how much to spend. But what I can assure you is that the funds for services, people are paying salaries, people are given overhead cost to make sure services runs.

"So what we are doing now is to scale down on some of the projects because we've many facilities, we can't do everything at the same

time. We have decided to prioritize what will give impact to the people.

What in every budget we should know is capital and re-cuurent, and the CSOs analysis and presentation is concentrated on full budget?"

Welcoming participants to the stakeholder's forum, KADMAM Secretary, Isa Gidado, said the meeting was an opportunity for government and CSOs to rub minds on issues in the health sector and how to make things better in the overall interest of the citizens.

On his part, Adejo Abel, the State Team Lead of PERL, who spoke on behalf of the supporting partners, said they have been supporting government and accountability mechanisms in the health, education sectors and the local government administration to create synergy among in ensuring that citizens get the dividends of democracy.

## 40-yr Old Man Bags 16 Years Jail For Attempted Rape

By ; O L A D E L E  
ADEDAYO, Ado-Ekiti

A 40-year-old man, Oladipupo Oluwaseun has been sentenced by an Ado-Ekiti High Court to 16 years imprisonment for attempt to commit rape and indecent assault.

The defendant was arraigned on February 19, 2021 at Igede-Ekiti, in Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area of Ekiti State, did commit an offence of an attempt to rape one 18- years-old Mariam.

In his Judgment, Justice Adekunle Adeleye said, "by the preparation made by the defendant, he assaulted Mariam intentionally, I have no doubt in my mind that it was the defendant and no other person assaulted Mariam at a period after midnight of 18th February, 2021.

"Adeleye said the prosecution has proved beyond reasonable doubt that the defendant assaulted Mariam indecently, he is found guilty as charged in count one attempt to rape and count two indecent assault.

"The defendant is hereby convicted as charged in count one and two contrary to the provisions of 359 and 360 of the Criminal Code, Cap. C16 Laws of Ekiti State, 2012.

"In Count 1, the defendant is hereby sentenced to 14 years imprisonment, Count 2, the defendant is hereby sentenced to 2 years imprisonment," Adeleye ruled.

In her statement, "the victim alleged the defendant that he came to their house around 11:00pm without inviting him, though, he once asked me out but I refused. "When he entered our room he covered my mouth with cloth and forcefully had sexual intercourse with me, I know him as Samora but I got to know his real name as Oladipupo Oluwaseun at Igede Police Station, when he was arrested after I reported the incident at the Police station", she said.

The convict in his defense through his Counsel, Miss Helen Akinboni, denied the allegation of rape, he said, "the victim is my girlfriend, we are only romancing in the room when her father came in, I ran away because I was afraid of her father, who came to arrest me on the second day.

To prove his case, the prosecutor, Folasade Alli called two witnesses and tendered the convict and victim statements including a medical report as exhibit.

The Prosecutor said the

## Flood: Jigawa LGA Awards N15m Contract For Drainages

By: DAHIRU SULEIMAN, Dutse

In its efforts to mitigate the effect of perennial flooding, the Maigatari Local Government Council in Jigawa State has awarded a N15 million contract for the construction of drainages in the council headquarters, among its three major towns of the council.

The action is in compliance with the directives of the state's governor, Badaru Abubakar to the 27 local government chairmen to put immediate remedial measures in place to avert further loss of lives and property.

The Information Officer in charge of the council, Sulaiman Daudu, made this known during a telephone interview with our correspondent on the scourge of flood which ravaged Maigatari Council as a result of heavy downpour.

Daudu quoted the council chairman, Uzairu Nadabo, as saying that the gesture is aimed at curtailing flood threatening communities in the area.

He explained that the chairman said the project would be executed at Maigatari Arewa, in Maigatari town, Tsinke, Zazzabau and Malam Aba villages.

The officer added that 18 villages were affected by flooding in the area, which resulted in the destruction of houses and property.

According to him, Nadabo, who sympathised with the affected communities, has directed for the compilation of a comprehensive list of victims of the disaster for submission to State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

## Reject Being Used To Rig 023 Elections, Kaduna Dep Gov Tells Corps

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are part of, are the most productive sector of Nigeria's demography. "Nigeria's population is dominated by youths with a median age of the country being 18.4 years.

Consequently, a new World Bank report shows that 74 per cent of global growth of youth population aged 18-23 will be in Nigeria and nine other countries up to 2035. But the question is what are Nigerian Youths doing with this numerical strength? Can they convert it to gainful capital? I am highly impressed that Youths constitute 71% of the 12 million fresh applicants for Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) in the just concluded Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise which started in June 2021.

"We therefore expect more youth participation in the 2023 election, and I hope that the participation of Nigerian Youths in the 2023 elections shall be positive and constructive as opposed to previous activities of disruptions, violence, election box snatching and other illegal activities.

"The February 2023 elections, shall be requiring the services of corps members. Many of you shall serve as presiding officers at the elections.

"You must remember that you shall be representing the youths during that assignment, let it not be said of you that the youths that manned polling units for INEC during the election were corrupt and assisted politicians to mar popular will of electorates.

"You must therefore acquit yourselves well as responsible citizens who rose to the occasion when they were most needed.

Also, Nigerian youths must also remember that the NYSC came into being after a civil war that tore every fabric of the



Nigerian state.

"The war was a needless savagery that we cannot afford its repeat. Nigerian Youths must therefore distanced themselves from those fanning the embers of violence and war in Nigeria.

"As a country, we must do all it takes to avoid a repeat of that dark labyrinth of our history; and Nigerian youths must refuse to be ready tools for war mongers.

"Valuable corps members, I believe you have the capacity to discern what is good for our country and what shall build a united and strong Nigeria.

"And you shall not fail to do what is right for your dear country, after all, the major objective of setting up the NYSC is to enhance Nigeria's unity and promote development.

Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa call on all corps employers in the state not to reject corps members posted to them and also make those of them under them comfortable.

"Remember, they are on national assignment for their beloved country.

She commended all camp officials for successfully guiding the corps members through the course, she said, without your efforts, the objectives of the scheme will not be achieved.

"I wish all corps members journey mercies to your places of primary assignments, I pray that the Almighty will care for each and everyone of you in the course of the service year.

At the event, the Deputy Governor declared the orientation course organized for the 2022 Batch 'B' Stream 2 corps members deployed to Kaduna State, closed.

# Invest In Internal Tourism, Oyesola Tasks Nigerians

*\*Says Oyo State-blessed with 163 tourist sites*

By; BAYO AKAMO Ibadan

Oyo State Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Oyedele Oyesola has tasked Nigerians to invest in the nation's tourism.

Mr Oyesola gave the task while speaking during a visit of about 52 Information Officers to the Oke-Ogun region, seat of Ado-Awaye Suspended Lake and Osoogun, home town of late Bishop Ajayi Crowther.

The Permanent Secretary who maintained that Oyo State is blessed with about 163 tourist sites

declared that the trip was to explore some of the tourists centres in the State " as the Ministry is the custodian of the Tourism sector of the State."

According to the Permanent Secretary, there is the need for the state government to think outside the box on possible ways to turn tourist sites in Oyo State into money - spinning sites.

Advocating for partnership with investors so as to turn the Ado-Hills and other tourist sites into world-standard tourist centers, he stressed, "the essence of this trip is to expose the activities of the State Government as civil servants, which is the core function of the Ministry".

"The Ado-Awaye Hill is unique which is why it was the first point of call and it needs to be exposed to the world. As a Ministry, we'll do it. This is an exciting trip, because it gave room for interactions among officers

regardless of their positions", he said.

Speaking in Araromi LCDA, the Political Head, Hon Timothy Olugbade Ogunleke, appreciated the visit of the delegation to the tourist center describing it as a right step in the right direction.

Hon Ogunleke called on well-meaning Nigerians and the Government to prioritize the beautification of the Iyake tourist centre, so as to encourage more tourists, saying, " Iyake mountain is in need of aesthetics, for easy maneuvering of the mountain and relaxation centres for people to relax after descending the mountain".

Receiving the team, the Alado of Ado-Awaye, Oba Ademola Olugbile Folakanmi stated that " Ado-

Awaye is answering a lot of questions as regards the economy of Oyo State, with the latest establishment of the Sorbitol Cassava Factory and the Iyake suspended lake, all in Ado-Awaye."

Oba Ademola Olugbile Folakanmi thereafter presented a book written by him to the Team which was titled "Iyake suspended lake, the pride of Africa"

At Osoogun , the Basorun of Osoogun Town, Chief Bola Bambi said the Baobab Tree to which the late Bishop was tied to is synonymous to the Town, such that if rain refuse to fall and prayers are offered to the tree, rain will fall.

Chief Bola Bambi called on the government to kindly see to the challenges bedeviling the community such as lack of good roads and electricity.



The Oyo state government team at the Ado Awaye Suspended Lake

## Army, Police Authorities At Loggerheads Over Shooting Of Personnel In Lagos

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prompted a rebuttal on Wednesday by the Lagos State Police Command, describing the claim by the GOC as misinformation.

While it posited that no Soldier was shot at during the incident, the Command challenged the Army authorities to present the soldier allegedly shot.

In a rebuttal signed by its spokesperson SP Benjamin Hundeyin, the police Authority claimed that the only shot fired by its personnel was shot into the air to scare the soldiers after they had abducted two Inspectors.

It claimed that the single shot fired into the air by the next Inspector they (Soldiers) attempted to attack made them to retreat.

Titled, " REBUTTAL: NO SOLDIER WAS SHOT AT; SOLDIERS ATTACKED POLICEMEN UNPROVOKED", it reads, " The attention of the Lagos State Police Command has been drawn to a report credited to Major General Umar Musa, outgoing GOC 81 Division, claiming that a 'police officer shot at the soldier during the altercation which clipped him in the ear but narrowly missed his vital parts.' In as much as the Lagos State Police Command is in a grieving mood and has decided to toe the line of civility, it is pertinent to stand against misinformation.

" The fact remains that on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at the Trade Fair area of Lagos State, about thirty Privates of

the Nigerian Army attacked five policemen for stopping vehicles along their lane to pave way for a heavy duty truck joining the expressway.

" After the soldiers had brutalized the ASP leading the team, taken out his magazine, and abducted two Inspectors with their rifles, the next Inspector they attempted to attack fired a single shot into the air – an act that made the soldiers retreat.

" The single shot was into the air. At no point was anyone hit. The Lagos State Police Command challenges the Army authorities to present the soldier allegedly shot.

" While we mourn our fallen hero, and pray for the total recovery of the second abducted Inspector, we urge Nigerians to disregard the claim that a soldier was shot as there is absolutely no truth to it.

" Meanwhile, the Lagos State Police Command eagerly awaits the report of the panel of inquiry set up by the Nigerian Army to investigate the immediate and remote cause of the incident.

" The Command equally looks forward to the fishing out of the soldiers behind the torture and murder of Inspector Monday Orukpe; and the return of two AK47 rifles and three magazines carted away by the soldiers, in line with the pledge made by the Nigerian Army as conveyed by Brigadier-General KN Nwoko during a condolence visit to the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Abiodun Ablabi, fdc".

# Zulum Laments How Some LEA Teachers Receive Less Than N11,000 Monthly As Salary

*\*Over 11,790 unqualified teachers on LEA payroll*

*\*2,389 LEA teachers have no academic or secondary qualification*

*\*3,815 LEA teachers found to be untrainable*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR,  
Maiduguri

Sequel to widespread criticisms against Borno State Government for its inability to fulfil promises to implement new minimum wage at the local government councils level for both the local government workers and Local Education Authority (LEA) which is constitutionally responsible for payment of salaries of primary school teachers in a news story published on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 by the International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR) confirming that for over 10 months or a year ago, LEA teachers in Borno State were still being paid based on the old minimum wage at the local government councils level. Although, the report claimed that Governor Babagana Umara Zulum was the first to lament publicly, that teachers at the Local Education Authority (LEA) level, were still receiving less than N11,000, while their counterparts working at the state level were being paid based on N30,000 new minimum wage.

The Governor's spokesman, Malam Isa Gusau on Monday, gave the above explanation in his reaction to some screenshots shared on social media platforms, showing credit alerts of some LEA teachers' salaries from a LGA, with less than N10,000 as salaries.

The spokesman recalled that Governor Zulum had while addressing the reconstituted Borno State Universal Basic Education Board, under a new Chairman, Prof. Bulama Kagu, at the Government House, Maiduguri, on October 26, 2021, said the following:

"It is pathetic that there are teachers who are still collecting between N13,000 and N11,000 and even less. Despite economic challenges, we must work to ensure that every qualified teacher in Borno State earns a minimum of N30,000, which is the national minimum wage," Zulum said.

Gusau recalled that Zulum himself admitted that whereas the minimum wage was already implemented for all workers at the State Government level including teachers, the implementation at the LEA



Gov Babagana Zulum

could only be done after the system was sanitized just as it was done for state workers.

To prepare LEA teachers for national minimum wage, Governor Zulum had constituted a committee to conduct basic literacy and numeracy tests as well as competency assessment on all 17,229 LEA Local teachers across Borno's 27 Local Government Areas.

On February 17, 2022, the State's Commissioner of Education, Engr. Lawan Abba Wakilbe, a highly experienced, competent and hardworking educationist, who chaired the

committee, presented what Zulum later described as a scary report.

The committee further found that out of 17,229 existing LEA teachers, a total of 11,790 representing 69% of the entire LEA teachers, were found unqualified to teach.

2,389 of the LEA teachers had no academic qualification whatsoever, not even secondary school certificate while 3,815 of the LEA teachers were found to be untrainable while only 5,439 teachers (31.6%) were good enough to teach, out of the 17,229 teachers assessed by the committee.

With this report of the Special high powered committee set up by the governor and headed by a university don, Dr. Shettima Kullima, Governor Zulum had the option of sacking the 11,790 unqualified teachers and could have used the monies being used as their salaries to implement the national minimum wage for the 5,439 qualified teachers but declined to do so despite high expectations from the people he may lay them off.

However, Zulum announced that none of the 11,790 unqualified teachers was going to be sacked to create additional unemployment, rather, he took a

compassionate decision to avoid increasing unemployment in Borno State.

Instead, the governor identified or selected a number of the unqualified primary school teachers for training on the job while others were to be assigned to work in various sectors of the local and state civil services, including planting of trees under the State Ministry of Environment.

Based on the committee's report again, the Governor directed that the new minimum wage should immediately be implemented or applied to the 5,439 LEA teachers found to be qualified to teach, pending further decisions on the 11,790 unqualified teachers.

This informed Borno State Commissioner for Education, Engr. Abba Lawan Wakilbe's recent decision to lead officials of his ministry to a meeting with the State's Ministry for Local Government and Emirate Affairs, where a new national minimum wage was agreed to be implemented or applied to the 5,439 qualified teachers in line with the Governor Zulum's directive, according to the spokesman, Malam Isa Gusau.

***"It is pathetic that there are teachers who are still collecting between N13,000 and N11,000 and even less. Despite economic challenges, we must work to ensure that every qualified teacher in Borno State earns a minimum of N30,000, which is the national minimum wage,"***

## Number Of Kwara's Functional Firms Grew By 87.5% Under Us - Abdulrazaq

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inclusive growth to Kwara and make life more worth living for its people.

He spoke in Ilorin, the state capital, at the Annual General Meeting and commissioning of the secretariat of the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) whose resilience the Governor commended.

AbdulRazaq said the growth in the number of functional firms has positive impacts on the standards of living of the people of the state.

The government has curbed double and digitised many of its processes to improve land administration and other business transactions with positive outcomes for industrial growth in the state, AbdulRazaq said.

"From just 41 firms in 2019 to 77 in 2022, the percentage of functional companies in Kwara has grown by at least 87.8% over the last three years," he said.

"From just four skeletal flights in 2019, we now have some 12 flights every day to and from the state capital, Ilorin. Notwithstanding the national economic challenges, I'm impressed by the resilience and consistent growth of the Kwara economy.

"As of July 19, 2022, we had just 15 C of O waiting for printing, with just 46 R of O and 15 Assignments also awaiting printing. Otherwise, we have ensured that the government's processes are done expeditiously. We are similarly working on other proposals to improve the business climate in Kwara."

AbdulRazaq said the rising inflation and security challenges in the country are surmountable with everybody playing their best roles, reiterating his administration's resolve to continue to assist the business community in the State.

He said the government's commitment is evident in its ease of doing business campaigns and infrastructural development across the state, as well as its efforts to minimise communal conflicts and strengthen security of lives and properties.

National President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Engr Mansur Ahmed, who described MAN as the backbone of economic development and sustainable growth, appreciated the efforts of the AbdulRazaq administration to improve the business climate in Kwara State.

"I have no doubt that (Your Excellency is) aware of the position and significance of the manufacturing sector in our economy. I am aware that you have indeed done a lot for the past three years to improve the environment for investors and particularly those in the manufacturing sector. I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for this," he said.

"Manufacturing sector is the backbone of any economy. Because it is a sector that provides and sustains wealth creation. It is a sector that provides jobs on a continuous and sustainable basis and it is a sector that drives capacity building and improves economic resilience."

He assured the Governor of the association's continued partnership to encourage industrial growth in the State. MAN's Chairman for Kwara/Kogi States branch, Pharmacist Bioku Rahman, in his welcome address, appreciated the government for its giant strides and for creating an enabling atmosphere to grow businesses through the creation of Ease of Doing Business Council and other business-friendly policies in the State.

"Your Excellency, your decision to grace this event symbolizes your recognition of the manufacturing industry as a key driver of our economy in Nigeria," Rahman said.

"Your government has also displayed this in policy advancement, including the inauguration of the Ease of Doing Business Council in Kwara State, and the decision to co-opt MAN into the expanded caucus of the Council."

The event was attended by creme de la creme in the Kwara business community, including the KWACCIMA President Alhaji Olalekan Fatai Ayodimeji and top industrialist Alhaji Kamoru Yusuf.

## CASSON Working Towards Providing Better Guidance On Career, Professionalism - Kano Poly Rector

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

CASSON was founded in 1976 and became duly registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria (CAC Reg. No:9336) in 1996. It is also professionally recognized by the ministries in charge of education, youth development, women affairs, social welfare and social development in Nigeria and It has working relationship with UNESCO and UNICEF. The association was established to provide excellent career guidance for the betterment of professionalism, especially in tertiary institutions.

This was disclosed by the Rector, Kano State Polytechnic, Dr. Kabir Bello Dungurawa in a chat with newsmen, adding that the existence of guidance and counselling section has added value to Nigeria's educational system that facilitates career development.

Dr. Kabir Bello Dungurawa expressed that, "Through guidance and counselling, nursing professionals in every

sector can be achieved in our tertiary institutions like what is being witnessed and I am certain that CASSON would continue to be of great benefit to our educational system as the globe is gradually changing in all fields".

He commended president Muhammadu Buhari for signing the CASSON Bill into law, which enabled the association to be fully active across its chapters, and thanked the national executives of the association under the able leadership of Professor Elizabeth Omotunde Egbochuku who is really committed towards the progress of the association in Nigeria.

He reassured that in the near future, guidance and counselling would become more exemplary in the area of educational, vocational/career & personal-social guidance. The rector added that, "the ultimate aim of



CASSON Leader, Professor Elizabeth Omotunde Egbochuku

counselling is to assist clients realize their potentials, make informed choices, thereby meeting their life dreams.

CASSON is an umbrella of professional practitioners who are educationally certified to work in public settings such as schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres,

religious institutions and social work departments as well as private settings. Furthermore, they are found in ministries, the Police, Prisons, Immigration, industries, special institutions, rehabilitation centres as well as developmental projects.

## 2023 General Elections: CAN, JNI Sign Peace Pact

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI), have signed a peace pact to de-escalate religious tension towards ensuring a peaceful and secured atmosphere in Nigeria before, during and after the 2023 general elections

The peace accord was signed in Washington D.C United States at the International Religious Freedom Summit 2022 organised by the Global Peace Foundation, Vision Africa with support of ADF International and 70 international human rights and religious freedom organisations.

Prof. Yusuf Usman, represented the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar III, the President-General of the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and CAN was represented by Rev. Samson Ayokunle, its immediate past President, towards ensuring the success of signing the peace pact by the two.

The leadership of Christian and Muslim organisations assured its support to harmoniously work together, avoid violence, embrace dialogue and remain committed to building resilient communities that are free from fear for Nigerians to be able cast their votes to candidates of their choices, according to a statement issued by Rev. Ayokunle.

The statement explained that the two religious bodies also promised to embrace a vision of common humanity and speak publicly of hope for Nigeria's peaceful and bright future generations.

According to the statement, it is a difficult time in Nigeria, with ever-escalating security crises and an overwhelming loss of trust in the government, adding that unfortunately, so much of the crisis in Nigeria has had a religious context leading to loss of lives and destruction of property in different parts of the country.

The statement noted, "I recall the horrifying death of Deborah

Emmanuel Yakubu, murdered by a mob because of allegations of blasphemy. Likewise, the shocking attack on the St Francis Xavier Catholic Church on Pentecost Sunday that left so many dead. And nearly every day there seems to be another priest kidnapped or killed."

At the same time, the statement stated that there are so many across Nigeria, Muslims and Christians alike, who abhor the ongoing violence and want to live in peace with their brethren of other faiths as they have done for so long.

It observed that the Sultan of Sokoto is one of those men and thanked him for how he swiftly condemned these kinds of attacks, stressing that Christians and muslims would only build a stronger Nigeria that is able to tackle these urgent issues that are destroying the country from lack of security, accountability, and corruption, to conflicts between different peoples and faiths, to hunger and the economic situation, if religious leaders determine together to truly lead their people. According to the statement, that was why it was important for the Sultan and CAN to sign the 'Declaration for a Peaceful and Secure Nigeria', and to do so on the world stage of the desired of citizens live in harmony irrespective of any different.

It said the declaration signed lays out a number of principles that they believe all Nigerians can readily affirm as it states that all people are endowed by the Creator with inherent value and fundamental rights, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, culture, region or the many other differences that often divide them, and that the essential freedom and dignity of every person must be respected and protected for the sustenance of peace, unity and development.

Ayokunle said that they also pledged to demand that free and fair democratic elections should be conducted in peace and for the benefit of all Nigerians regardless of ethnicity, religion or geographical zone in the 2023 general elections.

## KADLGAM Advocates Citizens Participation As Panacea To Good Governance

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

A grassroots advocacy initiative group has advocated active participation by citizens in governance to effectively provide development through accountability as fastest way to good governance and provision of dividends of democracy at local level.

The call was made at a two-day workshop organized by a nonprofit organization, simply called Local Government Accountability Mechanism (KADLGAM) in Kaduna.

Yusuf Goje, a facilitator of LGAM, while reviewing level of progress made through engaging and enlightening citizens to hold Local Government officials on service

delivery and provision of dividends of democracy, charged citizens at grassroots to be active in engaging elected or appointed executives to ensure effective implementation and execution of community based projects.

Goje expressed sadness over passive and nonchalant nature of people at local level to pay due attention, participate and engage in the process of budget planning, execution and implementation, adding that such development would only create wide cleavage which needed to be bridged between policy government and the governed.

He however, expressed optimism in the level of progress made by LGAM since it began advocacy on

accountability by engaging policy makers and creating awareness amongst citizen on their roles and responsibilities in a representative democracy.

The good governance advocate listed medium term strategic plan framework, effective implementation of community engagement initiative and action points to ensure incorporation of the mechanism into Development Plan at Local Government as agenda for the workshop organized in partnership with UK Government and PERL.

"Our efforts and those of other advocates pursuing a similar cause have yielded fruits by ensuring more citizens' participation and engagement in Governance at local level

and open up the process of accountability and transparency by policy makers.

"We all can see how our effort in advocacy has paved the way for open governance, amendment of local government laws, policy bases budget, availability of planning and budget manual, LG transparency, accountability and sustainability plans among others," he disclosed.

He added that technical working group, consisting of 20 technocrats, 10 each from government and communities had been formulated through consistent advocacy by civil society and Community Development Charter, which he noted, would go a long way in ensuring accountability and service delivery at the grassroots.

## Flood: UNICEF, Red Cross Provide 5,000 Households In Kaduna with N175m Cash

By ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Nigeria Red Cross, have disbursed a total sum of N175m to 5,000 households in three LGAs in Kaduna as part of measure to mitigate flooding in 2022 raining season.

The 5,000 households who have been affected by flood along the Kaduna River, area in the last 10 years, were handed the sum of N35,000 each, to help them prepare for an anticipated flood as the water level of River Kaduna increases.

Beneficiaries of the cash transfer, under the Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) project in Kaduna State, were selected from six (6) flood prone communities of Narayi, Romi, Nasarawa, Kigo, Bashama and Kabala West in Chikun, Kaduna North and Kaduna South LGAs respectively, who either have had their property destroyed, or have their farms washed off by flood.

The breakdown for each community is as follows, Abubakar Kigo Road 1,000, Kabala West 796, Bashama Road, 807, Nassarawa 792, Romi 794 and Narayi 811, making 5,000 beneficiaries in total.

The SRSP is a pilot programme of UNICEF country office in Nigeria, International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), and the Nigerian Red Cross with European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) funding, in cooperation with the Red Cross affiliated Climate Center based in the Hague.

The Nigerian Red Cross, between May and June 2022, pre-identified the 5,000 households, meeting the climate vulnerability criteria according to a community targeting approach based on five (5) selection criteria, that is; pregnant and breastfeeding women; (women-headed households), children aged 0-5, (child-headed households), people with disabilities (sight, hearing, walking, intellectual impediment, e.g. amnesia, etc.) and the elderly (from 60 years of age) multidimensional poverty (based on income and assets).

The purpose of the cash is to enable vulnerable communities to have adequate financial resources to mitigate and respond to the effects of floods, thereby minimizing losses and reducing protection risks. Studies have found that assistance provided prior to the climate related shock event lasts longer. The early action and cash transfer prior to floods

will enable affected households to mitigate the impact of predicted floods in terms of maintaining and increasing food consumption; securing shelters; protecting assets; ensuring access to jerrycans, as well as to clean water, water purification solutions to avoid waterborne disease, and access to health-related provisions (medicines, transport for health facilities).

The objective is to avoid negative coping mechanisms, such as borrowing, exchanging sex for food or/and other necessities.

Addressing the beneficiaries at various payment locations, Sunday Awulu, Kaduna State, Coordinator of Red Cross, cautioned them not to use the funds for anything outside what they are meant for.

"This money is not meant for wedding ceremonies or buying expensive clothes or for organizing parties, not be shared with anyone, but strictly for you to mitigate the impact of the anticipated floods before the happen.

"Use it to establish small businesses, settle issues concerning your houses, erosion, clear your drainages. Use this money to really help yourself to address some of this areas so that when subsequent flood come it go a long way for you to cope. let's begin to intervene in advance so that when it happens the impact of it will be minimal. He added.

UNICEF Emergency Programme Specialist, Lucia Jofrice, urged the beneficiaries to prepare themselves adequately before and after the floods which is anticipated to come before the end of August, by gathering all their important documents in leather bag and keep it handy.

She advised the farmers to harvest their crops, store food and move to higher ground when they hear or notice that the water level is rising. Remember to carry children, the sick, the old and persons with disabilities as they move to safety. They should move to a safe place when they hear or notice an impending flood and that they should not walk on roads and bridges covered with water.

Lucia, Also cautioned them to be very careful when returning to their houses after a flood as it may still not be safe, but should ensure they verified information on floods from local authorities.

The beneficiaries thanked UNICEF and Red Cross for the humanitarian gesture, saying their hopes have been rekindled, promising they will use the funds judiciously.



HRM Oba Adekunle Makama Oyelude, Tegbosun III and Lt Gen TY Buratai (rtd)

## Buratai Bags Yoruba Chieftaincy Title

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Olowu of Kuta, HRM Oba Adekunle Makama Oyelude, Tegbosun III, has conferred the chieftaincy title of 'Are Balogun Agba' of Owu-Kuta Kingdom on former Chief of Army Staff and Nigeria's Ambassador to the Benin Republic, Lt Gen TY Buratai (rtd).

According to the letter of

conferment sighted by our correspondent, Olowu said, "Besides my long-standing excellent interpersonal relationship with you, your qualification as an icon worthy of being bestowed with High Chieftaincy title of Owu-Kuta is superlative.

Olowu explained that since he assumed the throne of his forefathers on the 15th of September 2012, he has developed three main

concerns as primary objectives in office, which include peaceful coexistence, socio-economic development and qualitative leadership.

He said, "Conferment of this title on you by the Owu Kingdom is further testimony to the fact that people appreciate what you have done and the ones you are still doing for the country. This long-earned title should further

reinvigorate you to do more for posterity.

"After due consultation with the Olowu-in-Council and the entire Royal Family, I hereby confer on you the High Chieftaincy title of, 'Are Balogun Agba' of 'Owu-Kuta' Kingdom.

"Please accept our congratulation with the highest royal esteem! The installation will take place at a later date."



Some of the orphans

## Things Rapidly Falling Apart At Dutse Orphanage Home

By; DAHIRU SULEIMAN, Dutse

Since the renovation of Dutse Orphanage Home in 2018 by the Staff Club of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Jigawa State Chapter under its corporate social responsibility, things have fallen apart in regards to proper patronage on the side of Jigawa State Government, a situation which calls for attention. Investigations by New Nigerian Newspapers reveals that poor patronage, absence of water and food supplies are least among the contributing factors leading to the collapse of Dutse orphanage home. Presently, the home which looks untidy is grossly out of foodstuff and

sufficient water supply for the orphans, as they only rely on volunteers with compassion, supplying them with what to eat, depending on one's capability. Supply of water among other cooking utensils are grossly inadequate, coupled with poor health facility in taking care of their illness. Malama Fatima Rabi'u who is the house keeper of Dutse Orphanage Home told our reporter that the home is on the verge of collapse due to poor patronage from the Jigawa State Government. "Honestly, if things continue without taking prompt action, I bet you, the Dutse Orphanage Home will soon collapse as we're living without enough food to feed the

orphans, no sufficient water supply, no beddings for our kids to sleep, and we are faced with acute shortage of mattresses for the orphans," she outlined. Other predicaments according to her, include scarcity of firewood for cooking of food for the orphans, no cooking oil, and recreation facility for the kids to entertain themselves. "Also, we are faced with shortage of manpower, as three personnel to care for hundreds of kids is grossly inadequate," she lamented. She further complained, saying, "since I volunteered to serve this orphanage home about four years ago, I wasn't given a penny either from the state government, nor Dutse Local Government

Council. I managed this home with the help of God out of my little savings and earnings being a private entrepreneur. "My appeal to the state government is that let them revive this home through supporting it with adequate foodstuff, medication, provision of enough water supply, and improve beddings and mattresses to cater for the orphans, as well as to give me offer of appointment for me to settle down to look after my home and family". All efforts to get in touch with either the Jigawa State Commissioner of Women Affairs and the Director Child Welfare Development for further comments proved abortive as none of their mobile phones were connecting.

## Undergraduate Lynched In Lagos: Relatives Say Victim Has Never Committed Crime

*\*Suffered from depression following prolonged ASUU strike*

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Following an exclusive report published by New Nigerian Newspapers online about the lynching of an undergraduate in Lagos, some community representatives paid a visit to our Lagos office on

Monday and cleared the air on some issues. Speaking on behalf of the relatives of the lynched young man, a community leader Morgan Stanley said that it was a case of mistaken identity. "It has come to our notice that one Dim Chigozie Charles who was lynched

in Ojo area of Lagos, published in your newspaper on 2nd of August, 2022 before his death was never involved in armed robbery," the relatives said. According to a leader in the community, he explained that the victim was depressed from long

strike by ASUU. "He left home only on the said day, only to be lynched by mob who mistook him for an armed robber. "He was innocent and has never been involved in any illegal activity while alive," he explained.

## 2023 Provides Nigerians Opportunity To Elect Credible Leaders - ADC DG Campaign, Abdul-Azeez Suleiman

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Director General, African Democratic Congress (ADC) campaign, Abdul-Azeez Suleiman, has observed that one of the most important aspects of the coming round of fresh elections in Nigeria is the possibility of deciding by popular vote on the person who will lead the country through and out of its current limitations around security and the economy.

In an acceptance speech to his appointment as the Director General of ADC campaign to the 2023 general elections, Abdul-Azeez Suleiman noted, "We are by now all aware of a resounding national clamour for a definite generational transfer of power whose immediate trigger is the serial misgovernance of a clearly bankrupt elite contrived on the back of the most gratuitous insults to justice and fairness, wrapped in the crude cover of crass political opportunism and breathtaking ineptitude."

He stated that the process that the African Democratic Congress (ADC), concluded, therefore, represents a celebration, more than a competition, for the laying of the foundations of the collapse of that citadel of poor governance, indifference, insensitivity and unprecedented plunder that characterize the previous administrations of an exploiter class that has monopolized the total available activity in the country since independence.

He stressed that it is also about the possibility of mobilizing the most populous and greatest Nigerian asset, its youth, to step up in a manner never seen in the political history, to close the unnecessary ethnic and religious divides and work to pull down the pillars of fascism erected by those whose greed for personal wealth and personal ambition remained tied to the continuation of decay and destruction of a nation and a people.

He added that it is about the possibility of Nigerian Muslims and Christians, the North and the South closing the religious and regional divides, awakened by the burden of the shared legacy of the crumbling old order in the general and pervasive insecurity being experienced across the land, and the deteriorating standards of living as politicians fleeced the poor of resources to develop.

"It is as well about the possibility of presenting an alternative for the poor, the young, deprived and depressed students of higher institutions and women to use in rejecting the tradition of lining up to receive handouts to abandon their future, and choose instead, to install a leadership that will make them more secure and provide their children with a productive future in 2023," he explained.

The African Democratic Congress (ADC), he observed is today the only alternative political party that offers the window for Nigerians to look to a future without constant threats; a future in which the young would get good education, acquire skills and get jobs; in which corruption will be arrested, contained and eliminated.

He stated that the party offers the opportunity for Nigerians to elect visionary leaders under whom they would celebrate an end of poor governance; to generations of leadership that run away from threats, and to leaders who remember the people only when they need voters.

The AD Director General said, "In 2023, Nigerian voters should therefore, trust the ADC to lead our nation through and out of its limitations, into a future in which we will live secure lives and pursue livelihoods in a united Nigeria whose resources will be protected by leaders.

"Accordingly, the ADC stands out as the only party that holds much promise for strengthening national unity and building up pillars of peace and security, development and human rights for the benefit of our peoples and our common home, Nigeria.

"I deeply appreciate the vote of confidence that the ADC Board of Trustees, National Executive Council and leaders and elders of party have placed in me to preside over its campaigns for the 2023 elections.

"I would like to congratulate the ADC Presidential candidate and the National executives and other organs of the party on their exemplary stewardship and perseverance that made it possible for the ADC to have come this far.

"I want to express my special thanks to Presidential candidate, Dumebi Kachikwu, and National Chairman, Ralph Nwosu for their commitment to the development and progress of the party.

"I appreciate the very generous expressions of support and confidence from my colleagues in the Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG) and other groups and associations in my beloved region of the North and from every region of the country. Here, I wish to reiterate my commitment to acting as an impartial, objective and open facilitator of the ADC global campaigns.



## Graduating Students: Kano Air Force Comprehensive School Holds 6th Commendation, Valedictory Service

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The Air Force Comprehensive School (AFCS), Kano Chapel has held a special commendation and valedictory service for the academy's outgoing students on Sunday in a colourful ceremony, witnessed by the school's management team and invited guests. In his speech, the school's commandant, Wing Commander M. Garba congratulated the outgoing students and charged them to be good ambassadors anywhere they find themselves in their lifetime.

He maintained that Kano

AFCS would continue to provide quality education to the younger generation, especially at present when the globe is changing rapidly, adding that education is a great tool for excellent livelihood.

Similarly, the father of the day, Mr. Yusuf Noel described AFCS Kano as one of the most formidable comprehensive academies established by the Nigerian Air Force, where quality education is given to the young ones at the grassroots level.

He advised the graduands to be precious products of the school

everywhere they find themselves and be obedient to their parents, guardians, relatives and work for the progress of Nigeria as their fatherland.

He commended the commandant, the vice principal administration and vice principal academics, as well as all the school instructors for their determination towards giving quality education to their kids.

In her remarks, the mother of the day, Mrs. Lilian E.O. Onyemehi stated that, "As a mother, I would be glad to see that our children obtain good and sound education from the

grassroots like what is being witnessed and enjoyed at AFCS Kano and I am happy that the commendation and valedictory ceremony was very colourful".

At the valedictory service, Bible reading, thanksgiving, songs ministrations and certificates presentation were done, while the occasion was well attended by special guests of honour, parents, guardians, graduands and other invited guests where a short drama was presented in order to encourage incumbent students to acquire sound education

## Lagos Teachers Honour Gbajabiamila For Education Intervention

By: IYOKPO J. EGBODO, Abuja

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila has been conferred with the award of the Outstanding Supporting Personality for Education Sector by the Lagos State wing of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT).

The award was in recognition of Gbajabiamila's efforts in supporting the education sector by attracting many projects that would better the sector among other interventions.

The Speaker was conferred with the award alongside other

personalities at the Lagos NUT first edition of its annual lectures and award series.

The edition, with the theme, 'Development Through Education - Learning and Livelihood', was held in Lagos at the weekend.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman of Lagos NUT, Comrade Akintoye Hassan, said Gbajabiamila and the other personalities were recognised and awarded for their support toward educating the populace, especially the children.

He said the event was a platform to advance the cause of education, promote critical

stakeholders' engagement and commitment and bring together thought leaders to ventilate ideas on the education sector.

Hassan noted that the essence of the theme was to provide an opportunity for senior government officials, academics, policymakers, investors and bankers, among others for intellectual and other interventions so as to bridge the gap of the falling education standard.

Other awards conferred at the event were the Noble award for Education Development on the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, in recognition of outstanding

provision and support to the education sector as well as the Outstanding Brand Support for Education Sector award on the Mainstreet Microfinance Bank in recognition of outstanding brand support to education.

There was also the Lifetime Leadership in Education conferred on Comrade Michael Alogba Olukoya in recognition of outstanding lifetime leadership in the education sector.

Gbajabiamila was represented at the event by Hon. Kabir Lawal Olajide of the Lagos State Service Commission.

## Borno APC Suspends Barrister Kumalia Over Alleged Anti Party Activities



Kumalia

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The All Progressives Congress (APC), Borno State Chapter has on Monday August 8, 2022, announced the suspension of its political stalwart and former member of Buhari Campaign Organization, Hon. Barrister Mohammed Umara Kumalia from the APC ruling party for alleged engagement in anti-party activities.

Kumalia was also 2007 AC Governorship Candidate and former Minority Leader of the House of Representatives at the National Assembly under the defunct ANPP before dumping the party to join Action Congress to contest Governorship election.

Then later, Kumalia dumped AC after failing the Governorship election to join PDP and later he also dumped the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to contest governorship election for the third time under the platform of the ruling party APC, but was defeated at the primaries by the incumbent governor, Professor Babagana Zulum in 2018 and later dragged the party, APC to court to challenge the election of Governor Babagana Umara Zulum at the polls.

The letter of the suspension of Hon. Barrister Mohammed Umara Kumalia which was made available to journalists' in Maiduguri on Monday, was jointly signed by the APC Ward Chairman, Alhaji Modu Gofama and the Secretary, Alhaji Mohammed Kagu of Limanti Ward, Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Branch of Borno State Chapter.

The suspension letter was

also addressed to Hon. Barrister Mohammed Umara Kumalia and reads, "Following the 2019 General Elections where you contested for the Governorship Primary Election in Borno State under the All Progressives Congress (APC) and lost vis a vis your subsequent activities towards the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its members in the Ward, Local Government and State. The Ward Working Committee of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Limanti Ward, Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Borno State has observed your following activities with dismay:

"1. That you instituted various actions against the party in the following courts contrary to Article 21 (2) (XI) of the APC Constitution 2022 as amended with the;

"a. Federal High Court Maiduguri: Suit No. FHC/MG/CS/8/2019.

b. Court of Appeal Jos Division: Appeal No. CA/J/174/2019 and

c. Supreme Court of Nigeria: Appeal No. SC/797/2019.

2. Consistent engagement in acts that are inimical to the party and other anti-party activities contrary to Article 21 (2) of the APC Constitution 2022 as amended.

3. Gross indiscipline towards the party contrary to Article 21 (2) of the APC Constitution 2022 as amended.

"In view of the foregoing, that you HON. BARR. MOHAMMED UMARA KUMALIA of the All Progressives Congress APC Limanti Ward, Maiduguri, Borno State is hereby suspended from the party forthwith. DATED THIS 8TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2022."

## Katsina Police Raids Terrorists Hideouts, Rescues 6 Kidnapped Victims

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command has raided terrorist's hideouts at Tandama village, Danja local government area in the state and rescued six kidnapped victims at the weekend.

A statement from the office of the

Commissioner of Police, Idrisu Dabban Dauda said, "on Saturday, August 6, 2022 at about 0530hrs, based on credible intelligence, the command succeeded in rescuing the following six kidnapped victims:-

Alhaji Garba Dan Mallam, 52 years of Unguwar Nuhu, Danja local

government area and Rabi Idris, 45 years of the same address.

"Others are:- Abba Samaila, 38 years of the same address; Yunusa Sani, 54 years of Layin Sani village, Kafur local government area; Ishaq Yakub, 40 years of the same address and Danjuma Samaila, 45 years of the same address."

# Nigerians Faced With Insecurity, Education Neglect, Unemployment, Unbalanced Economy - Labour Party Senatorial Candidate

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

**A** Southern Kaduna Senatorial candidate of the Labour Party (LP) Engr. (Dr.) Michael Ayuba Auta, has lamented that Nigerians are presently faced with security challenges, negligence of education sector, rise in unemployment, leading to youth agitation, un-balanced economy with weak currency and high inflation, among others.

According to him, time has come for Nigerians to rise up above religion, tribe, section in order to ensure credible leaders that would lift the country from its present predicaments to its promised land

Speaking at an "inter-faith sensitization of youth and women inclusion in governance" in Kaduna, he opined, "In 2015, the people of this great nation vehemently craved for change from a government thought to be too corrupt and wasteful, even though a few politicians of the PDP carried out their functions as lawmakers and members of the Executive. The opposition, APC, after preaching the change mantra, has not been the change the electorates and, the people desired for. This change has been damaged by security challenges, negligence of education sector, rise in unemployment, leading to youth agitation, un-balanced economy with weak currency and high inflation, among others."

He noted that it is no longer news that Kaduna state and Nigeria, at large, needs redeeming from its

present predicaments, misery and pain and thanked Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Jema'artu Nasir Islam (JNI) for coming together and aligning to kick away a combined twenty three years of appalling governance by the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) that has been damaged by untold hardship.

He stated that time has come for Nigerians to embrace a paradigm shift, a shift towards a party with the ideology to properly reposition the state and Country, embolden and duly engrave the name Nigeria on the map of the world.

He thanked the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria(CAN) and that of the Ja'amatu Nasir Islam (JNI) for coming together to exchange ideas on the way forward for Kaduna state and Nigeria, saying that at this time and age, people are sharply divided across religious and ethnic lines as the show of togetherness is medicine to sore eyes.

The Senatorial candidate called on Nigerians, particularly the youths and women to all propagate the message of moving away from the already tested and failed leadership, to a government that is liberal, all inclusive and economy-oriented, with the vision to move Nigeria forward from it's present state of anarchy and stand out great, in the comity of Nations.

According to him, "It is no longer news that our dear State - Kaduna and Nigeria, at large,

needs redeeming from its present predicaments, misery and pain and I must appreciate CAN and JNI for coming together and aligning to kick away a combined twenty three years of appalling governance by the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) that has been damaged by untold hardship and let us embrace a paradigm shift, a shift towards a party with the ideology to properly reposition the State and Country, embolden and duly engrave the name Nigeria on the map of the world.

"After coming into power in 1999, the leadership of the PDP tried to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people of Southern Kaduna but in spite of their efforts with pockets of achievement here and there, there is still a gaping gulf between what governance should be and what is obtainable.

"In 2015, the people of this great nation vehemently craved for change from a government thought to be too corrupt and wasteful, even though a few politicians of the PDP carried out their functions as lawmakers and members of the Executive. The opposition, APC, after preaching the change mantra, however, has not been the change the electorates and, the people desired for. This change has been damaged by security challenges, negligence of education sector, rise in unemployment, leading to youth agitation, un-balanced economy

with weak currency and high inflation, among others.

"However, credit and credence must be giving to a few outstanding leaders who happen to be members of the ruling APC. One of such dynamic leaders is the present

governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir Ahmed Elrufai. though, his infrastructural development is lopsided, with alot of companies like the textiles, ginger factory in Kachia, Kafanchan flour-mill and other factories rendered comatose.

"The call for youths and women inclusion in governance has not been this loud, forceful and more awareness been created from a group that has recently been neglected. In the past, we had the youth occupying political positions and managing them, without so much sweat. For example, Elrufai became an adviser at the presidency at 32, Senator Nenadi Usman, was a commissioner at 26, the late Isaah Balat, Ali Madaki, also in their twenties, Sen. Makarfi, Ramallan Yero and others, became commissioners in their twenties and thirties respectively. Today, we have retired men and women in their



60s and 70s, competing with the Youths for political position, which is totally unacceptable.

"Therefore, the, "Labour Party", stands out when it comes to bringing the women and youths, who constitutes about 60% of the voting strength, into political discuss and limelight, thereby, giving them a place at the leadership stage, to help proffer solutions to the major problems and challenges be-deviling our society, region, State and Country.

"Finally, it is imperative to appeal to everyone present here today, and those who are listening to this remarks or, who eventually read the text to continue to pray for our victory to come, so that we can all propagate the message of moving, away from the already tested and failed leadership, to a government that is liberal, all inclusive and economy-oriented, that is the Labour Party, with the vision to move Nigeria forward from it's present state of anarchy and stand out great, in the comity of nations."

## NDIC Renovate PHC In Kwara Community

By; BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

**T**he Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) has rehabilitated the Basic Health Care Centre at Lanwa in Moro Local Government Area of Kwara.

At the commissioning of the project, Mr Bello Hassan, the Managing Director of the NDIC, said the project was part of the corporate social responsibilities of the corporation, adding that it was among many of such projects being sponsored by NDIC across the country.

Hassan who was represented by Mr Chima Onyechere, the Zonal Controller, NDIC Ilorin explained that as far back as 1995, the corporation had instituted an endowment fund for several health institutions in the country and made generous donations through corporation's project-based funding scheme.

"This initiative is part of the corporation's pursuance of its corporate social responsibility to provide assistance in enhancement of the health sector, and to move the country forward," he said. Hassan observed that most of the basic

health institutions in Nigeria lacked functional infrastructure facilities, resulting in poor health standards.

He pointed out that against this background, it had become necessary for corporate organisations, other well meaning groups and individuals within and outside the country to assist the health institutions.

The NDIC boss emphasised on the important roles the corporation played in the country, adding that Deposit Insurance Scheme (DIS) had become key component of most financial systems worldwide.

"For over 25 years NDIC is charged with mandates of deposit protection, has remained active safety nets player in spite of many daunting challenges.

"Apart from guaranteeing bank deposits up to the limits permitted by law, the corporation has been involved in the supervision of insured institutions as well as resolving the problems of failing and failed financial institutions," he said.

In his remarks, Alhaji Issa Musa, the Officer in Charge of PHC Lanwa, commended NDIC for the humanitarian

services to the community.

He noted that the timely interventions of the corporation was a prayer answered as the healthcare centre was in a dilapidated state.

According to him, the health facilities service about 40 communities within Lanwa and that this gesture came at the right time.

"NDIC has done wonderful job of renovating the facilities and providing the necessary equipment and consumables needed.

"However, we still have the challenges of under staffing. We don't have nurses as I am the only qualified staff on ground, there are no lab technicians, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and doctors," he lamented.

Musa lamented that the health centre even lacked cleaners and night guards, while appealing to the state government to complement the job done by the NDIC by providing health workers and necessary drugs for the welfare of the citizens.

The Officer in charge of the facility also reminded the government of the dangerous and bad road network linking

many communities to Lanwa, while urging the government to reconstruct the roads for the development of the community and the state as a whole.

In his reaction, Dr Razi Razaq, Kwara Commissioner for Health, commended the corporation for the kind gesture, adding that state government alone could not take care of all the health needs of the citizens and solicited the contributions of all stakeholders.

Razaq, who was represented by Dr Stephen Arigidi, the Deputy Director of Medical Services and Training in the Ministry of Health, stated that Lanwa was an ancient railway community that served other surrounding communities with the basic health centre.

He assured that the government was committed to promoting the health of the citizenry as it had released counterpart funds for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF).

The commissioner disclosed that presently the state government had commenced the free medical, surgical interventions across the 16 local government areas of the state.

# Journalists Hail Ortom Over Community Volunteer Guards

By; IYOKPO J. EGBODO, Abuja

The Conference of Benue Journalists (CBJ), has described the launch of the Benue State security outfit, codenamed "Community Volunteer Guards" as a genuine step to fight terrorists and criminals wrecking havoc on the state CBJ in a statement on Monday August 8, 2022 by its Vice President, Mr. Ewache Ajefu said the action of the Benue State Government under the leadership of Governor Samuel Ortom was long over due, considering the number of lives and property that have been lost to the series of unprovoked attacks by Fulani militants and other terrorists.

"We are disturbed and disheartened by the latest figure of 5,000 lives lost to unprovoked attacks by terrorists on unarmed citizens in the state since 2011, as revealed recently by the governor. It is now becoming obvious as advocated in different quarters that Nigerians need to defend themselves. Every life matters," the statement said.



Gov Ortom

Vice President Ewache lamented that other forms of criminality were beginning to creep into the state due to the inability of the Federal Government to decisively address insecurity. According to Ewache, the launch of the security outfit was necessary at this time in order to protect the state against further unchallenged attacks. He said, "we understand that the new security outfit is in line with the Benue

State Vigilante Law of 2000, an extant legislation. What the state government has done is not different from the action of many states in the South West and South East where their citizens are exposed to similar frequent orchestrated attacks."

"CBJ therefore, urged the state government to deploy the 500 personnel of the outfit to volatile areas in the state in order to complement existing

government security agencies for the protection of lives and property.

"We are in total agreement with the state government's plans to increase the number of the personnel of the outfit to boost the security architecture of the 23 Local Government Areas significantly.

"We however, caution the wrong use of this new security outfit either for political gains or for self aggrandizement by any individual or groups," the statement said.

# Insecurity: Assert Yourself As Commander-in-Chief, Afenifere Tells Buhari

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Worried by the spate of insecurity across Nigeria, a Pan Yoruba socio political organization, Afenifere on Monday, called on President Muhammadu Buhari to brace up and assert himself in the area of protecting innocent Nigerians

The Pan Yoruba socio political organization in a statement by its National Publicly Secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi specifically asked President Buhari to demonstrate that he is still the Commander-in-Chief. Afenifere lamented that going by the rate at which insecurity is festering, it is as though there is no authority who could reign-

in the monster, adding, "the sitting President, retired General Muhammadu Buhari, is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, as such the person on whose shoulder the security and welfare of Nigerians squarely lie on".

Expressing serious worries and consternation on the level of insecurity in Nigeria and wondered if President Muhammadu Buhari is aware of the situation at all", the Pan Yoruba socio political organization noted "unfortunately, we have not seen veritable indications that the C-in-C is aware of the enormity of the situation or is putting up any strategy to arrest it."

"Equally important, President Muhammadu Buhari needs to come out

and let perpetrators of terrorism and kidnapping know that he has had enough. He should let them realize that the pact he signed with Nigerians was not to come and see to the serial termination of their lives but to ensure their security, improve their welfare and move the nation to a desirable next level", it said.

Afenifere added, "unfortunately, the President has not been able to deliver on any of the desirables. He only brought to the nation, the negatives which were far from the expectation of anybody."

"What Nigerians expect from the government is not sympathy but actions. Actions that will put a total end to the nightmare, indeed life-terminating

experiences they are going through presently!"

Afenifere while reiterating its position on the need to allow State Police and to properly take care of our security agencies generally, Afenifere maintained that the business of Nigerian President is not to 'grieve' for victims of terrorism but to ensure that terrorism, kidnapping and allied crimes do not occur at all in the country.

It concluded by calling on the President to demonstrate that he is still there as the Commander in Chief. Alternatively, he can delegate all the necessary authority to his Vice with whom he shared a joint ticket anyway – "especially given his earlier declaration that he was anxious for May 29, 2023 to come quickly".

# Kaduna Dep Gov Confident On Timely Completion Of TETfund Projects In State

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Acting Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Wednesday, expressed confidence in completing projects partnered with Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETfund).

She stated this when she received a delegation of the agency, led by its Kaduna Zonal Coordinator, Bilkisu Zangon-Daura on a courtesy visit.

Dr. Balarabe explained that, "Having the zonal office here in Kaduna gives us a lot of confidence that all the projects that we have started in collaboration with TETfund would be completed on time."

Balarabe commended the agency for the gesture and assured of support when the need arises.

In an interview with newsmen shortly after the visit, the Kaduna Zonal Coordinator, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETfund) Bilkisu Zangon-Daura assured that the Kaduna State University (KASU) would be one of the major beneficiary of this year's TETfund projects.

Zangon-Daura disclaimed speculations that the TETfund scholarship is only awarded to specific categories of people, elaborating that it is based on merit.

"Our scholarship there's a standing rule that says a school must send your name before we honour it and I believe from the VC in every school they have the list from what they told us and they follow the list no matter who you are, you would not get it unless the school sends your name."

# Accountability: LGAM Harps On Community Involvement In Budget Drafting, Execution, Implementation

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

In its quest to ensure development and quality service delivery at the grassroots, a non-profit organization known as Local Government Accountability Mechanism (LGAM), has renewed calls for citizen participation in the process of drafting, execution and implementation of budgets.

State facilitator of LGAM, Yusuf Goje made the call in a paper presentation at a workshop organized in collaboration with UK aid Agency and Partnership To Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) in Kaduna to strategize on working accountability mechanism to ensure provision of dividends of democracy in 23 local government areas of the state.

He stressed the need for effective implementation of development plan, capable of stimulating infrastructure development, transparency in governance and equitable spread of projects across Kaduna State.

Goje further emphasised the exigency of citizens at the grassroots, whom he noted as beneficiaries of government fiscal exercise to track and monitor projects in their communities to ensure completion and delivery of quality service.

"In a situation where citizens

are not active in deciding what they want provided for them by the government, we'll have an uneven spread of projects that have no impacts on lives of people.

"Public awareness must be strengthened at the grassroots level to educate citizens of their role and responsibilities in a democratic experiment like ours.

"Projects with immediate use and benefit to the community must be prioritized and provided for effective development and sustainable economic growth of the populace who should be number one preoccupation of elected officials," he said.

He however, expressed sadness over absence of local government autonomy, disclosing that it has limited the powers of elected officials at grassroots whom he noted, are the closest to communities, to fully take charge of affairs of their people and be held responsible for failure or success.

"The inability of local government chairmen to effectively deliver quality service to their people could be attributed to state governors excessive control of their resources which has made them lame ducks incapable of exerting powers of execution.

## IAR Reaches Out To Host Communities On Harmonious Coexistence

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

In its bid to foster community relations, the Management of the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Samaru, hosted traditional leaders within its enclave, to an interactive meeting to chart the way forward towards harmonious co-existence between the communities and the institute.

This was contained in a statement issued by the Communication Officer of the institute, Mr. Yakubu Dodo.

Speaking at the occasion, the Executive Director, Prof. Mohammad Faguji Ishiyaku said some of the current challenges of encroachment into the institute's research fields by nearby communities with attendant effect of theft and stray animals destroying researches being undertaken on the farms need to be addressed.

Prof. Faguji called on community leaders to enlighten their subjects on the need to control animals from nearby communities from straying into research fields and into university staff quarters.

He stressed the importance of preserving research fields from external factors that could negatively impact on the desired tangible results that would be beneficial to the institute, the university, host communities and the nation in general.

The executive director lauded the already existing mutual cooperation between the university community and its immediate host communities.

Prof. Ishiyaku said, "the role of education is not only liberating people, but also of the mind, such that we do not breed a generation of educated illiterates who misbehave

at will but have capacity for solving human problems".

In his remarks, the University Chief Security Officer (CSO), Alhaji Ashiru Zango stressed the need for ABU host communities to ensure a sustained harmonious cooperation with the university as the gateway to fostering unity.

Alhaji Ashiru frowned at communities which still allow their animals to roam and stray into the university's academic areas and quarters.

The CSO warned that serious penalties would be imposed on the offenders and urged community leaders to ensure their subjects comply to the terms of mutual co-existence with the university authority.

Responding on behalf of his colleagues, Alh Dauda Abubakar (Sarkin Samaru), who also represented the District Head of Basawa, Alhaji Muhammad Munir Ja'afaru expressed delight with the recognition accorded the traditional institution by the Institute and the university.

He pledged their unalloyed support to the institution by reaching out to their subjects in areas of need.

"This outreach programme embarked upon by the Institute for Agricultural Research Samaru, is commendable for mutual understanding between government institutions and their host communities to avoid acrimony.

"A peaceful environment is a critical driver for scientific and economic development of society," he said.

IAR is one of the agricultural research institutes under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria with a hundred years of research in agriculture.

## Tinubu's Muslim-Muslim Ticket: Alao Talks Tough, Tells Critics To Mind Utterances

*\*Cautions Senator Abbo*

*\*Says Tinubu-Shettima ticket is what Nigeria needs*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Frontline chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), in Oyo State, Engineer Oyedele Hakeem Alao on Monday, cautioned political leaders to mind their utterances on the APC Muslim-Muslim Presidential ticket.

Engineer Alao in a statement, berated Senator Ishaku Abbo representing Adamawa North Senatorial District over a purported post on his verified social media handles that anyone in the APC that is supporting the choice of Senator Kashim Shetima, a Muslim as the running mate of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, a Muslim, the presidential candidate of the party for the 2023 general election, is a potential Boko Haram

member.

The APC Chieftain while describing the said comments as unfortunate, stressed that the adoption of a Muslim-Muslim ticket by the APC should not be an excuse for them to overheat the polity and set the country on fire.

Accusing Senator Abbo of playing to the gallery by describing those supporting Tinubu/Shettima ticket as Boko Haram members, Engineer Alao said those that are opposed to the ticket should make do with all the channels in the party to iron out their grievances.

"The comment by Senator Abbo is quite unfortunate, coming especially from a leader of APC and a serving Senator for that matter. I can only appeal to people like him to focus on

things that would unite, rather than what would lead to the disintegration of the country," he said.

Engineer Alao added, "For him to tag members who are in support of Tinubu/Shettima ticket as Boko Haram members is uncalled for because politics should not be about religion but competence of those to be elected".

"The ticket is a Nigerian project not a sectional agenda which must be supported by all. I have no doubt in my mind that the ticket would not disappoint Nigerians if elected as the two candidates have all it takes to move the country forward."

He maintained that the time has come for every Nigerian to shun tendency that promotes disunity as

the country cannot afford this now, noting that divisive tendencies should not be a tradition in the nation's polity.

Engineer Alao emphasized that the Tinubu-Shettima ticket represents the leadership that Nigeria needs now as the duo who were former governors have the experience behind them, insisting that they will definitely offer solution to the very many problems facing the country.

The APC Chieftain stressed that the ticket should not be seen as an imposition but an outcome of democracy at its practical best and not to slight Christians, noting that Asiwaju Tinubu would be fair to all irrespective of tribe and religion as he has demonstrated this in the past.



## EFCC Arrests 3 Internet Fraud Suspects At Ilorin International Airport

By: BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO

As part of its renewed onslaught against corruption and illegal movement of cash through the nation's airports, operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission, EFCC have arrested three internet fraud suspects at the Ilorin International Airport.

They are, Olawale Ipadeola, Opeyemi Badmus and Wasiu Babatunde.

The suspects were arrested on Monday morning, August 8, 2022 except for Wasiu whose arrest happened on

Saturday, August 6, 2022 following actionable intelligence.

Two of the suspects (Olawale and Opeyemi), who flew in from Lagos landed at the Ilorin airport around 1156hours on the waiting hands of the eagle-eyed operatives of the EFCC at the airport.

Preliminary investigations about their activities have shown that

the suspects possessed several fraudulent documents on the devices. Upon interrogation, the suspects confessed to the crime and admitted ownership of different brands of phones and laptops recovered from them at the point of arrest. The suspects will be charged to court upon the conclusion of the ongoing investigations.

# Scholars, Researchers, Students Brainstorm On Dentistry Practice In Nigeria

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Scholars, researchers, stakeholders and students converged at the BOOC Conference Hall of the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife to mark the 16th Annual Faculty of Dentistry Conference and the 50th Anniversary of the College of Health Sciences, of the university.

Speaking at the conference tagged, "Dentistry Without Borders", the Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Prof. Morenike Ukpong disclosed that the Faculty of Dentistry of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife as a trailblazer was the first and only University in Nigeria to organize a Faculty Conference.

Prof Ukpong stressed that this was over two decades ago under the leadership of the immediate past Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Eytipe Ogunbodede when he was the acting Dean of the Faculty in 2001.

According to the Dean, "Prof. Ogunbodede learnt the strength and values such conferences can bring to health systems development during his stay in South Africa. And he replicated that here in OAU, Ile-Ife while His singular effort has led to the replication of Faculty Conferences within the

University and in other institutions in Nigeria, it is one of the exemplary leadership that can come from the Faculty".

The Keynote Speaker, Mr Leke Alder in his presentation on the topic "The Awesome Treasures in Dentistry", highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship in ones chosen profession, saying, "Self-esteem is very important in the game of success. Develop self-esteem. Nobody is going to give you self-esteem, you give yourself".

According to the brand specialist and principal, Alder consulting, "that you graduated from the school of dentistry doesn't mean you automatically acquired a certificate in entrepreneurial competences. Business is another thing entirely".

"If you want to succeed in business, you have to learn how to recognize opportunities. Learn how to take initiatives, learn how to network, to formulate vision, develop strategies, define your mission, iterate your corporate objectives, master your branding and flesh out your values", he said.

Mr Alder added, "you must know how to hire. Some people are better off in a partnership than on their own. If you are

going to go into business, at least draw a plan. A dental practice is a business where there are so many business plans available on the internet. I bet you will find one for dental practice. You will

need to learn how to build an administrative structure, learn to manage your cash flow, how to market your service. The idea is to reduce the possibility of failure".

Professor of African Religious Tradition and American Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, USA; Prof. Jacob Olupona lamented that unemployment rate in Nigeria is worrisome", saying, "we have a crisis in Nigeria, we have people carrying certificates up all around. They have no job to do. It is not their fault; it is the systems that has failed them. So, those of us who are responsible



Dr Olaniyi Arowolo; Prof Simeon Banire; Prof Morenike Oluwatoyin Ukpong; Prof Eytipe Ogunbodede; Dr Fadeju Dada; Dr Elizabeth Oziegbe; Mr Sikiru Lawal

for this learning process must begin to think about how best we can help those students".

"The kind of social revolution we need is not using coups or using guns but cultural revolution, so that we begin to know when people are deceiving us and telling us stories and lies".

Another speaker, Prof. Adisa Ogunfolakan, a Professor of Archaeology, while frowning at the lack of record keeping of teeth that has been removed by Dentists in Nigeria so as to proffer solutions to problems associated with teeth" said, "no record keeping on teeth that have been removed by Dentists in the

past generations to see the nutritional changes. Dentists must work with historians; doing this will help to generate data for action plans".

The Vice Chancellor of the University and the Chief host, Prof. Adebayo Simeon Banire applauded the initiatives of the organizers in taking the bull by the horn", saying, "the "Conference is to take proper initiatives with sole purpose of achieving positive landmarks. This is a conference that bothers on cutting frontiers and open to new areas. Cutting frontiers in the area of research and practice from all vices that is not in line with the University regulations".

## North East Development Commission Embarks On Youth Jobs Creation

By: MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi

The North East Development Commission (NEDC) has assured that job creation which is part of its mandate will be aggressively pursued while absorbing gradually the vast number of unemployed graduates roaming the streets without white-colour jobs to fend for a living

To this end, the commission is now fully committed to training of the jobless graduates on how to fabricate energy efficient stoves which it described as environmentally friendly stoves that are globally accepted

The job creation assurance came from the commission managing director, Mohammed G. Alkali Monday while declaring opened a week-long training for artisans and scavengers on efficient stoves and briquette production from agricultural/ domestic waste in Bauchi.

The Managing Director who was represented by the Head of Waste to Wealth Program, Adamu Lawan, explained the model was initially adopted India, and the trainer was sometimes ago in Kenya where he emerged the best in West Africa for the fabrication of the model.

Alkali disclosed that the trainees after completion would be fabricating the model for sale to the public to earn a living, saying this is what prompted the commission to adopt the training.

He explained that most of the stoves being in use emit carbon monoxide which makes it friendly, as it has also been tested and found not prone to health hazards and would not negatively impact on the environment.

Alkali revealed that the commission selected five participants from each of the six states in the sub-region, and urged the training participants to be very serious in learning how to fabricate because, as he stated, they should take it as a rare opportunity having been selected from thousands of jobless.

"At the end of the training, we are going to empower them, we are going to give them starter packs, so from here if they do very well we can replicate, may be before the end of this year, we can do with more participants from the states in the geo-political zone".

He recalled that the humanitarian crisis in Northeast Nigeria spread over time and the commission has been making frantic effort of providing relief and robust lifesaving assistances alongside the National and State Government to vulnerable persons in the following six states; Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe.

"In view of the willingness of the affected population to voluntarily return to their ancestral community, there is a need to build the capacity of individuals in areas/skills of utmost value which could preserve their deserted environment and provide the teaming population with livelihood opportunities through production of briquettes (cooking energy) from renewable sources which are readily and sustainably available in the various communities".

The managing director pointed out that the orientation and capacity building training is targeted to revive economic activities and to build the skills and

innovative capacity of selected persons to produce briquettes (cooking energy) from readily available biodegradable raw materials in their community.

The objective of the consultancy is to build the capacity of motivated but unskillful youths practicing charcoal and firewood sellers, as the training will cover several topics/techniques of production of carbonized briquettes from different raw materials, as well as develop or adapt a training modules and manual on briquettes production using improved technology (Mechanized methods with diesel operated engine).

Also speaking, the consultant to the commission, Engr. Saleh Yakmut further explained that the training is on the fabrication of energy stoves and production of crickets from agricultural land domestically.

"The good thing is that these energy efficient stoves have been improved and modernized and they are called the greenlight efficient stoves, and every material hundred percent is locally available and locally sourced, so we won't have problem with materials at all".

Yakmut said the commission sought it wise to take directional approach towards enhancing livelihood of women and youths in the Northeast, saying, it is not just about an environment friendly stoves, but also about an environment friendly fuel, meaning an efficient stove not just using an efficient fuel but an alternative, renewable, available and sustainable fuel.

"Meaning that the fuel is going to be gotten from our rice source, sugarcane

source, groundnut shelve, coconut shelve, sawdust, and so forth, so every available waste from the farm and the house is a potential raw material for the fuel, so there is going to be no more cutting trees".

The consultant said however that the better part of it is that the commission has come at the best time because, as he puts it, "Now the World is turning into alternatives and renewables and thus what we are doing, and I assure you that what participants are going to be learning is not just theory, is what we have been doing at Expedient Global Vision Ltd, Clean Climate Ltd, and Africa Expedience, for the past seven years".

Yakmut revealed that right now they were producing 27, 000 bags (about 1, 500 tons) for Borno state in collaboration with an NGO, and already have a standing order from Belgium for 15, 000 container loads, and another order from France for fuel production.

"I was in France January 2020 to discuss renewable energy sources, the North East has the highest available potential raw materials for renewable fuel, and remember we did not have forest in the North East, so that means that we are making up with our forest and our waste. The stove is not just any other stove, is an award winning stove, it won the best innovated invention in 2011 Exhibition of the International Federation of investors and Innovators Exhibition, and that was the reason why I was lucky to be sent by the then administration to Poland University of Agriculture to be trained in how to convert and process every kind of solid municipal waste into fuel".

## Oyo Police Arrests Alleged Killer Of 73-yr Old Creditor, 8 Other Suspected Criminals

By; BAYO AKAMO Ibadan

Nine suspected criminals, including a man alleged of killing his 73 years old creditor, were on Monday paraded by the Oyo State Police Command.

This was made known during a briefing in Ibadan at the Oyo State Police Command headquarters, by the Command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Adewale Osifeso on behalf of the state Commissioner of Police, CP Adewale Williams. He disclosed that, "on 9th June, 2022 at about 10:45hrs one Adesope Adeolu reported at Eleyele Divisional Police Headquarters that on same date at about 0900hrs he noticed that his neighbour's entrance door was opened which was unusual".

According to SP Osifeso,

Adeolu Adesope stated that, "on further enquiry, he found his neighbour one Olusegun Rufus dead in his living room in his pool of blood", adding, "based on further investigation and credible intelligence, one Mutiu Idowu was arrested and confessed to have killed the deceased in order not to pay the money he loaned from the deceased".

The PPRO pointed out that, "the vehicle that he used as collateral for the loan which he stole after the murder of the deceased, has also been recovered, the suspect will be charged to court at the conclusion of the investigations.

On the other eight suspects, SP Osifeso declared that they were arrested for alleged human trafficking, conspiracy and stealing.

Also, other suspected

criminals paraded by the police during the briefing, included Olakigbe Jonathan, Adams Mudasiru, Moses Adeyemo, Salami Isiaka, Wasiu Adeleke, Olowookere Joshua.

SP Osifeso stressed that Olakigbe Jonathan was paraded for human trafficking, while Adams Mudasiru, Moses Adeyemo, Salami Isiaka and Wasiu Adeleke were paraded for case of conspiracy and stealing. He listed the exhibits recovered from the suspects as one unregistered Lexus ES 300 car Ash colour, and a pepper spray.

Speaking with journalists at the briefing, Mutiu Idowu confessed to killing the 73 years old man, saying, "I was provoked when he (deceased) refused to collect part of the loan from me, days before the incident, I

approached him to give me loan and he gave me, but few days after, I approached him to give him part of the money I collected from him without interest so I can collect my car that I used as collateral for the loan, but the man refused and that got me annoyed and I only pushed him, and before I could say anything he hit his head with wall and that led to his death", he said. The suspect added, "I only use the Pepper Spray (teargas spray) on him, before pushing him, I don't kill him with any object, I was annoyed with his action for rejecting part of the money and I only pushed him, and I hurriedly left with my car when I discovered that he has gone to the world beyond, I actually regret my actions, and I plead for mercy from the authority."

## Kwara Gov Greets Olofa Of Offa At 59

By; BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has congratulated the Olofa of Offa Oba Mufutau Muhammed Gbadamosi Esuwoye II on his 59th birthday anniversary, describing his reign as hugely impactful and fruitful for the Offa community and beyond. This was contained in a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Rafiu Ajakaye, dated August 10, 2022.

"I send our felicitations to His Royal Majesty the Olofa of Offa on his 59th birthday anniversary today. May Almighty Allah grant His Royal Majesty good health and long life on the stool of his forbears. I join sons and daughters of Offa, and the

entire state, to commend his resourcefulness, statesmanship, his personal investments in ensuring that his community continues to stand out for good things, his commitment to socio-cultural and economic growth of the ancient town, as well as his support for the government's peace and developmental efforts in the state," the Governor said in a statement.

The Governor urges the first class monarch to continue to lead the initiatives for development and peace in Offa, saying posterity will judge him right as he continues to bring honour and class to the stool of his forebears.

Governor AbdulRazaq prays Allah to grant His Royal Majesty more peaceful reign in good health.

## Insecurity: Suspected Armed Robbers Arrested In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Police Command on Tuesday, arrested a two-man armed robbery gang that has been terrorising the state with a Toyota Lexus car and other weapons.

The command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Chris Anyanwu disclosed this in a statement signed and made available to journalists in Abakaliki.

According to the statement, the armed robbery suspects were arrested by Police security men through a coordinated effort with a team of soldiers at the boundary area of Onunwakpu in Izzi Local Government Area.

The statement reads in parts, "On August 6, the duo waylaid one Paul Kelechi, a 26-year old man, residing at No 3 Ominyi Street, Aguogboriga, Abakaliki. "As Kelechi drove into his compound. The hoodlums, armed with two shot guns, beat and tied him up, after which

they zoomed off with his LEXUS ES 330 Saloon car with Reg No. ENU 772 MM.

"As soon as the information got to the Police Command, all Tactical teams and Divisions within the metro were alerted and the suspects were tracked and pursued up to Ukwuakpu village, in Izzi.

"In Izzi, they were eventually stopped by soldiers within All Saints' Catholic Church, Ukwuakpu.

It was gathered that the hoodlums ran into the nearby bush when they sighted those security men. In a bid to assist police to arrest all of them, the villagers came out in their numbers and joined the Police and soldiers in combing the bushes to track them down.

"Luckily, the duo, Ugo Ogbonna, 27, an indigene of Amachi Izzi, residing at Okpodo in Awka Anambra and Joseph Emeka 30, native of Iboko Izzi Ebonyi State but residing at Mbuk, Ogoja, Cross River, were arrested," the statement explained.



The suspects including a man alleged of killing his 73 years old creditor, were paraded by the Oyo State Police Command.

## Kwara Gov mourns Saduki Lafiagi, commiserates with family

By; BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has condemned the killing of Alhaji Muhammed Kudu (FCNA) reportedly in a gun attack between old Lapai and Lambata area of Niger State, describing the death of the FIRS top official as unfortunate.

He expressed this in a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Rafiu Ajakaye, dated Monday August 8, 2022.

"With total submission to the will of God, I send my heartfelt condolences to the people of Lafiagi Emirate, His Royal Highness the Emir of Lafiagi Alhaji Mohammed Kudu Kawu, and the immediate family of Saduki Lafiagi on this sad development. It is one tragedy too

many. We are again renewing our calls on the security agencies to not spare any efforts to take out the daredevils who continue to terrorise and waste innocent lives under whatever guise," the Governor said in a statement on Monday.

"We pray Allah to bring comfort to the family of Alhaji Kudu at this moment and always. We pray Allah to grant us peace and security."

## 2023: Asake Emerges Labour party Governorship Candidate In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Comrade Jonathan Asake and Bashir Idris Aliyu, have emerged the gubernatorial candidate and running mate of the Labour Party (LP) in Kaduna State in the 2023 general elections.

In a substitution primary of the governorship primary of the party that took place in Kaduna on Tuesday, the other governorship candidate, Shunom Adinga, stepped down for Comrade Jonathan Asake and the delegates from the 23 local government areas of the party, unanimously endorsed Comrade Asake as the gubernatorial candidate of the party in the 2023 general elections in the state.

The substitution primary means that the electoral act provides that at any

given time primaries have taken place which the labour party has done that in the state, that any candidate can decide to withdraw and is not willing to continue, then the party can organise another primary, which the Labour Party has done. The governorship primary which took place in the presence of a team from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) led by Dahiru Mohammed, Shunom Adinga said he stepped down from his aspiration for the unity and progress of the party, saying that as a family that desires qualitative leadership in Kaduna State, there is the need for party members to rally round each other for the emancipation of the state from the present insecurity, division and other challenges bedeviling the state.

In accepting to lead the party in the governorship election in 2023, Comrade Jonathan Asake noted that the stepping down of the contestant is an indication of the desire to form a government of unity, a government of stepping down personal, in the interest of the general public, stressing that all that is needed is to have men and women of courageous character that will put their interests below the general interest of the state or country.

He added, "If we have that, we will have good governance, unity among the people. Nobody will be talking about marginalization of tribe, religion, section or region. When leaders come on board and don't have what to offer, they only come to pursue their individual interests, then, they begin

to hide under the cover of religion, tribe or section or region, that is what we don't want because we want leaders that will come and ensure inclusiveness in governance, show justice to everybody, fairness to everybody and when a leader does that, there will be no problem in the state or country."

The Labour Party governorship candidate observed that Kaduna state had experienced a lot of destruction of lives and properties, saying that the state needed a leader of courage to immediately do something that would give the people hope of living by embracing all irrespective of any different in the provision of social amenities for the rapid development and restoration of the state to what it was known for.



## Kaduna NANNM Chairman Escapes Being Kidnapped

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman Kaduna State Council of National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), Comrade Ishaku Yakubu has escaped being kidnapped on his way back from Abuja on Wednesday evening around Rido area.

According to the Secretary of NANNM Kaduna State Council, Comrade Christiana John Bawa, bullets from the suspected kidnappers hit the passenger front seat of the vehicle.

She thanked God almighty for saving the life of the chairman who escaped unhurt.



## New Depot Nigerian Army Comdt Assumes Office

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

In line with the recent posting of senior Officers by Headquarters, Nigerian Army Department of Military Secretary, Major General Peter Paturmala Malla has assumed command as the 36th Commandant of Depot Nigerian Army, Zaria.

A statement issued by the Assistant Director Army Public Relations, Depot Nigerian Army, Captain Dauda Iliya said the handing and taking

over ceremony was held at the Headquarters, Depot Nigerian Army, Chindit Cantonment, Zaria.

Major General Malla appreciated the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt General Faruk Yahaya for the rare privilege afforded him in piloting the affairs of Depot NA for the foreseeable future.

He urged personnel to be professional and dependable material managers in moving Depot NA to an enviable height.

Major General Malla also averred that officers and men of the Institution must sustain the Depot's status of producing manpower for the Nigerian Army in defence of Nigeria's territorial integrity.

In his farewell address, the outgoing Commandant Depot Nigerian Army, Maj Gen Aminu Shehu Chinade, who has been redeployed as the new General Officer Commanding 2 Division Nigerian Army,

appreciated the COAS for granting him the opportunity to have served as the Commandant Depot Nigerian Army Zaria.

Maj Gen Chinade also urged the personnel to give the new Commandant support and cooperation required to ensure further successes. Highpoint of the occasion was the signing of handing and taking over notes, inspection of quarter guard, handing and taking over of Depot flag.

## SAED: NYSC Assures Providing Start Up Capital To Interested Corps Members

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has reassured of its commitment to partner with financial institutions to provide start-up loans for corps members interested in venturing into business.

The Director-General of NYSC, Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Fadah, said this during the closing ceremony of the 2022 Batch 'B' Stream Two orientation course at NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, Ikot Itie Udung in Nsit Atai Local Government Area of the state on Tuesday.

Fadah, who was represented by State Coordinator, Mrs Chinyere Ekwe, said that the effort would boost self-reliance and encourage corps members to contribute immensely to the economy.

He commended corps members for their commitment to the entrepreneurial training conducted in camp under the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme.

He encouraged members

to build on the skills acquired by availing themselves of post-camp training opportunities to be self-employed.

"On our part, we are liaising with financial institutions and other stakeholders with a view to providing start-up loans to enable you to actualise your business dreams.

"I wish to assure you that management will continue to explore avenues for optimising the impact of the programme," Fadah said.

The DG warned corps members against using social media to promote hatred, advising that they should rather the platform to promote unity, peace, and prosperity of the nation.

He admonished corps members to be security conscious at all times and urged employers to accept and make the necessary provisions for the corpers' welfare.

"I also call on other stakeholders, including state and local government authorities, as well as traditional rulers to give the necessary encouragement to the youth corps members," he said.

## Gov Bala Raises Alarm Over Alleged Militants Recruitment By APC In Bauchi

By; MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi

Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has vehemently reacted to the alleged recruitment of 1,000 militants and political thugs by the All Progressives Congress (APC) gubernatorial candidate, Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar (rtd) in the state ahead of the general elections aimed at disrupting the political process. Mohammed in a statement issued on Tuesday by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mukhtar Gidado, said the matter should be of grave concern to anybody with a keen interest in the development of Bauchi state and the overall security of Nigeria. Quoting a security signal it has assessed and an unnamed colonel in the vanguard, Sahara Reporters alleged that "Sadique and the APC had recruited over 1000 foot soldiers with arms to destabilize parts of the state perceived as opponent's stronghold".

"We are not concerned by the lamentations contained in the story of unnamed APC stalwarts who appear to have been shortchanged during the primaries of the party as that is their internal affair. However, against the backdrop of the deteriorating security situation in the country, any responsible Government will be alarmed by this disclosure which, if true, portends a grave danger not only for Bauchi State but also the country at large", he said.

According to him, the government note with concern that the sudden escalation in violent crimes characterized by kidnappings, banditry and other vices, in certain parts of the state, seem to fall in place with the allegations contained in the Sahara Reporters story.

Governor Bala argued that during this period, places like Sabon Gari, Garin Sambo, Digare, Mansur and Shafan Duguri in Alkaleri Local Government. Boto and Tudun Wadan Malima in Tafawa Balewa Local Government. Sabon Garin Na Rabi and Gumau in Toro Local Government. Bura in Ningi Local Government have witnessed increased security threats and actual breaches.

He explained that the state government has been stretched to the limits as it battles what to all intents and purposes, is a well-orchestrated chains of crime

and criminality, designed to distract it from its developmental goals.

"We shudder to imagine that any responsible and patriotic individual or organization would, willy-nilly, promote violence against its people, more so when, as alleged by Sahara Reporters, the entities involved actually aspire to lead the state"

"It raises the question: Do they aspire to rule over the dead? Though we have heard allegations of violence and insecurity instigated by people in authority, we cannot imagine anyone shooting his way to power, in a democracy".

"Perhaps that is the crux of the matter, some people are yet to come to terms with the democratic ethos that are being installed in the country", Bala stated, observing that power-hungry persons cannot understand the sustained and painstaking effort at democratization and people-empowerment that have endeared his administration to the vast majority of the Bauchi people.

"People in the state are shocked that, despite orchestrated campaigns of calumny, Bala Mohammed's popularity continues to soar as demonstrated by the desertions from other parties to the PDP, with the APC suffering the most biting exodus"

"Despite the eye-opening Sahara Reporters story, the Bala Mohammed Administration wishes to assure the good people of Bauchi State that it will remain focused on delivering the dividends of democracy that, for several years before 2019, had eluded the peace-loving people of the state".

Governor Bala therefore advised law-abiding citizens of the state to go about their legitimate duties, and called on the security agencies and Mr. President to cause a thorough investigation of the ominous allegations by Sahara Reporters against the APC and its gubernatorial candidate in Bauchi State, Air Marshal Abubakar Sadique (rtd).

"It should not be overstated that, the plan to foist an extra-constitutional and quasi-military organ on the state, for the purpose of electoral advantage, can only lead to a total breakdown of law and order, with dire and unfathomable consequences for our dear country in general and Bauchi state in particular", he concluded.

## Taraba Govt Empowers 77,306 Women With Skills, Funds



By; NICHOLAS DEKERA, Kaduna

The Taraba Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development through Nigeria for Women Project on Wednesday, said that it has empowered 77,306 women with skills and funds to better their fortunes.

Commissioner in the ministry, Mrs Bridget Twar disclosed this at a meeting with a visiting team from the national office of the project in Jalingo.

According to her, the five-year project had tremendously improved the lives of the beneficiaries across the three implementing local

government councils of Bali, Takum and Zing so far, and that of other community members who have been engaged as ward facilitators.

"Currently, Taraba has a total of 3,252 Women Affinity Groups (WAGs) and 155 community residents engaged as Balefoot Business Councillors (BBC) who are all benefiting from the project.

"The project reach in the state covers 652 communities and more as the staff are working tirelessly to ensure full coverage of the remaining areas.

"Let me also make mention that the project set out to reach a target of

54, 000 women however, Taraba exceeded this target reaching 77,306 beneficiaries."

She commended Governor Darius Ishaku for ensuring that Taraba is among the first six pilot states implementing the project.

Twar explained that plans are on the way to expand the project to all the 16 local government councils of the state.

Earlier, Mr Isaac Yarafa, the State Programme Coordinator (SPC) in a press conference, said the Nigeria for Women Project is aimed at supporting improved livelihood of women from 18 years and above in targeted areas of Nigeria.

According to him, the project seeks to empower women in the country to make significant contributions to household, community and national economic growth.

Yarafa, who named the pilot states as Akwa-Ibom, Abia, Kebbi, Niger, Ogun and Taraba, explained that the project is a loan from World Bank to the implementing states with the Federal Government as the guarantor.

Mrs Adesola Oyawoye, the Head of Operations and Communications Specialist for the project, sought cooperation from the media to ensure success and sustainability of the laudable project.

## Nigerian Railway Cuts Number of Lagos-Ibadan Train Services Due to High Cost of Diesel

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has reduced the number of Lagos-Ibadan train services to two daily due to high cost of diesel.

Prior to the development, it was operating six trips daily.

Stressing that the development will affect the revenue drive of NRC,

Managing Director of the corporation, Engr. Fidets Okhiria, said that despite the rising cost of

operations, it is outside the power of the corporation to increase train fare.

The railway sector contributed six billion Naira revenue last year, as gathered from news monitored in Lagos.



# Consumer Promo: Dangote Cement's Decision To Give Out N1bn To Customers Intact

*\*Six customers win N1m each in Lagos*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Six consumers of Dangote Cement on Wednesday, emerged the first set of millionaires in Lagos with the company presenting them with their winnings amidst pomp and pageantry in its ongoing "Bag of Goodies Season 3" National Consumer Promotion. Several other also won prizes such as television sets, fridges, standing fans and generators with a charge on them to continue their patronage to stand the chance of winning the star prize of N5 million.

It would be recalled that three lucky Dangote Cement consumers were also presented with one-million-Naira cheques each even as many others won various prizes and millions of airtime gifts in Ibadan last week. The Pan-Africa Cement manufacturer had weeks ago unveiled a Spell Dangote and Become Millionaires in a season 3 of it Bag of Goodies National Consumer promo, in Lagos during which the Company announced that 500 consumers would win a million naira each while another 100 would win N5million Naira within four months.

National Sales Director, Dangote Cement, Mrs. Funmi Sanni explained that Dangote Cement as a customer caring organization considered no amount as too much to splash on its customers because they are the reason for the existence of the organization.

"We value our customers, they are the reason for our being in business. Apart from the fact that we produce the best quality cement in the industry, we are even the most caring cement company in the industry.

"We are also the cement company with highest number of variety of cement for various application. Our cement is such that when you use our variety for plastering, you may not think of painting the surface again because it is very smooth and colourful and only Dangote can produce that", Mrs Sanni stated. She said just as she had explained elsewhere the promo was deliberately planned for this period to help the Dangote Cement customers and consumers because of the hard times brought upon businesses by the Covid-19 disruptions.

While congratulating the winners, Mrs. Sanni said the promo was aimed at giving back to consumers who have been the company's pillar of support and to encourage them for more patronage. "We create value through quality products, exceptional service, competitive pricing and unparalleled consumer value proposition."

Sanni explained that 500 customers would win N1 million each, 100 customers would win N5 million each, coupled with N32 million worth of other gifts including television sets, Standing Fans, Generators and Fridges.

This, she noted, was in demonstration of the Company's vision which is to provide for the welfare of its stakeholders among which she stated the consumers of the Dangote Cement product were a very strategic and important members.

According to her, "the promo started 5th of July, we say thank you and we will continue to appreciate Nigerians for their patronage and loyalty, we want to urge them to continue to do business with us whenever the



need for cement arises."

The excited winners comprising block moulders and a civil servant, while showering praises on the management of the Cement Company, described their winnings as very surprising as they never believed the promo was real pointing out that crediting of their accounts was timely given the prevailing economic downturn that has impacted negatively on their business.

As the winners danced in ecstasy, one of them, Akeem Kolawole, a block moulder told newsmen that he nearly fell off his chair when he received an alert of one Million naira on his phone. "I couldn't believe it, you know there many fake promo out there but Dangote Cement has shown their own is real and genuine and I will tell others about it. I am very happy."

Welcoming the guests earlier, Dangote Cement Regional Sales Director, Lagos and Ogun, Mr

Dolao Ali, described the winnings as the first set of many winnings to come because Lagos is where the action is and that the first star prize of N5million winner would come from Lagos. He urged the customers to see the gesture by Dangote Cement to give out millions of Naira as a good gesture which only Dangote Cement could do adding that the Season 3 promo is to further take Dangote Cement customers to another level of prosperity as the promo will produce 125 millionaires monthly with N1 billion in total to be won both cash and otherwise.

He assured the customers of the Company in Lagos that they are in for good deal with Dangote Cement as they have opportunity to win more than other customers because of the size of Lagos market which is the biggest in the country.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Zonal Coordinator, National

Lottery Regulatory Commission (NLRC), Lagos Zonal Office, Mrs. Nkiru Onuzulu said his commission has gone through every detail of the promotion and certified it good for the cement consumers and that his presence was to lend credence to the fact that the promotion is genuine.

She commended the management of the Dangote Cement for the transparent manner it was conducting the promotion, saying "we have followed through since the commencement of the promo, we monitored to see that everything is done according to rules and Dangote Cement has passed all test.

"This is the reason we are to show all that the promo is real and genuine and fraud free as a regulatory body, we are into it together for the sake of accountability, professionalism and equity. Dangote has raised many millionaires and they are

## Borno NLC, TUC Commend Zulum For Paying N705m Leave Grants To Workers *\*Urges govt to speed up staff promotion, benefits payment*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The organized labour, made up of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC) in Borno State on Tuesday in Maiduguri, commended Governor Babagana Umara Zulum for last week's release of N705 million to clear outstanding leave grants owed workers.

In a joint statement signed by the Chairman of the NLC, Comrade Yusuf Inuwa and TUC Chairman, Comrade Babayo M. Hamma, the organized labour confirmed workers received the leave

grants last week.

The statement was issued after a Joint State Administrative Council meeting of the Organized

Labour, which was held in Maiduguri.

Governor Zulum had on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, approved the release of N705, 621, 166 to nine thousand and fifty-eight (9, 058) eligible civil servants across Borno State to clear outstanding leave grants for 2020, which was delayed due to some issues that needed to be sorted out.

While 2020 leave grant was delayed, Zulum had since approved the payment of the 2021 leave grant to the same workers.

With last week's approval, the governor cleared both 2021 and 2020 leave grants for Borno workers, leaving only 2022 that will be paid at due time.

The organized labour appealed to "all workers in the state to be responsive in the discharge of their given responsibility as the leadership will not relent in its effort to make sure that their welfare is at the top most priority....".

The labour unions also commended the state government for introducing a payment system that has proved "better service delivery".

Meanwhile, the organized labour also in

their joint statement on Tuesday, called on the state government to "hasten the implementation of outstanding promotions, so that workers will have a sense of belonging".

It would be recalled that on June 26, 2022, at the swearing-in of newly appointed commissioners and a permanent secretary, Governor Zulum had publicly directed the state's Head of Service to identify promotional vacancies and organize promotional examinations for eligible workers to get promotions with benefits paid to them.

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

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

## Man Stabs Lottery Manager To Death Over Unpaid Debt In Lagos

RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos.

Police operatives have apprehended a middle aged man over alleged murder of a manager of a lottery centre in Badagry area of Lagos.

The suspect, identified as Kamalideen Raji, 35, according to report was arrested by operatives attached to Area K, Morogbo of the Lagos State Police Command.

It was learnt that the suspect stabbed the deceased twice in the neck over a disagreement bordering on debt, leading to his death.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Benjamin Hundeyin confirmed the incident in a statement, disclosing that it occurred at about 11.30am on Tuesday, August 2022.

It reads, "Officers of Area K, Morogbo of the Lagos State Police Command have arrested one Kamalideen Raji 'm' aged 35 over the alleged murder of one person in the Badagry area of the state.

"The suspect, who was arrested at about 1130hrs on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 stabbed his victim, a manager of a lottery center, twice in the neck over a disagreement about unpaid debts.

"The victim was rushed to Badagry General Hospital for medical attention but later gave up the ghost.

"The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Abiodun Alabi, fdc has directed that the case be transferred to the State Criminal Investigations Department, Panti for further investigations and prosecution".



The suspect



The handing over ceremony at 81 Div

## Change Of Baton At Army 81 DIV As New GOC Assumes Office

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The newly appointed General Officer Commanding (GOC) 81 Division Nigerian Army (NA), Major General Obinna Ajunwa has assumed command in line with the recent posting by the Headquarters NA Department of Military Secretary.

At the handing and taking over ceremony of the office of the GOC held at Headquarters 81 Division in Lagos Major General Ajunwa thanked the Chief of Army Staff for finding him worthy of this great responsibility.

He thereafter commended the immediate past GOC Major General Umar Thama Musa for taking the Division to greater heights.

Ajunwa pledged to contribute to the success recorded so far. General Ajunwa urged senior officers of the Division to work as a team and demonstrate professionalism during the discharge of their duties. He said the only way to ensure success is to move the Division to greater heights.

Earlier, the immediate past GOC, General Musa who has been redeployed as the new GOC 82 Division thanked God for granting

him successful tenure of office and the COAS for finding him worthy of the appointment as GOC.

Musa expressed confidence in the ability of the new GOC to deliver on his new assignment, just as he, thanked Commanders and Principal Staff Officers for the support and cooperation he enjoyed during his tour of duty and appealed for the same and even more to be extended to his successor.

Highlights of the occasion include the commissioning of some projects, the signing of handing and taking over notes, the quarter guard procedure, a group photograph, and a farewell address to troops.

## Shi'ites Lament Attack On Zaria Members, Say 7 Died

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) popularly known as Shi'ites have condemned the attack on their members in Zaria by security personnel, which they said, led to the "death of seven innocent" people, after the Ashura procession on Monday.

Sheikh Abdulhamid Bello, Coordinator of IMN Zaria stated this at a press briefing held shortly after the funeral prayers of the deceased.

He said this year's procession like many in the past, witnessed attack by Nigeria's security apparatus and the martyrdom of seven people without any cause or provocation.

Sheikh Abdulhamid said that the procession ended peacefully and people were dispersing to their various places, when suddenly, "the trigger happy" security agents started firing at the armless citizens who were discharging their religious duties.

According to him, with all the security challenges bedeviling the country, Nigeria's security agents can only be seen attacking innocent civilians.

"When it comes to confronting the bandits and



kidnappers they are weak and devoid of strength and their vehicles cannot move due to one reason or the other.

"The attacks and many more to come cannot and will not deter us the least in discharging our religious duties and believes," he declared.

The coordinator said that as Muslims and disciples of his Eminence, Sheikh Ibrahim Zazzaky, they annually celebrate the tragic and unfortunate event by having educational sessions that aim at awakening the public towards the massacre of the family members of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

Sheikh Abdulhamid added that the procession took place in over 400 cities and towns in Nigeria, along with all concerned Muslims and people of conscience around the world.

He said Ashura Day is an event that is marked globally to commemorate the murder of household of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) at the plains of Karbala in the year 611 by the armies of Yazid, the son of Mu'awiyya.

# After Ukraine, US Fishes for New War in Taiwanese Waters

By Owei Lakemfa

**I**N Nigeria, there are people who traditionally rejoice at the prospect of war. They are uncomfortable when there are no wars or new territories to conquer, plunder or destabilise. The United States establishment has this same psychological make-up. It appears allergic to peace, and as one conflict drags to a bloody close, it is instigating a new one.

The US, since its painful birth by its surrogate British mother which it turned round to fight, has been perpetually at war. In fact, since its 1777 independence, it has been at war for 90 per cent of the time. If it is not carrying out genocide against the indigenous Indian population, then it would be at war with its Mexican neighbours, European cousins such as the Spanish, its Latin American 'backyard' countries or further afield with countries like Libya, Somalia, Egypt, Vietnam, Korea, Afghanistan, France, Old Yugoslavia.

Although with no boots on the ground, it is actively involved in the on-going wars in Yemen, Syria and Ukraine. No war is too small for it as the US, like an elephant taking on an ant, has militarily fallen on fingerlings like Grenada and Panama.

The American psychology for conflict can be gleaned from its defence budget increases, from \$714 billion in 2020, \$768 the following year to its projected growth to \$900 billion in 2030. Its Cow Boy gun culture has resulted in 393 million guns in private homes. Its war industry is also booming with the Lockheed Martin Corporation alone grossing \$58.2 billion in 2020. The US between February and July, 2022 supplied \$6.1 billion military aid to Ukraine in its war with Russia.

Seventeen days after the last US soldier left Afghanistan, President Joe Biden on September 15, 2021 announced a new trilateral military alliance of Australia, UK and US with the acronym, AUKUS. It was in preparation for a possible conflict with China. Now, as the Russo-Ukrainian War is beginning to lose steam with Ukraine left high and dry, the US is fishing for a new war in the waters of Taiwan. This Tuesday, August 2, 2022 the fishing game began with an official visit to Taiwan by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

This is curious because the US knows that Taiwan is not a



separate state, does not recognise it as a country nor has it diplomatic relations with it having cut such ties since January 1, 1979. In fact, the world, under the United Nations, UN Resolution 2758 of October 25, 1971 delisted Taiwan as a separate country. In that resolution, the UN declared the Peoples Republic of China as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations".

Since Taiwan until then had sat in the world body as an independent country, the UN, which refused to name Taiwan by name so it does not give it any recognition, resolved to "expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-Shek (the regime occupying Taiwan) from the place which they unlawfully occupy in the United Nations and all the organisations related to it".

The Biden administration was quick to distance itself from the Speaker's visit with the President saying the visit is "not a good idea". But I do not think Pelosi, who President Donald Trump valued no more than a foot-mat, would have been allowed to engage in such a high profile and potentially risky foreign relations gambit without official state backing. The

constitutional duties of the American House which are to make laws and scrutinise the work of government does not include the conduct of foreign relations. Since Pelosi is no tourist looking for exotic beaches to visit, her presence in the Chinese territory is politically motivated; it might be to deliberately heighten tension between Beijing and Washington using Taiwan as a pawn.

China reacted angrily to Pelosi's visit, but which serious country will not react to the violation of its territory? Would the US not shoot down any foreign aircraft that flies to the island group of Hawaii without permission? Will the United Kingdom not react in a similar manner if Pelosi were to fly to Northern Ireland without official permission? Indeed, when in 1995, the self-styled President of Taiwan, Lee Teng-hui, made a stopover in Hawaii en route Latin America, the US denied him a visa and Teng-hui did not even disembark his aircraft.

Pelosi, writing in *The Washington Post* of August 2, 2022, said her visit is in line with the American-Taiwanese shared interests and values of "...self-determination and self-government, democracy and

freedom, human dignity and human rights". When these Pelosi claims are subjected to the reality of the American domination, repression and suppression of the Puerto Rican peoples, they are exposed as hypocritical.

First, how do you talk about self-determination by a territory, such as Taiwan that is part of a country unless there are negotiations or constitutional provisions? Secondly, it is important to understand that until 1949, Taiwan was ruled from mainland China by the grand-parents of the same people who run Taiwan today. There was a civil war in China in which government forces were defeated, and the remnants fled the mainland to occupy Taiwan. So the peoples of China and Taiwan, are the same. In contrast, the people of Puerto Rico and America are not the same people, have no similar cultures, history or language as the former speak Spanish and the latter, English. While Americans are free to vote in the presidential elections, Puerto Ricans are denied the vote.

Puerto Rico was never part of the US. It was a colony of Spain and when America won the 1894 Spanish-American War, it replaced Spain as the colonial

master and until today, has refused to grant that country of 3,285,874 peoples, independence. The US rejected the 1914 the Puerto Rican House of Delegates' vote for independence and jailed Puerto Ricans who agitated for independence.

The most famous Puerto Rican jailed in the US for demanding independence is Oscar López Rivera who was set free in May, 2017 after spending 38 years in jail! Also, the US has for three decades now, rejected the United Nations Decolonisation Committee's recognition of Puerto Rico's right to self-determination and independence.

It is hypocritical for Pelosi and her handlers to fly all the way to China to say it is defending Taiwan's right to self-determination while at home, the US denies the peoples of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands and the US Virgin Islands even the basic right to vote. President Tsai Ing-wen vowed before Pelosi that Taiwan "... will do whatever it takes to strengthen its self-defence capabilities". She will find out like Ukraine, that the US would not risk a single American soul to defend Taiwan.

# Nigerian Youth And Urgency Of A New Paradigm



By; **JEROME-MARIO CHIJOKE UTOMI**

Even when there is no codified word or structured documentation adequate enough to evaluate a public office holder, there exist presently, a compelling need to evaluate the present administration in the country, via a broader view of the people's paramount concerns and legitimate expectations in order to unravel its values of fiscal discipline, prudent management, robust and continuous community engagement, effective and efficient public communication, and excellent public service delivery for the benefit of this generation and the next.

This logical, rational and practical belief is predicated on the current unpalatable happenings and failures recorded in recent times and traceable to the current administration.

Out of many of such instances, one that cries for attention is; how well has the present administration at both state and Federal levels treated its critical mass—the youths?

Aside from enjoying demographic advantage and being in possession of commanding majority, providing answer to this question/evaluation is important because Nigerian youths will provide the future leadership needs of the country.

Take as an illustration, in 2015, President Muhammadu Buhari promised during his electioneering to work with the youth. But contrary to that promise, eight years after such a promise was made, the Nigerian youth are still relegated to the political background. Again, even when they are celebrated daily at the world stage for their superlative showings and performance, right here in Nigeria, they are judged to be 'lazy' by the same administration that promised to work with them.

The first of such shock came to the youth shortly after the 2019 general election and Mr. President submitted to the National Assembly for screening the list of 43 ministerial nominees. Separate from the disproportionately skewed list screaming with evidence that youth's political highway remains slippery, rough and riddled with potholes and hopelessness, the list eloquently laid bare an ingrained falsehood of the administration.

In the same style, not only did the ministerial list make nonsense of the seemingly gains of the not-too-young-to-run campaign embarked on by the youth on July 2017, which brought about the amendment of some sections of the nation's constitution to accommodate youths desirous of seeking political or elective positions, what is now left at this stage, of course, is the question of the extent to which youths should draw political lessons from the episode or whether to continue exerting power on inglorious political functions they are reputed for without result.

Also in 2018, Mr. president while attending an international function, stated among other things that; 'a lot of them (Nigerian youths) haven't been to school and they are claiming, that Nigeria has been an oil-producing country therefore, they should sit and do nothing and get housing, health care, and education', a remark that Nigerian youths and vast majority of other Nigerians received with disbelief, grief, and rage.

Certainly, in my view, if there is a sterling lesson the youths must draw from the asymmetrical structure of appointments by the present government at the centre, it is the new awareness that thuggery and other illicit political functions at the polls cannot guarantee a political position for the youths. Rather, what guarantees political appointment and position is the possession of a keen sense of independence, self-respect and oneness and insistence on choosing the right people as leaders during the election.

To explain, throughout the period of the 2019 general election, the Nigerian youths hobnobbed and romanced these politicians without knowing that our political leaders are experts in adopting the tactics of the coquette.

'A tactic that makes the public fall in love with excitement while these leaders remain inwardly detached; while keeping them in control. What the youths must learn from this exclusion is that to gain relevance politically, they must develop the will to work out their political salvation by recognizing 'that there is little hope until they become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truth, and downright ignorance.

Regardless of whether the appointments in the past seven years were made by Mr. President to achieve a particular purpose—such as tackling the nation's troubled economy, insecurity, unemployment or improvement of power generation, the truth is that looking at the lopsided architecture of those that Mr. President appointed in 2019—predominantly made up of familiar names that did not spectacularly performed during Mr. President's first term, coupled with their present below average performance, the youth should know that as the nation races to 2023 general election, the hour has come for a shift in paradigm.

The above is not to suggest that this non-appointment of the youths to political positions in the country is limited to the present administration or just happening for the first time; as no administration in Nigeria can boast of clean hands. The challenge may exist in overt and glaring forms among the Buhari's administration but may have existed in the hidden and subtle manner in others.

In my view, these are happening because Nigerian youths apart from playing visionless politics, they are in the words of Professor Wole Soyinka full of spunk abroad, but gas at home. Coupled with the reality that our nation is unfortunately blessed with a huge number of 'coercive' and selfish leaders as against truly 'democratic, pacesetting and coaching' leaders.

As an illustration, like a prophet that was supernaturally informed of it and supernaturally moved to announce it, I recall writing a piece dated August 2017 and titled; Nigerian youths; celebrated abroad and despised at home, were pointed out that the Nigerian government right from independence has evidently proved not to be interested in, or paid adequate attention to supporting youths involvement in politics or holding of public offices, but are merely concerned with clarifying the problem of youths apathy in politics without solution. I also in that piece submitted that the only twist to that narrative is that youths have visible but ignorantly endorsed these underground plots through their actions and inactions.

Conversely, political pundits have argued

that the youths should not be blamed for their inability to occupy political or leadership positions in the country, be it elective or appointment, but blamed on the nation's inglorious departure from politics of ideas to money politics or what is currently referred to as the politics of the highest bidder which the youths have no financial muscles to partake in and therefore settled for the easiest option at their disposal which is praise singing.

Despite the virtues and attributes of the above positions, I still hold an opinion that the bulk of the blame rests at the doorstep of the youths as the list of political actions not taken was lengthy and worrisome.

As an incentive, if the youths had during the build-up to 2019 general elections, identified the areas which really hold the key to political success, and apply the right mix of resources, make collaborative efforts and discipline, they should have been able to put themselves in a position of real competitive superiority using their demographic advantage.

To, therefore, catalyze the process of reversing this appalling trend, and form a force that must not be ignored, Nigerian youths must first understand the threat fear poses for a reason. They need to remember that under 'right circumstances; fear can trigger the temptation to surrender to a demagogue promising strength and security in return.' The 2018 general elections and current political situation in the country stand as vivid examples.

Finally, Nigerians youths must not continue to agonize over such developments but wake up and do something civil and positive. On their part, our leaders should not live under the illusion of misguided cleverness but should 'study history, study the actions of the eminent men, to see how they conducted themselves and to discover the reasons for their victories or their defeats so that they can avoid the latter and imitate the former.'

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# Akin Mabogunje: An African Institution

By Owei Lakemfa.

**P**ROFESSOR Akinlawon 'Akin' Ladipo Mabogunje was an African institution established for all-round development. He is also widely accepted as the Father of African Geography. By 2000, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) was fed up with the National Housing Fund (NHF), which in the eleven years of its establishment had failed to deliver on mass housing for workers. Under the scheme, all those earning the National Minimum Wage and above, contributed 2.5 per cent of their monthly income.

Although workers had contributed about N6 billion to the fund, the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), which administered the fund, had disbursed only a paltry N280 million, while the FMBN and its Siamese twin, the Federal Mortgage Finance Limited, FMFL, had become fat bureaucracies by dipping hands into the fund. Even with this, they were heavily indebted, including owing outstanding pension to their retired workers, totalling N5.5 billion

The NLC instructed workers to stop paying to the fund. Many state governments also joined in stopping the deductions to a fund that was not even audited. Rather than fight back using its federal might to enforce the NHF law, the Obasanjo administration on March 6, 2002 established the Presidential Technical Committee on Housing and Urban Development chaired by Professor Mabogunje. The Committee asked the NLC for a meeting to explain why the NHF had not delivered and what was being done to reverse the trend.

I was part of the NLC Negotiation Team. Mabogunje had picked Mr Tanimu Yakubu as the new Managing Director of the FMBN. Some of us in the

labour delegation were familiar with Tanimu because together, we had been student union leaders and knew he was passionate about workers. When we got back to review the meeting and plan for subsequent ones with the Committee, I told the delegation that we needed technical support as this was an unusual government team.

I explained who Mabogunje was, including his being part of a group of intellectuals who in the First Republic had evolved an ideology called 'Democratic Socialism' which was adopted by the main opposition party, the Action Group. There was Mr S. P. O. Fortune-Ebie who as head of the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) had built the sprawling FESTAC Town in Lagos, and Ms Kare Yekwe, a brilliant lawyer I had known over the years.

The Mabogunje Committee was open and showed so much sincerity that even when it had to lay off some workers in order to bring in professionals through public advertisement and transparent interviews, the NLC could not raise objections.

Mabogunje was a major professional in the building of the new capital of Abuja. He came away with a number of lessons that still defines Nigeria. He had led a team of scientists to the site to determine the ecological conditions of the proposed capital, how many people were to be displaced, the range of assets and compensation to be paid for them. First, a professional in his team, Mr. Bawa Bwari, had to be dropped, not because he was incompetent but because the Emir of Abuja did not find him acceptable.

Bwari's 'crime' was that he had served as the Secretary of the Gwari Students Association, an organisation that was insisting on the rights of the indigenous Gwari people not to be ruled by

traditional rulers from outside.

When Mabogunje needed a manager for the field station, the Emir brought a man who had not even passed basic school certificate and had zero experience. When he enquired why he could not hire a professional and experienced Gwari indigene, he was told this was not politically acceptable. Mabogunje wrote: "This was historical and derived from the colonial administration's obsession with the indirect rule system creating or imposing a traditional ruler even in areas where such did not exist before." Then, Mabogunje and his team needed accommodation and the Executive Secretary of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) decided to import porta cabins for the purpose from the United States. By the time they arrived, the work was over and the scientists were packing to leave. When it came to building the new capital city, Mabogunje argued that it should be handled by distinguished Nigerian town planners and architects who would go through competitive bidding assessed by an international panel. But the government rejected this and rather advertised abroad for planners to design the new capital. Subsequently, an American group, International Planning Associates (IPA), was awarded the contract.

The Mabogunje team had to provide the firm all data collected. Despite this, Nigerian professionals had to join the IPA in reworking its basic design to provide a final and acceptable design. Mabogunje said of this sad tale: "...If we had arranged to critique the design of a group of Nigerian planners as vigorously as we did that of the foreign firm, we could have had as good, if not better, a product for our money." In analysing why there is an obsession for



foreign contractors, he said: "It is difficult to dismiss the insinuations that this is because it is easier to secure foreign exchange through graft when contracts or professional consultancies are handed over to foreign organisations."

One more experience of Mabogunje on Abuja. For a man who was so involved in building the city, all his applications for a plot of land were unsuccessful as plots of land were allocated by officials "mainly to friends". He said one day, as the Chairman of the National Board of Community Banks, he visited then FCT Minister, General Gado Nasko, to request for land to build its national headquarters. During the discussions, he let it known that despite his choosing the exact site Abuja city was built, and participating actively in its construction, he did not have even a square foot of land in the territory. He said when the Minister confirmed this, he was allocated a plot in Asokoro. But

it took him eight years to secure a certificate of occupancy for the land; the result of a skewed civil service.

Mabogunje traced Nigeria's problems to the deliberate ploy by British colonialists to "frustrate all serious developmental efforts" and lay faulty political foundations that led to a civil war and three decades of military rule. He agreed that the country, given its diversities, needs an inclusive system: "But to use the idea to catapult relatively unqualified and inexperienced individuals to strategic management positions simply because they come from a particular part of the country, is to court a situation where every major institution of our national life has failed to live up to expectation."

The global, intensely intellectual and professionally-minded Professor Akin Mabogunje held to his positions until Thursday, August 4, 2022 when at 90, he left, leaving us his very rich legacies.

## Borno APC Denies Receiving Kumalia's Resignation Letter Before Suspension

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

**T**he Borno State Chapter of the ruling All Progressives Congress, (APC) has confirmed the suspension letter served Hon. Barrister Mohammed Umara Kumalia from being a card carrying member of the party, following his alleged involvement in anti-party activities.

In a swift reaction to a purported letter of reaction to his suspension from the party, in which Kumalia claimed to have resigned since March 2022 from being a card carrying member of the APC.

The Borno APC in a letter addressed to Hon. Kumalia and signed by its Publicity Secretary, Hon Makinta Zarami which was made available to our correspondent on Wednesday, insisted that the ruling APC has not received any letter from Hon. Kumalia, alleging that the letter of resignation signed on behalf of Kumalia which is circulating in the social media was not only backdated, but fake claims, far from the truth.

The letter reads, "RE: SUSPENSION OF HON. KUMALIA FROM APC. Our attention was drawn to a letter dated the 9th day of August, 2022 signed by you

(Hon. Mohammed Kumalia) in response to the above captioned subject, copied to the State Chairman of the party as circulated in the social media.

"1. The All Progressives Congress APC Borno State Chapter wish to clearly state on record that the letter dated the 8th day of August, 2022 and signed by Mohammed Kagu (Secretary) of Limanti Ward is authentic and same has the endorsement of the State Working Committee (SWC) of the party.

"2. Your purported letter of resignation dated the 21st day of March, 2022 was not received by the party in either the Ward, Local Government or State Secretariats of the party, hence it is an afterthought on your part to cover up your deficiencies.

"3. The party further states that you remain suspended from the party on all the allegations contained in the letter of suspension from Limanti Ward." Zarami stated.

New Nigerian Newspapers learnt that, Kumalia, a former Minority Leader at the lower chamber of the National Assembly, was a stalwart of the APC after he dumped the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He (Kumalia) aspired as governor on the platform of the APC, but was defeated hands down by the incumbent governor Babagana Zulum in 2018 primaries.

Thereafter, Kumalia instituted various actions against the party in various courts such as Federal High Court Maiduguri: Suit No. FHC/MG/CS/8/2019, Court of Appeal Jos Division: Appeal No. CA/J/174/2019 and Supreme Court of Nigeria: Appeal No. SC/797/2019, but all to no avail.

These court actions by Kumalia according to investigations, were contrary to Article 21 (2) (XI) of the APC Constitution 2022 as amended

It would be recalled that, on Monday August 8, 2022, a letter of Kumalia's suspension which was signed by the APC Secretary of Limanti Ward, Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Mohammed Kagu went viral in Conventional and Social Media platforms, but in what could be described as a defence, Hon Kumalia on Tuesday, issued a press statement, distancing himself from the letter, claiming that he had since tendered his resignation letter to the authorities of the APC since March 21, 2022.

## Nigeria Para Weightlifters Will Rule World Soon -- Ezenwanne



President Para Powerlifting Federation of Nigeria, Charles Chiamaka Ezenwanne

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Newly elected President of the Para Powerlifting Federation of Nigeria, Charles Chiamaka

Ezenwanne has promised a massive harvest of gold medals in the next Commonwealth and Olympic Games. Team Nigeria Para Powerlifters won four

medals through Alice Folashade Oluwafemayo who got a gold in Women's Heavy weight, Bose Patricia Omotayo (Silver Women's Heavy Weight) and Innocent Nnamdi (Bronze men's Lightweight).

As the Anambra born business magnate led other top officials of the Nigeria Para Powerlifting Federation to receive the Para athletes at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport Lagos on Monday night, Ezenwanne declared that it would be a different ball game in the next Commonwealth and Olympic Games after Birmingham 2022.

He said, "Big thanks to our heroes and heroines as they have done Nigeria proud. I salute their doggedness, dedication and discipline. Apparently the athletes and officials can do more and it's our strong vow to motivate them towards bringing more glory to fatherland.

"I could not travel with them considering the

shortness of time after the elections, but the entire board have been constantly working and praying for a successful outing. Now we are settling down and Nigerians would see better results to celebrate with," Ezenwanne who was full of praises for sports Minister, Sunday Dare and the Federal Government for moral and financial support to the federation and indeed Team Nigeria, said.

He also appealed to sports loving Nigerians and the corporate world to partner the new board, assuring that they are determined to succeed.

"Ours is loaded with very credible and committed members. There would be teamwork and accountability in all that we do, by the special Grace of God," Ezenwanne pointed out, revealing that plans are underway for Nigeria to host an international Para Powerlifting Championship very soon.



Ujunwa Nwankwo

## Ujunwa Nwankwo Shines At World Shotokan Karate Championship

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigeria Shotokan Karate Federation added to the current success of team Nigeria at the just concluded Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, as Ujunwa Nwankwo won gold in the open women category and bronze in 68kg category at the world championships in Tokyo Japan.

Also, she retained the title she won in 2019 at the same games, after defeating Celly Amaris from Panama.

Enroute the final, Ujuwa dismissed Yamazaki Masami from Japan in her first fight of the tournament and triumphed over Natalia Sofia from Mexico in the second fight.

The Nigerian representatives won four medals in the ladies Kumite, 1 gold and a bronze and in the Veterans Kumite and in Kata, silver and bronze.

The other team members include, Robert Iyioukwe Ogah who missed out of the podium in the mixed team Kata and Bob

Bamboye the chief instructor, who as well, competed in the veteran's category, winning a silver medal in the fight and bronze in Kata.

Karate Chief Instructor, Bob Bamboye commended the team for a job well done and called for more support from the government and corporate bodies to assist the federation in their quest to take karate to a better pedestal.

"The federation is proud of Ujuwa Nwankwo's feat in Japan, all she needs is more encouragement to continue to fly the country's flag higher in the world" Bamboye said.

Prior to the championship, there was a 4-day seminar and grading, where the chief instructor of Nigeria, Bob Bamboye was among two other chief instructors from other countries, who lectured at the international seminar, which was attended by over 30 countries.

The World Shotokan Karate-do Federation (WSKF) championships in Tokyo, Japan, took place on Saturday August 6, 2022.

*"President of the Para Powerlifting Federation of Nigeria, Charles Chiamaka Ezenwanne has promised a massive harvest of gold medals in the next Commonwealth and Olympic Games."*

## Oyo Govt Vows To Seal Gaming, Lottery Centres Without Operational Licenses \*Seals 3 violating centres in Ibadan

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Gaming and Lottery Board on Tuesday evening, vowed to seal all the gaming and lottery centers without operational license within in and across the nooks and crannies of the state.

The board's Director General, Mr Olaji Boladuro handed down the warning on Tuesday evening, while speaking on the sealing of three gaming centers in Ibadan by the enforcement team of the board.

He disclosed that the sealing of the gaming centres located at Bodija, Idi-Ape and Dugbe areas of Ibadan was due to the failure of some operators of the gaming and lottery centers to regularise their operations with the appropriate body of the State Government responsible for their regularization and control.

According to Mr Boladuro, "the role of the Board is to regulate, curtail and promote the business of gaming

and lottery in Oyo State", adding, the "Board has written on several occasions to the illegal operators of the gaming and lottery centers who were not licensed by the Board to operate in the State to come to the Board for dialogue and proper registration.

"We regulate, we promote and we protect the citizens of Oyo State that are interested in the business of gaming and lottery and we want them to have a good experience. Those who are found violating the law by operating anything gaming, lottery, casino pools or scratch cards illegally, we try to enforce them to regularize and do their legitimate business within the State", he said.

Mr Boluwaduro added, "this exercise is ongoing and it is a warning to others that are also in this category of unregistered status that the long arm of the law will soon catch them."

Speaking further, the DG noted that

the present administration in the state has created an enabling environment for the gaming and lottery business to operate with laws that they must follow and abide by, which will certify them to do their business in the State.

He then called on those who are still operating gaming and lottery centers without license to keep in mind that there is a body established by the Government to regulate their activities, and approach the office of the board for necessary measures.

"The problem that this creates, in the long run, is that if you bet with an operator that is not licensed and you get duped, then there is no way that we can assist you to make things right. That is why we want to know the people that are doing this business in our State and we will continue to sensitize the people to know that this is the only right way for them to go,"

**Ujunwa Nwankwo  
Shines At World  
Shokotan Karate  
Championship**

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## Governor Inuwa Parleys UNICEF, Assures Of Administration's Collaboration In Education, Health, Others

*\*UNICEF lauds Gombe Governor's commitment to wellbeing of people, promises more projects, in state*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has expressed his administration's readiness to collaborate with development partners towards the upliftment of the standard of the living of the people of Gombe State.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated August 10, 2022.

The governor made the position known while receiving a delegation from the United Nations Children's Fund who paid him a courtesy visit on the sidelines of its inspection visit to Gombe State.

He appreciated the support of the UN agency in executing projects especially in critical sectors of education and health.

The governor noted that Gombe State is a beneficiary of many collaborative projects and programmes with UNICEF, citing the successful mopping up and enrolment of about 400,000 out of school children through BESDA as one of the instances where Gombe benefited a lot.

He specifically recognised the inputs of UNICEF and other UN agencies in drafting the State's ten year development plan which he said aligns with the

UN's SDGs and UNICEF's vision and mission.

"Our ten-year development plan aligned with the targets of SDGs, Unicef and all United Nations agencies that are collaborating with us towards improving the standard of living of our people," he confirmed.

Governor Inuwa intimated the team of his administration's great achievements of providing healthcare services to the people.

"It may interest you to know that, to ensure proper provision of health care services at the grassroots, in less than three years we were able to provide at least one functional healthcare facility in each of the 114 wards of Gombe State".

The governor told the visiting UNICEF team that Gombe State has concluded plans to engage 440 health workers to augment the strength of human resources for more productivity in the health sector.

The governor said, "We plan to engage an average of 40 health personnel in each of the 11 Local Governments. Not only that we also insist that each health worker attends to his place of work by taking inventory, the initiative we brought of having biometric attendance and records from all the staff of primary health care and general hospitals is helping us a lot to

provide necessary manpower in the sector and ensure efficiency and productivity".

He pledged his government's continued support towards execution of collaborative programmes with UNICEF.

"Our doors are open, any day any time, we look forward to jointly working with you in the execution of projects and programmes that especially help our younger ones.

"I also want to assure you, that not only me but the whole of my cabinet and the people of Gombe are supportive of your coming and the activities you are undertaking", he assured.

Earlier speaking, the UNICEF team lead, Dr. Ephrem Tekle Lemango who is an Associate Director of Immunization in the organisation's Headquarters in New York, thanked Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for his hospitality adding that his



Gov Inuwa Yahaya and UNICEF team lead, Dr. Ephrem Tekle Lemango

team was impressed with what they see in Gombe State with respect to infrastructural and human capital development.

"One of the things that really impressed us is your commitment to health education and economic growth of Gombe State. It says a lot about your commitment and directly implies your faith in investing in young people of Gombe which is very crucial to the future development of the state", he said.

The UNICEF Team lead appreciated Governor Inuwa's

foresight in deploying women health workers in the revitalised healthcare facilities, observing that many of the maternal and child health care services are better served by women health workers.

Mr Ephrem assured that UNICEF as a partner that works on the improvement of life of children, adolescents and young people will continue to work and support Gombe State Government in areas of common interests.

## NNRA Grants Reactor Operator Licenses To ABU's Two Nuclear Researchers

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Two Research Fellows at Ahmadu Bello University's Centre for Energy Research and Training (CERT) have been granted 'Temporary Reactor Operator Licences' as Operator Class 'C' of a Miniature Neutron Source Research Reactor (NIRR - 1) by Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA).

A statement by the Public Affairs Directorate, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, dated August 10, 2022, said that the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority is a Federal Government agency responsible for regulatory oversight of all nuclear and other ionizing radiation applications in the country.

The two Research Fellows are Engr. Safiya Aliyu and Ms. Nana Fatima Abdulmalik. Both are believed to be the first female nuclear researchers qualified to be granted such licences in Nigeria.

The licences were issued under the hand and seal of the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of Nigerian

Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Dr Yau Usman Idris. All the two licences were issued on 25th July, 2022.

The award of the reactor operator licences was in line with Sections 6 (c) and 29 (c) of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act, and in compliance with the global best practice with regard to gender inclusion in the nuclear industry.

The Operator Class 'C' of a Miniature Neutron Source Research Reactor (NIRR - 1) has as specifications "a tank - in - pool type research reactor of minimal power 34KW and design specifications as contained and approved in NNRA/NIRR -1/10 and NNRA/NIRR -1/07 and at the site described in and approved in NNRA/NIRR - 1/01."

According to Terms and Conditions of the Licence, the licensee being a trainee reactor operator is authorized to assist a Class 'A' licensee in the operation of the Nigerian Research Reactor -1 (NIRR - 1), and the licensee is not authorized to operate NIRR -1.

The licences, copied the Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello

University, will expire on 31st December, 2022, and is subject to renewal three months prior to expiration pursuant to Section 23 (2) of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act.

A letter notifying the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Kabiru Bala, of the development, the Director, Centre for Energy Research and Training, Prof S A Jonah, said the feat attained by the two female staff of the Centre was "worth mentioning and celebrating".

While congratulating the Vice-Chancellor on the success, Prof Jonah described the feat as "a landmark in the development of nuclear science and technology in Ahmadu Bello University in particular, and the country as a whole."

Born in Zaria, Kaduna State, on 28th September, 1982, Engr. Safiya Aliyu joined the services of the Centre as Assistant Research Fellow in September, 2010 after her graduation (B. Eng - Electrical - Upper Second Class Division) from Department of Electrical Engineering, Bayero University, Kano in 2008.