

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 3 No. 108

Monday 20th February, 2023

Shaban 29, 1444

Financial Misappropriation: Katsina Govt Withdraws Case Against Shema

Story on Page 3

Find Lasting Solution To New Naira Swap, Cash Withdrawal Policy Crisis, SAN Tasks FG

Story on Page 4



Barrister Ahmed Reji (SAN)

Cash Swap: Security Placed On Red Alert In Kaduna

*el-Rufai warns against breakdown of law and order

Story on Page 3

Polls: Reject Those With No Capacity, Handpicked Candidates, ACF Tasks Nigerians

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As Nigerians count hours to the commencement of the 2023 general elections, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has cautioned electorate against voting for those with no capacity to deliver, as well as those handpicked by the president or governors.

ACF expressed this in a statement signed by its Secretary General, Murtala M. Aliyu, made available to our correspondent yesterday in Kaduna.

"Voters will do great disservice to themselves if they were to vote into offices persons they know, or should know, have no capacity to perform well, or are persons

Continued on Page 2

Story on Page 3

Currency Redesigning, Step To A Better Nigeria - Senator Akpan

Story on Page 8



Senator Bassey Albert Akpan with his campaign team during Thanksgiving Service at Catholic Church, Itu

Story on Page 4

3 Suspects In NDLEA Net Over UK, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Cyprus Bound 52.10Kg Illicit Narcotics

General Elections: CAN Prays For Free, Fair, Credible Exercise

AATF Reinstates Commitment To Improvement Of Farmers Livelihood



AATF Reinstates Commitment To Improvement Of Farmers Livelihood

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) has reiterated its commitment not to renege on its promise of transforming farmer's livelihood through innovative agricultural technologies that will improve incomes, food, and nutrition security in sub-Saharan Africa.

According to a statement signed by the Communication Officer (West and Central Africa) AATF, Alex Abutu, made available yesterday, Dr Emmanuel Okogbenin, AATF Director, Programme Development and Commercialization restated the commitment during the training programme organized to equip seed companies with necessary skills to undertaking dry season cowpea production in Kaduna.

Dr Okogbenin said that AATF will continue to promote agricultural innovation through public-private partnerships and advised the seed companies to take advantage of dry season production to complement wet season production which will ensure adequate supply of PBR cowpea seed to farmers. He also noted that farmers have been educated on the benefits of the product and they are waiting anxiously for more certified PBR cowpea seed from seed companies.

He expressed appreciation to Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) for the collaboration which produced the PBR cowpea.

Also speaking, Prof. Ishiyaku Mohammed, Executive Director, IAR, Zaria commended the collaboration with AATF that led to the development and release of Nigeria's first genetically modified crop.

"Nigeria is now a reference point in areas of biotechnology products in Africa and we must continue to scale up production of this technology to make it available to farmers.

The Pod Borer Resistant Cowpea is a classic example of how

technology can provide solutions to one of the major challenges confronting cowpea farming," he said.

Prof. Mohammed noted that for many years plant breeders tried without success to find solution to the ravaging attacks of Maruca but the "collaboration between AATF and IAR led to the development of this great technology."

He said, seed companies were pivotal to the commercialization of the PBR cowpea project and there is need for constant capacity building. "The PBR cowpea is a huge success in the biotechnology space in Nigeria and more seed companies are eager to take up the product. There are testimonies from farmers in terms of high yield, resistance to pod borer, improved income because of planting the PBR cowpea."

He enjoined the participants to fully take advantage of the training which will build their capacity in PBR seed production.

He also encouraged the participants to always contact AATF/IAR for further questions/clarifications.

All the nine seed companies licensed to market the PBR cowpea attended the training which saw presentation from Dr Seydou Traore, Regional Energy Advisor, United States African Development Foundation, amongst others.

About AATF (www.aatf-africa.org) Founded in 2003 to address Africa's food security prospects through agricultural technology,

AATF believes that the agricultural sector is a key foundational pillar as Africa consolidates its economic growth and carves out its new position as a major global economic powerhouse and the next growth market in the world.

It was formed in response to the need for an effective mechanism that would facilitate and support negotiation for technology access and delivery and formation of appropriate partnerships to manage the development & deployment of innovative technologies for use by smallholder farmers in SSA

Polls: Reject Those With No Capacity, Handpicked Candidates, ACF Tasks Nigerians

with questionable character.

"Voters are also always advised to shun those unhealthy schemes whereby a president or state governor handpicks a successor. Nothing promotes entrenched corruption, cronyism and poor leadership more than such schemes as such dubious arrangements.

"The nation will never be able to identify and select good leaders among its people so long as some dubious people are allowed to manipulate the selection of candidates and the ultimate election processes," ACF said.

The group said that in a few days, some 93 million Nigerians will go to the polls to elect a new President, 31 State Governors, 469 Members of the National Assembly, and 990 Members of the 36 State Houses of Assembly.

"There is no doubt that this is a gigantic and important exercise. Our hopes and prayers are that the elections will be held peacefully, and will produce outcomes that will help take the country closer to its main development goals of building a free, just, democratic, and egalitarian society.

"A great, united, and self-reliant nation, with a strong and dynamic economy. A land full of bright opportunities for all citizens.

Clearly, the necessary requirement for achieving success in the elections is the determination of Nigerians to ensure it actually succeeds.

"Towards that end, the federal government, in particular, must commit itself to delivering what should turn out to be a fair, transparent, credible and hitch-free elections the outcomes of which must be decided only by the votes cast," the statement said.

ACF explained that the President has at various times, and at different fora, promised to do that. "The nation looks forward to the fulfillment of that promise.

At times such as this when the nation in election mode, such as time like this, the ACF has always taken the liberty to draw the attention of voters to the right qualities they should look for when deciding whom to cast their votes for.

"At each occasion such as this the key selection criteria we recommend to voters to consider are very clear and objective party manifestos and the character and track records of the candidates," it added.

The group explained that cardinal and national goal of Nigeria includes the creation of a nation in which: "though tribe and tongue may differ, in brotherhood we stand".

"We, as a nation, believed so much in such slogan that at one time, it was a part of our national anthem!

"And in simple terms, it means that in our search for good leaders, we

must cast our nets far beyond our ethnic, religious or geographical interests.

"A leader does not have to come from our tribe, zone, region or religious persuasion. We should seek for leaders that best cater for our national interests, and who are elected within the tenets of democratic processes.

"The tenets that allow people to choose leaders who will best cater for interests of the generality of the people, not their individual personal or the interests of their ethnic or religious groups.

"When 17 State Governors from Southern part of Nigeria, and from different political parties met last year and demanded that a Southerner must be elected as the president of Nigeria, the heavens did not fall. It was accepted that as we are in a democracy, they were entitled to their views and opinions.

"Quite recently also, some 14 Northern Governors belonging to the ruling All progressives Congress Party, (APC), and came out with the announcement that they had committed themselves to ensuring that a candidate of their party from the Southern part of the country is elected president of the country. "Their reason was that the emergence and subsequent election of a person from the southern part of the country will serve to entrench the principle of North/South power rotation in the politics Nigeria.

"Though the principle of power rotation is still largely and somewhat controversial, nonetheless, under our democratic dispensation we must reconcile ourselves to accepting that Nigeria is a country for all its citizens, and each citizen has right to choose whatever he or she believes to be in the best interests of themselves and their followers.

"At the same time, however, they also have to accept the principle of power rotation between North and South.

"Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF)

"When 17 State Governors from Southern part of Nigeria, and from different political parties met last year and demanded that a Southerner must be elected as the president of Nigeria, the heavens did not fall. It was accepted that as we are in a democracy, they were entitled to their views and opinions."

wishes to commend all those who have worked tirelessly, and have sacrificed so much, for what has so far been remarkable arrangements and preparations for the 2023 general elections.

"Particular and special thanks goes to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for creating the conducive environment that will ensure that the elections are free and fair, and that every vote cast counts.

"We are particularly impressed by the introduction of technology in the electioneering process, a right step that will surely serve to check against such hitherto usual electoral malpractices of over-voting, ballot stuffing, ballot box snatching and the alteration of results.

"The online transmission of results from the polling points to the collating centers and the provision of facilities for people to monitor election results online are also innovations that will ensure that the elections are not rigged.

"The various Security Agencies, the political parties their candidates, followers, are also worthy of praise for what have so far been a remarkable preparation for the all-important elections.

"The resolve of Nigerians to conclude the 2023 general elections successfully has also never been in doubt. Given all that have been accomplished, there is no earthly reason for anyone to even attempt to temper with the announced timetable of the elections. That will be totally unacceptable.

"In conclusion, the ACF will like to observe that whatever candidates and their supporters would wish, the final verdict will be that determined by the votes Nigerians cast.

"There will definitely be winners and losers, so whichever way it goes, no one should attempt to disrespect the decision of Nigerians by condemning, or, even worse, rejecting the outcome. That will be a cruel attack on our democracy and Nigerians will regard such conduct as unacceptable.

"Leaders in all climes must take all steps to ensure the safety of lives and property of all Citizens and foreigners in their domains," the group advised.

They further advised the media to play a responsible role in reporting to douse any tension that may arise as a consequence of the elections and results.

"Governments at all levels must ensure a smooth transition to the next crop of leadership. But most importantly, Nigerians should come out and vote for the candidates of their choice on Saturday, 25th February, 2023, and two weeks later on Saturday, 11th March, 2023. Remember, not coming out to vote is allowing yourself to be ruled by your inferiors!" ACF warned.

Financial Misappropriation: Katsina Govt Withdraws Case Against Shema



Shema

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina Government has withdrawn a Case of financial misappropriation of eleven billion Naira instituted before State High Court of Justice against the former Governor of the State Ibrahim Shehu Shehu Shema.

The funds were said to have been misappropriated from the coffers of Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) in the state while Shema was Governor.

The former governor was facing another Case of misappropriated five-point-seven billion Naira SURE-P Funds instituted

against him by the EFFC. Giving reason for the withdrawal of the case, the Director of Public Prosecution Katsina State Ministry of Justice, Abdurrahman Umar said the State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice exercised the powers vested on her by Section two of sub-section eleven of the 1999 Constitution as amended to discontinue the case.

In view of that the two defendants in the case, former Governor Ibrahim Shema as well as Lawal Dankaba were discharged from all charges against them.

It would be recalled that the state government in 2016, filed the case against Shema and one other.

General Elections: CAN Prays For Free, Fair, Credible Exercise

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna State Chapter, has advised all Christians to go out on election days to exercise their constitutional duties by casting their votes for candidates of their choice.

Rev. John Joseph Hayab, while speaking on Sunday in Kaduna on "Corporate Prayers" ahead of the 2023 general elections, said, "Christians from all walks of life in Kaduna

State and the country as a whole should come out and perform their constitutional responsibilities by casting their votes to candidates of their choice.

"In doing so, they should remain calm, be peaceful and orderly in their conduct to vote credible candidates that will change the narratives of the country and give a new hope for the unity, peace and development of the country."

He explained, "Christians should stay away from any form of

violence, but ensure they are not intimidated by anybody by voting candidates of their choice."

The state CAN chairman warned Christians against selling their votes for peanuts, saying, "Selling of votes is an indication that one is inviting another four years of any kind of suffering. I think, we should think of the future of the country by electing credible leaders that will pilot its affairs in a manner that every Nigerian will be proud to belong."

He said that after praying for divine intervention for a peaceful and credible elections in the country, it is now time for Christians to exercise their faith by ensuring they elect God fearing leaders that would carefully manage the resources for the benefit of all without discrimination.

The prayer session witnessed a large turnout of clergymen and members from different denominations in Kaduna who prayed for a violent-free and credible elections in the country.

Cash Swap: Security Placed On Red Alert In Kaduna

**el-Rufai warns against breakdown of law and order*

**Directs security agencies to nip in the bud all threats to peace*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following intelligence report gathered, security agencies have been placed on high alert and have been directed by the Kaduna State Government to decisively uphold law and order.

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

"The Kaduna State Government has received credible intelligence reports of plans by various groups to deliberately disrupt public peace, by organizing street protests.

"The Kaduna State Government hereby reminds citizens that such protests remain strictly prohibited. Citizens are strongly advised to avoid all actions remotely capable of inciting a breakdown of law and order," it said.

"Any resort to unruly or violent conduct is illegal

and against the public interest which values law and order," it warned.

The government said that it has continued, "to empathize with citizens who have been placed in untold distress as a result of the CBN cash swap policy. Residents must shun the baiting of mischievous groups hoping to ride on these hardships and incite violence.

"The Government of Kaduna State, and other concerned state governments, are

deploying the full instrumentality of the law to attain a proper resolution, and thus bring relief to citizens," it said.

It added that government is also studying options for addressing challenges being faced by citizens with regard to transport to their places of work.

"Citizens are therefore, urged to maintain calm, and to remain peaceful and law-abiding as they prepare to exercise their civic franchise in an atmosphere free of all forms of threat," it advised.

We Will Help You Deposit Your Old Naira Notes In CBN After Polls, el-Rufai Assures Kaduna Residents

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Residents of Kaduna State have been assured that their old Naira notes would be collated and deposited at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Kaduna branch after the elections.

Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai of Kaduna State on Thursday, expressed this in a statewide broadcast to citizens.

He, assured residents that the Kaduna State Government, in collaboration with elected legislators, traditional institution, elected local

government councils, markets, and traders associations will help you collect, record, document, collate and deliver all your old notes to the Kaduna branch of the Central Bank on their behalf into the new ones immediately after the elections.

He therefore, appealed to all residents of Kaduna State to continue to use the old and new notes side by side without any fear.

He said, Kaduna State Government and its agencies shall seal any facility that refuses to accept the old notes as legal tender and prosecute the

owners, hence if need be, "we shall take further consequential actions according to the law."

The governor during the state broadcast, said that Kaduna State Government is making the appeal, and taking all these measures to shield its people from the terrible consequences of the currency redesign policy.

el-Rufai said the state seeks to protect its people's hard-earned money, their ability to engage in trade and exchange and buy what they need.

"We also seek to protect your civic rights, liberties and freedoms under a democratic

dispensation," he added.

He therefore, called on the people of Kaduna State to remain peaceful and vigilant in the face of brazen attempts to engineer crisis in order to get a pretext for unconstitutional or undemocratic actions.

The governor urged all not to fall for these antics of the enemies of Nigeria.

"Please be patient and continue to exercise resilience in the face of open provocation and deliberate disinformation," he appealed.

He encouraged citizens to be ready with their permanent

voters cards (PVCs) to vote in the February 25 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

"We are doing all we can to ensure that it is peaceful, orderly and hitch-free.

"I appeal to you to understand the shenanigans of these unpatriotic elements in Abuja and ensure you vote massively for the intended victims of these last-minute policies of needless hardship and incitement of the citizens - our party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its candidates in all the elections.

"However, let us stay calm and peaceful, and support the lawful means being utilised to solve our problems," he said.

Find Lasting Solution To New Naira Swap, Cash Withdrawal Policy Crisis, SAN Tasks FG



Barrister Ahmed Raji (SAN)

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The National President of the Oke-Ogun Development Consultative Forum (ODCF), Barrister Ahmed Raji (SAN) has urged Federal government to find lasting solution to new Naira swap and cash withdrawal policy crisis. ODCF National President in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan on Sunday, said the new Naira swap and cash withdrawal policy is already creating suffering for the masses in Nigeria. "We are calling on the federal government through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to expedite action on the cash swap/cash withdrawal limit policy and make the new Naira notes available for the people," he said.

Barrister Raji added, "it is very clear that the situation in the country, especially that of the cash swap and cash withdrawal limit policy has caused a lot of hardship for the people, this has shown in the emotional outburst that has led to violent riots across the country and loss of lives and properties". He stressed that the people of Oke-Ogun should remain calm and avoid activities that might lead to violence and destruction of properties in the region, saying, "in Oke - Ogun, we should remember that the development process to get our region to an enviable level has started, the federal and State

government have started looking towards developing natural resources in our area while business owners are thronging towards the region to establish their businesses'.

On the need to eschew violence at this critical period so as not to destroy the little we have and chase away those coming to help build more', Barrister Raji tasked community leaders in Oke Ogun to be working towards attracting and building public infrastructures rather than destroying them through violent mob actions and protests.

"I urge our monarchs, community leaders, market leaders, youths leaders and others to please have periodic discussions with our youths so they will have sense of belonging in this process of safeguarding the little we have till we have more"

He however challenged youths in Oke-Ogun to also see the 2023 elections as important to change the fortune of Nigeria for the better, asking them to vote for their conscience and eschew violence, saying, youths should rather decide on good leadership come the 2023 elections rather than rioting.

The Senior Advocate also called on the federal government to expedite actions towards resolving the crisis associated to the new Nigerian naira swap and cash withdrawal policy that has created suffering for the masses.

3 Suspects In NDLEA Net Over UK, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Cyprus Bound 52.10Kg Illicit Narcotics

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos.**

At least, three suspects have been arrested by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) over attempt to export 52.10 kilogrammes of ephedrine, a precursor chemical and active ingredient for the production of meth.

The consignment, said to be heading to the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand and Cyprus, according to report, were intercepted at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos; Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja and some courier companies.

Our correspondent gathered that the suspects, identified as Nwudele Basil Christopher; Chiedu Ezenwani Francis and Donatus Nwojiji were nabbed at the Trade Fair Complex in Ojo area of Lagos.

The spokesperson of the anti-narcotic agency, Femi Babafemi in a statement yesterday, confirmed the report.

According to Babafemi, attempts to export 52.10 kilogrammes of ephedrine, a precursor chemical and active ingredient for the production of meth, concealed in bunches of fishing threads and packed among other items in jumbo sacks that were thwarted at the SAHCO

export shed of the Lagos airport on Sunday, January 31, and Monday, February 1, 2023.

He said that it took the painstaking efforts of NDLEA officers and deployment of sniffer dogs to be able to discover the complex mode of concealment of the illicit substance.

At least three traders at the Trade Fair Complex in Ojo area of Lagos: Nwudele Basil Christopher; Chiedu Ezenwani Francis and Donatus Nwojiji have been arrested in connection with the substances.

Also, at three different courier firms in Lagos, operatives intercepted two cocaine consignments weighing 400 grams each, going to United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. They were hidden in walls of cartons used for packaging.

Two other consignments containing 500 grams and 100 grams of meth were also blocked from being shipped to New Zealand after they were discovered concealed in food items.

Similarly, at the Abuja Airport, vigilant operatives of the Agency on Monday, February 13, intercepted a 29-year-old Apeh Kelvin Ogbonna while attempting to board Turkish Airline flight TK0624 going through Istanbul to Cyprus, with 4.5 kilograms of meth concealed in false bottoms of his travelling bag.

The suspect claimed he was running a boutique business in Enugu before he decided to travel to Cyprus for a degree in Business Administration. No fewer than 2,684,900 pills of tramadol and other pharmaceutical opioids were seized by operatives during interdiction operations in some states in the past week.

The statement further read: "In Adamawa, a total of 250,000 pills of tramadol and exol-5 as well as 1800ml of codeine neatly concealed in the reserve fuel tank of a trailer from Onitsha, Anambra state were seized at Mubi and a dealer, Hussaini Ibrahim (a.k.a Bafu) arrested.

"While a total of 279,000 pills of tramadol 200mg and 225 mg were recovered from a suspect, Hammajan Suleman, along Okene-Abuja highway in Kogi, on Monday 13th February, 376 blocks of skunk weighing 229.36kgs and a Toyota Camry car used in conveying the consignment from Edo state enroute Kano by another suspect, Moses Alabi were handed over to NDLEA by a patrol team of the Nigerian Army, in Lokoja on Tuesday 14th February.

"In the same vein, two suspects: Christian Nnabor, 23 and Chinonso Obiora, 20, arrested with 1,843,900 tablets of Diazepam and 300,000 pills of Exol-5 by soldiers

along Abuja-Kaduna express road were transferred to the Kaduna State Command of NDLEA on Monday 13th February while Christopher Maduka, 43, was arrested with 10,000 ampoules of pentazocine injection by NDLEA operatives on Saturday 18th Feb. along Abuja-Kaduna highway.

"In Kano, Ahmed Suraj Rabi was nabbed with 89 bottles of codeine syrup in Badawa area of the state, while Amadu Musa and three others were arrested in Kofar Mata with 53 blocks of cannabis weighing 41.9kgs. In Niger state, a trans-border trafficker, Abdullahi Isah was arrested along Jebba-Mokwa highway with 188 blocks of skunk that weighed 107 kilograms, which he was attempting to take to Niger republic.

"While 24kgs of Arizona variant of cannabis and 2,000 pills of opioids were recovered from Ibrahim Isiyaku along Nguru-Kano road in Yobe, no fewer than four suspects: Usman Abubakar, a Chadian; Muhammad Ali; Ibrahim Yahaya and Babagana Abdullahi were arrested in connection with the seizure of 61.45kgs of cannabis and 22.1kgs of exol-5 in Jigawa with follow up operations in Kano. The consignments were ordered by Usman with a view to taking them to Chad.



The suspects and the Illicit Narcotics

Governor Inuwa Inspects Ongoing Kumo General Hospital Project

**Expresses Satisfaction With Quality, Speed Of Works*

**Says Project To Be Ready For Commissioning Before May 29 This Year*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya says the General Hospital, Kumo under construction will be ready and handed over for public use before May 29, this year.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Saturday February 18, said

he made the pronouncement when he paid an unscheduled visit to the site where he inspected all the units under construction at the state-of-the-art project.

Though unplanned, Governor Inuwa engaged the contractors handling the project on the level of work done so far and asked if there were any challenges.

As he was being taken round, he took his time to check the quality of materials and fittings used for the finishings, and expressed satisfaction that the contractors are working within agreed specifications.

"What I saw was absolutely good. It met my expectations and I challenge anybody to come and verify whether it has met international standards or not. I am convinced of the quality; I am convinced of the speed, especially; I am confident that before 29th of May this year, this hospital will be completed and handed over for use by the public", he said.

"Our intention is to make it work with Lincoln University which is supposed to partner with us, to operate the Science and Technology University; and they are going to have a medical faculty. Eventually this will turn to a Teaching Hospital by all standards because all the equipment needed are ready. We are just waiting for the contractors to put finishing touches. They are at the last stages of the project", he told newsmen.

The Governor urged the people to take ownership of projects sited in their areas, reiterating his belief that "people must be able to run projects by themselves and run it well. The project is for the people, I do not own the project. People must own it because government is an amalgamation of the people. Myself, themselves and leadership at all levels. When they manage it well, it will

outlast us by the grace of God". The Governor said proudly that the wellness and well-being of the citizens of Gombe is the reason he is in government and that he is ready to do more even as he heads for elections in a few weeks time.

As his convoy was leaving the site, teeming youths of Kumo gathered around his vehicles cheering him and showering praises amidst shouts of Four plus Four, indicating their unflinching support for him to be returned for another four years in office.

Governor Inuwa made a detour to the hospital site on his way from Kaltungo where he had attended the Evangelical Church Winning All, ECWA, Youth International Triennial Conference hosted by Gombe State Chapter of the Church.

He was in the company of the Deputy Governor, Dr. Manasah Jatau, the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, Chief of Staff, Alhaji Abubakar Inuwa Kari, Commissioners and other top government functionaries.



LP Kaduna Central Senatorial Candidate Pays Jamb Fees For 160 Students

By: AUSTINE AGBO
E M M A N U E L ,
Kaduna

Following the need to prioritize education as panacea for Nation building, the Labour Party, (LP) Senatorial candidate for Kaduna Central District, Rt. Hon. Muhammad Sani Ibrahim, has paid JAMB fee for at least 160 students seeking admission into higher institutions of learning in Kaduna State.

The Director General, (DG) campaign, Elder Solomon Yusuf Danbaki, said the gesture came following the outcry of parents that can no longer pay for the matriculation exercise, following the hardship poised on the country by the new policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria, (CBN)

Danbaki, while addressing journalists at the M.S. Ibrahim campaign office in Kaduna on Tuesday, said all the candidates under the platform of LP across the states, are trying their possible best to domesticate the vision of her presidential candidate, Mr. Peter Obi in order to give Nigerians especially the younger generation the future of their dreams through quality education.

He added that Mr. Obi, while a two-term Governor of Anambra State, was able to improve the education sector to emerge as number one in the entire country, stressing that Nigeria will not only experience drastic change in the education sector under the administration of LP but a total transformation where the country would rate best in the whole of Africa.

"We are here today, following the outcry from parents who could not pay for the UTME exams due to the hardship in our state and the nation at large.

"When we went out for campaign the other day and we met a lot of

parents lamenting over the fact that the deadline is approaching but cannot pay for the exercise because of the new CBN policy. So our candidate who knows the value of education and has mind for the people just like our presidential candidate, Mr. Peter Obi decided to come in and rescue the people."

The DG noted that the students are not under duress to vote for their candidate, adding that they are free to vote any candidate of their choice, while calling on the good people of Kaduna state and Nigerians to shun sentiment and vote credible leaders who can defend their course when elected into office.

One of the parents, Mrs. Esther Philip while speaking with newsmen shortly after the programme, expressed gratitude to the LP senatorial candidate, and prayed God to grant him success in his political ambition.

Mrs. Esther disclosed that they were already loosing hope before the candidate came as a Messiah to rescue them, reiterated that nobody has ever done that for them and their children especially in this period of hardship.

She called on other well-meaning Nigerians to emulate the LP senatorial candidate and give relief to those around them for the sake of better tomorrow.

Similarly, one of the students who is a beneficiary of the kind gesture, Auwal Muhammed, said, "we are grateful for this assistance. Mallam want to us to actualize our dreams through education and Inshaallah we will not fail him.

"We will put up our best to ensure that we come out with flying colors. We are proud of him because people with such heart are very rare. We pray Almighty Allah will bless him and grant him all his heart desires." Auwal added.



APC Don't Leave Anything Behind As You Go, Titi Atiku Says In Calabar

**Says sufferings enormous under ruling party*

**doles out scholarship to 50 Cross River Students*

By: VITALIS UGOH, Calabar
The wife of the Presidential Candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Hajiya Titi Atiku Abubakar has drawn the ears of the ruling All Progressives' Congress (APC) not to leave anything behind as it leaves the presidency soonest. Rather, she reminded the party to pack its bags and baggages and go because of the suffering meted out to the people of the country. Hajiya Abubakar gave the advice in Calabar, during a town

hall organized to create awareness on her "SHE campaign". She said, "my husband has come to unify the country and promises to end all the challenges the women are facing". The SHE campaign, she noted, "is the women aspect of Atiku Abubakar's Covenant with Nigeria agenda" and is centered around security, health and education. She said, "APC must pack their loads and go, the suffering is too much. They have changed the

Naira and I don't know how the rural women are faring. My husband has come again and wants to save souls as well as the children of our women. "He does not want to experiment but is a unifier and will bring back Nigeria to the glory we were enjoying before. If you vote him into the saddle, all our problems will end," she assured. As a means to mitigate the challenges faced by the women, she offered scholarship up to university level to fifty students from the state. Dame Edith Okowa, the wife of

the PDP Vice Presidential Candidate in her remarks, said only an Atiku/Okowa presidency will change the present quagmire. She regretted, "every New Year should be better, but things get worst as the new year unfolds," adding that Atiku can rescue the country and a vote for PDP is a vote in the right direction. Earlier, Obioma Liyel Imoke, the wife of the leader of the party in the state, Liyel Imoke, said any vote outside Atiku is a waste of vote. She said Atiku Abubakar has not

come to the state to campaign because the APC has campaigned for them through their abysmal performance. Also speaking, Chioma Gershom Bassey, the "SHE" Coordinator in the state, said, "we are focused on the interest and progress of women in Nigeria. "SHE campaign seeks to address all the challenges women are facing in the country as soon as we get into office. "Atiku has a five-point covenant and I have added the SHE to the He", she noted.



2 Weeks Enough To End Insecurity In Nigeria, Says Expert

By, USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

A counter terrorism and security expert, Ahmed Saleh Jnr., has said that with a political will, the nation's security challenges can be put to an end within two weeks.

Saleh asserted this in Kaduna during an investiture of the 16th Branch Chairman of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN), where he also noted that international conspiracy is also a factor fueling the lingering insecurity in the country.

He however, said that the nation is blessed with abundant resources that if properly channeled, would solve the insecurity challenges confronting the nation within a period of a fortnight.

Saleh who is also a Forensic Scientist and Public Security Analyst, said, "With the amount of intelligence we have, and resources at our disposal; both in intelligence and the uniform security services, I can assure you that if there is a political will to solve the problem of insecurity bedeviling this country, two weeks is too much to end insecurity in the country.

"Sincerely, we have men and women from these security services that are patriotic and ready to lay down their lives in service of their father's land, just



Ahmed Saleh Jnr

to ensure that their fellow citizens can sleep with their two eyes closed confidently and conveniently."

While speaking, he further explained that conspiracy of silence and political conspiracy are also key players in fueling the insecurity in the country, adding that these conspiracies are aimed at making the country ungovernable.

He therefore, urged the government to strengthen intelligence agencies in the country on their mandates of foreign and counter intelligence operations.

According to him, the intelligence agency is an equivalent of CIA in Nigeria, which he opined that the agency and other sister agencies should be properly utilised, especially in the area of intelligence gathering.

The Public Security Analyst also advised that the traditional rulers should be giving a constitutional role in the area of intelligence gathering.

Legal Practitioner Laments Sufferings Of Southern Kaduna People

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A Kaduna based legal practitioner, Gloria Mabeiam Ballason, has observed that the years of suffering and persecution of Southern Kaduna people has been on for decades.

She explained that before the 1960s, mothers, sisters and forbears were carted away as slaves and forcefully married in Zazzau.

She also observed that the people's harvested agricultural products in farms and barns were forcefully seized and used as fodder to feed the animals of slave masters.

Speaking in a keynote address delivered at the public presentation and launch of: "Southern Kaduna: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow" in Kafanchan, the legal practitioner noted that amidst these oppressions, Southern Kaduna people fought and refused to be a conquered territory.

She stated that for those who may just have joined the story in recent times, the overwhelming nature of the painful experiences the people now suffer, may seem isolating and frustrating enough because our forebears battled and worked so hard to get us to where we are today.

She enjoined the people to build a region where faith is anchored in character as opposed to empty religiosity, saying that in a world that is increasingly becoming sullen and despicable in vices, the people owe it as a duty to

demonstrate faith through virtue and to be a people of substance who are known to be resolute in principles. The legal practitioner suggested that the people of the area must continue to invest in agriculture and education, lamenting that it is now difficult to get to the farms but the people must continue to device means to farm to feed and stay alive on safe lands while combatting the terrorists.

She added, "We must insist on our identity and culture. Cultural rights are human rights recognized in International Law and Covenants and the Nigerian Constitution. (See Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Sections 21 and 39 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). It is therefore criminal and a violation of rights for any government to change the names of chiefdoms or the identity of a people, desecrate their cultures or balkanize their identities.

She urged the people of Southern Kaduna to instill in their people pride in their identity and imprint in the children the assurance that they are enough and must refused to be named by what anyone thinks they are and lay hold of the original identities of their people and their lands, traditional titles at all levels should be in their dialects and not in another external tribe as it is how a people define who they are and stamp it on the



Gloria Ballason

sands of time.

According to her, hate and violence must be banished, saying that the people cannot afford for today's victims to become tomorrow's combatants, as any region that has known perpetual violence has to consciously work to recalibrate against being defined by it.

She stated that, "the timelines show that from the 1980 Kasuwan Magani crisis through 1986 in Yarkasuwa, Lere District, 1987 in Kafanchan, 1992 in Zangon Kataf, 1999 in Southern Kaduna, 2000 which saw an unprecedented escalation in casualties, 2002 Miss World, 2011 in Anchuna, 2011 at Tabak, Kukum-Kagoro and then from 2012 till date, the cycle of violence meted on our communities in Southern Kaduna has continued".

She lamented that the lives and history of the people have been shaped by these unfortunate incidents, saying that they are not

slow-boiling conflicts as is often wrongly reported, but are systemic killings and mass atrocities crimes of genocidal proportions that demand international intervention and the political marginalization and the economic, educational and infrastructural deprivation, reveal a structural neglect.

As if that is not bad enough, she stated that under the Nasir el-Rufai government, the region has experienced unprecedented persecution, politically, the diversity of the state is not represented as thousands of civil servants and teachers have been thrown out of jobs, stressing that tertiary institutions in Southern Kaduna were exclusively shut down by the government as the identities of the people were changed by executive fiat and cultural heritage have been destroyed with paramount leaders and dissenting civic voices and journalists imprisoned, kidnapped or killed.

Currency Redesigning, Step To A Better Nigeria - Senator Akpan

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Young Progressives Party (YPP) governorship candidate in Akwa Ibom State, Senator Bassey Albert Akpan has said that though recent Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) policy of redesigning the currency has caused hardship on Nigerians at this initial stage, but it is a step at making the country work again.

Senator Akpan popularly called (OBA), who is the Senator representing Uyo Senatorial District and Chairman Senate Committee on Petroleum (Upstream), made this assertion on Sunday, when he worshipped at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Nnung Ukot Itam in Itu Local Government Area of the State.

He expressed the hope that the country will be better, especially when good leaders are elected.

"The president might have good intentions but the implementation might bring difficulty on the people. As a result of it, we have not heard about kidnapping in the North and militancy in the south in the past months. Something good is coming and I believe that Nigeria will work, but it will start from Akwa Ibom", OBA added.

The YPP governorship candidate, who was at the church with members of his campaign team, Akwa Ubok Abasi Campaign Organisation on a special thanksgiving service, described the event as part of the lifestyle of the members who truly rely on God for victory.

The lawmaker used the opportunity to thank the Catholic Church for upholding sanity, decorum and discipline and also called on the church to be courageous, prayerful and bold as the nation prepares

for the forthcoming elections.

"The foundation of my resilience was gotten from the Catholic background. I schooled at St. Patrick's College and the foundation I got has groomed me till today. The manner and decorum I witnessed at the Catholic family since 1982 has been maintained till today. Thanksgiving is our own lifestyle, we have come again to thank God just as we have been doing as a campaign organization. Your courage is what we need now than ever", he said.

The senator also charged the church members not to sell their consciences. avoid selling your conscience as we prepare to vote. "You should vote for those with good intentions to do what is good for the people. I am more concerned about the welfare of the common man", he added.

He thanked the church for their consistent prayers and urged the members to pray for free, fair and credible elections as the nation prepares.

In his homily, the Parish Priest, Monsignor Michael Ekpe, called on all to be united in worship irrespective of race, ethnicity or culture. He warned against nurturing grudges against one another, since that does not reflect God's attitude.

"May we be united as God wants. Unity is what God wants. Let us love, respect one another just like God loves and cares for us", the cleric advised.

He called on all eligible voters to troop out and vote for credible candidates in the forthcoming elections if they so desire a change of affairs in the country. According to him, the power to change the condition people face today lies in their voter's cards.

Don't Hold Census During Ramadan, Council Of Ulama Begs FG

**Demands sacking of bad eggs in security agencies*

**Says old, new Naira notes should be allowed to circulate*

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

While admitting that census is a very important activity in any country which provides governments with information and data necessary for development, the Council of Ulama of Nigeria has appealed to the Federal Government not to hold the scheduled 2023 exercise during the month of Ramadan

The council made the appeal in a communique issued after its Annual General Meeting (AGM, held at the National Headquarters of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) on February 16 and 17, 2023, signed by its National Secretary, Professor Muhammad S. Abubakar.

"The Council is fully in support of the exercise, but the timing is wrong as it will involve Ramadan period.

"The Council therefore, calls for little adjustment so that Muslims can fully participate without any hindrance," the group said.

The meeting was attended by Muslim Scholars, Imams, and Academician across the states of the federation and Abuja.

It explained that the participants had exhaustive deliberations on a number of issues at the end of which the following observations were made.

"The insecurity challenges pervading the country for over a decade now accounting for unquantifiable losses, human and material is a great concern to all Nigerians;

"The new policy of Naira redesignation is inherently not a bad idea. The Council however condemns the refusal of the CBN to release adequate quantity of the new notes, a phenomenon that has thrown most Nigerians into unmitigated hardship.

"Nigeria's general elections are commencing from 25th February 2023 in sha Allah. Eighteen political parties have combed every nook and cranny of the country canvassing for votes;

"It is a matter for great concern that the prices of petroleum products especially the PMS and the diesel are becoming prohibitive. Nigerians are torn between subsidy removal, deregulation and refinery maintenance," the communique



said.

The Ulama lamented that the perennial conflict between farmers and herders and by extensions the recent unprovoked attack on innocent herders which led to the death of about forty persons and undisclosed number of cows at Rukubi village in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State is unacceptable;

"So far tens of thousands of human lives and animals worth Trillions of Naira have been lost in the ensuing conflict between herders and farmers;

"The unparalleled courage and doggedness of His excellency

Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State in tackling the Boko Haram insurgency and its consequences, particularly the rehabilitation of the IDPs and empowering them is highly commendable," the communique said.

The Council therefore, called on the government to massively recruit security personnel, to embark on pre-emptive attacks within the bandits hide out, to adequately equip and train them, to improve on their welfare and intelligence gathering, and to rid the services of bad and rotten eggs among them;

They also called for the lifting of

all deadlines imposed on currency retrieval and that the old and new currencies should be allowed to run concurrently until the old currency is completely phased out;

"The Council calls on the CBN to make the new currencies available in large quantity throughout the country and without any restrictions.

"For instance, there is one senatorial zone with twelve local governments and only two have banks. In such cases no amount of Naira swap can solve their problems," they said.

On the general elections, the council equally called on INEC

to remain an impartial umpire for the exercise to be free, fair and credible.

"The security agents are also called upon to selflessly superintend the conduct of all the elections and to contain any miscreant or trouble shooter whose conduct is inimical to the successful elections;

"We call on the contestants to be good winners and good losers. Those defeated should follow the appropriate legal channels to channel their grievances. While the winners should refrain from provocative and dishonorable behavior.

"Nigerians are also strongly urged to come out in their multitudes and exercise their franchise without succumbing to the highest bidder," the Ulama said.

The Council called for the urgent redress of fuel scarcity and the escalation of its prices.

"As a matter of urgency, constructed private refineries should be allowed to commence operation to save our foreign reserves," they added.

The Council backed the idea of 'ranching' (Ruga) which they said is a global best practice.

"No matter what is spent along that line is not worth losing a single life," the communique pointed out.

They also called on the federal government to institute a high judicial panel of enquiry to dig out the perpetrators of Rukubi crime and get them punished accordingly.

The Council urged Muslims to pray for the defeat of Boko Haram insurgents and the success of Governor Zulum in tackling their menace and capacity to settle all the IDPs.

The Council of Ulama commiserated with their brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria over the devastating earthquake that shattered the two countries.

"The Council requests Muslims all over the world to extend the hand of brotherhood by conveying relief materials to the victims and praying for the departed souls," it concluded.

"The Council calls on the CBN to make the new currencies available in large quantity throughout the country and without any restrictions."



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Bachama Community In Zaria Celebrates Professor Voh's Retirement

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Bachama Community in Zaria has celebrated the retirement of one of theirs, Professor Ambrose Alikidon Voh (Jnr) a Professor of Animal Production/Artificial Insemination with NAPRI/ABU Zaria.

Professor Voh (Jnr) started his journey 47 years ago in Zaria (5 years as a Veterinary student and 42 years as a staff of NAPRI Shika/ABU has come to an end with Thanksgiving and Valedictory (Farewell) Service. Out of the 70 years of his life, Prof. Voh spent 47 years in Zaria. Three out of his four children were born in Zaria.

"Zaria is therefore, home for me for all intent and practical purposes," he said.

Born on November 2, 1952 to Pa Voh Bokpah Fyemikada and Mama Lydia Bogoron Voh (nee Kireambo of Ngbablang Ward, Numan Adamawa State and spiritually born again in May 1967 with baptism on June 14, 1969.

Prof. Voh attended Native Authority Primary School, Numan between 1960 to 1964 and Sudan United Nation (B) Primary School, Lamurde from 1965 to 1966.

He also attended Boys' Secondary School (BSS) Gindiri, Plateau State: (Sudan United Nation (B) 1967-1971 (O'Level) and Boys' Secondary School (BSS): 1972-1973 (HSC).

The celebrant got admission into Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, where he was from 1974 to 1979 (DVM). He did his MSc Theriogenology

and PhD (Theriogenology) in ABU Zaria as well as his Professor (Theriogenology).

The researcher's expert work life as Veterinary Officer, Gembu Gongola State and NAPRI/ABU Zaria was spanned from 1980 to 2022 and Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) Mabushi Abuja, from 2016 to 2019.

He was on Secondment for Dairy Research and Development Center Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi, between 2020 to 2021.

He was a Commissioner of Education Adamawa State, Chairman/State Coordinator, State Livestock Transformation Office (SLTO) National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) Yola: 2019 to date while on Sabbatical.

A dedicated servant of God, he was entrusted to be the Treasurer, ECWA Church, Shika Zaria, Treasurer, ECWA Giwa LCC, Zaria, Treasurer, ECWA Zaria DCC, Chairman, Board of Directors, ECWA Rural Development Ltd (ERD), Convener/Founder Shika Audio-Visual Evangelism (SAVE) Team and Convener, "Bwatiye Prays" Numan, Adamawa State.

Chairman/Member of many Committees at LC, LCC, DCC and GCC Levels and Chairman, Documentation Sub-Committee of the LCCN Centenary Central Working Committee in 2013.

Prof. Ambrose A. Voh Jnr has many professional/technical and non-technical publications.

His hobbies include, traveling, Bible study, rearing animals, watching football and basketball and teaching.



His drive/goal in life is to serve God and mankind faithfully, in word and in deed; in truth and in spirit.

While in active service, Professor A.A. Voh (Jr), a traditional title holder of (Impa Bachama) meaning the (Sarkin Dawan Bachama), was turbaned on March 23, 2013.

He is a Fellow College of Veterinary Surgeons of Nigeria (FCVSN), Fellow Institute of Administrators and Researchers of West Africa (FARWA), Chartered Fellow, Institute of Administrators and Researchers of Nigeria (CFIARN). Grand Commander of Nigerian Students (GCNS) and a Professor of Animal

Reproduction (AR)/Artificial Insemination (AI).

Also, he is a Dairy Management Consultant with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) Bauchi, Member, Agricultural Thematic Group of TETFUND Standing Committee on Research and Development, Member, TETFUND Mega Dairy Research Project, ATBU, Bauchi, Chairman and State Coordinator, State Livestock Transformation Office (SLTO) of the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) Yola Adamawa and Impa Bachama of Bachama Kingdom. A Convener, Bwatiye Prays, Convener and Leader, Shika Audio-Visual Evangelism Team (SAVE Team).

Professor Voh (Jnr) has held several positions, which include, Director, Coordination of

Technical Research (D-CTR), Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN). Acting Executive Secretary (Ag ES), Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN). Executive Director National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI) ABU Shika Zaria, Head, Artificial Insemination Unit NAPRI/ABU Shika Zaria. Others are Project Officer of World Bank-assisted National Agricultural Research Project (NARP) NAPRI/ABU Shika Zaria.

Programme Leader, Dairy Research Programme, NAPRI/ABU Shika Zaria. A seasoned Animal Agricultural Researcher, An Experienced Animal Agricultural Administrator and a committed Community mobilizer and worker.



Umahi Suspends Ebubeagu Launches Two New Security Outfits

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor David Umahi of Ebonyi State has suspended the activities of the Ebubeagu security outfit due to a recent high court judgment and inaugurated two new vigilante outfits called Ebonyi State Neighbourhood Security Watch and Ebonyi State Vigilante Corps respectively.

Governor David Umahi disclosed this in a broadcast on Friday, stating that activities of the security outfit have been suspended and two new vigilante outfits have been formed to ensure security of lives and property across the state.

"The Ebubeagu security outfit will not function in the state until the stay of execution is granted and appeal entered.

"This is in obedience to the rule of law and whether it is good or bad for our people, it is the court's judgment"

Governor Umahi noted that the judgement from a court of equal jurisdiction had a month ago, restrained anyone from disbanding the outfit because of its contribution to the security of the state.

"This means that I have two judgements on the



Umahi

same subject as the second one shouldn't had been due to an earlier decision on it.

"I could had chosen which one to obey if I were not a lover of the judiciary but has chosen to obey the latter.

"When the stay of execution is granted, Ebubeagu will function again.

He appreciated the state House of Assembly for their commitment in passing into law, two sets of vigilante outfits which processes commenced

since 2021 in Ebonyi state. "These outfits include the Ebonyi neighborhood watch patterned after such in Anambra and the Ebonyi vigilante corps patterned after Amotekun, in the South West geopolitical zone.

"When Ebubeagu returns, they all should not infringe on the rights of the citizens.

"None of them would be involved in the forthcoming general elections and the public must note this"

The governor urged the

people of the state, more especially various political parties to respect the rule of law while carrying out their political activities.

Recall that a Federal High Court, sitting in Abakaliki, the Ebonyi State capital, on Tuesday, disbanded the Ebubeagu Security Outfit, in the state.

The disbandment, it was gathered, was as a result of several alleged human rights abuses, extortions, illegal arrest and use of fire arms by the security outfit.

Interim Govt: It's Not True - Presidency

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

No truth to the claims that President Muhammadu Buhari is working towards an interim government, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity Alhaji Garba Shehu has said.

Alhaji Garba Shehu said in a statement made available to the New Nigerian in Katsina advised the Government critics in the Country to stop making jokes about interim Government.

Alhaji Garba Shehu assured that, elections would hold as schedule and President Muhammadu Buhari has helped to keep Democracy alive not only here at home, in West Africa but throughout the continent.

He said the talk of interim government and truncation of democracy was way off the mark and those who peddle it stand to gain nothing but the creation of panic and incitement of the public against the federal government.

He said "It is another dangerous dimension by people who are afraid that they may lose their elections and everybody is aware that there is a lot of pressure on everyone-all of us- the party, its elected officials, its candidates and law enforcement agencies following the way the currency swap has gone but the way to go is not to panic."

Alhaji Garba Shehu disclosed that, "there is indeed a problem and nobody will pretend that it doesn't exist and it is precisely because the President is concerned with this problem that he opened several avenues for consultation with leaders and groups across the country, culminating in his broadcast to the nation on Thursday morning."

In line with the President Muhammadu Buhari's speech, his clear and unequivocal directive that the problem of cash supply was addressed without delay.

While this was being done, Alhaji Garba Shehu said there is no need to panic.

He emphasized that, "We need to work together as leaders; as a people and as one nation. When panic hits, people go into overdrive. Shouting helps no one because no one can listen."

He reiterated that, the solution to the problem was not in sending Nigerians into confusion, stressing that, "Elections, just a week ahead, will hold and Nigerians will vote for the All Progressives Congress, APC, and any others if they so wish on the basis of their choice."

He said Nigerians want progress, good governance, law and order and would not be swayed by the negative energy that was being expended against a well-meaning currency change.

Finally, to state that, he said President Muhammadu Buhari clearly has a favoured successor in Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, was not in doubt.

"The fact that Tinubu has been opposed to the speed and timing of the Naira swap timetable does not mean he is against the idea of Nigeria becoming a cashless society. Of course, Tinubu does support a cashless society: for he is a man of the future," Alhaji Garba Shehu disclosed.

He noted that, what should be made crystal clear to the doubters and the speculators and the untruth-tellers was that in no way was the naira swap "engineered" to keep the President in office beyond May 29, 2023. nothing could be further from the truth.

The President, according to Garba Shehu looks forward to handing over the reins of power to his elected successor. "This will happen on May 29, 2023 as the Constitution requires it," he added.

Alhaji Garba Shehu noted that, the days of unelected Nigerian leaders, and those who outstay their welcome by unconstitutionally extending it, have gone.

Tinubu Mentors People To Be Leaders, Arewa Group Challenges Atiku, Others

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Apan-northern socio-political organisation under the aegis of Arewa New Agenda (ANA), on Friday, said the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Tinubu, is heads and shoulders above all other candidates.

ANA challenged other

presidential candidates to showcase the achievements and disciples they have mentored that would make Nigerians vote for them in the February 25 election.

The convener of ANA, Senator Ahmad Abubakar MoAllahyidi, during an interactive session with journalists in Abuja, said Tinubu improved the internally generated revenue of Lagos

tremendously.

He also listed some of the personalities mentored by the former governor of Lagos State and some of his core achievements while in office as governor.

MoAllahyidi said in human capital development, Tinubu remains a mentor to many people in Nigeria, irrespective of their tribes, ethnicity or religion.

Part of the statement read, "Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu took on the gory sight of Lagos environment on assumption of office that was occasion by pollution from different sectors at that time; he set up the 40-year development plan which has been followed diligently over the years culminating in the ongoing transformation of Lagos.

Dan Suleiman: Tribute To The General Who Fought Till His Last Days

By: ADEWOLE ADEBAYO,

It is evident that our culture continues to adhere to the unhealthy custom of concealing all the excellent deeds, actions, and omissions until after the main character has died.

This is undoubtedly true of the late Air Commodore Dan Suleiman, a man who not only defended the nation while he was alive but also fought against its adversaries right up until the moment of his death.

Late Suleiman was a man of destiny, having traversed many pedestals of human challenges and terrains.

He was a committed and unrepentant Nationalist who believed in the unity of our dear country. As a military officer, he was arguably the best fighter pilot the country has ever produced. He fought to preserve the unity of the country during the civil war and up until his passing, he directed his daily activities toward fostering that unity.

An astute leader who served the country meritoriously, only to be forced into an exile for opposing subsequent military dictatorships.

The climax and eloquent testimony to Dan Suleiman's singular and enduring contributions to the development of Nigeria's democracy was the roles he played as one of the founding fathers of SDP and NADECO leader.

He was a great democrat who fought and defended our democracy with everything he



Prince Adewole ADEBAYO is the Presidential Candidate of the SDP

had. We at the Social Democratic Party (SDP) are proud to associate with him as one of our founding fathers.

His selfless services are worthy of emulation and we are proud to be associated with his efforts. All by a dint of hard work, devotion, vision and perseverance, the great Commodore successfully transmogrified from a military leader into an unrepentant

democrat cum quintessential political leader.

Air Commodore Dan Suleiman was a devout Christian with a mixed trait of the spirit of a Christlike character. It is to his eternal credit that he used religion as a tool in fostering national unity. His life

was a true example that one need not be an elected official to be relevant to one's community or

nation.

He had in his kitty, the feelings of care and empathy for the wellbeing of others.

He was not only a devout Christian, he was also famed in other admirable human endeavour and pursuits. A closer look at the other side of him depicts a God fearing, committed and dedicated leader. He was intellectually inquisitive and most times compassionate,

indefatigable, hospitable, well-meaning, resourceful, egalitarian, charismatic, detribalised, conscientious and philanthropic to a fault.

Until his last day on earth, his love for Nigeria never waned. His passion for defending the country

was consistent and extraordinary. It was not his profession that made his life remarkable or significant.

On the contrary, it was his undying love towards the country. Beyond Nigeria, late Dan Suleiman

touched the lives of numerous people across the globe. He was a very generous and sympathetic personality who was always moved at the slightest spectacle of human suffering and pangs.

Late Dan Suleiman was an immensely profound philosopher. His thoughts and contributions to our political discourse are still as incisive, provoking and thoughtful as they are, when he was still alive.

They are fountain of knowledge that our generation of aspiring leaders should drink from. As the

Social Democratic Party's flagbearer, I have made the personal decision to pick up the baton left by Dan Suleiman.

It is now our duty to make sure that Air Commodore Dan Suleiman's efforts to strengthen Nigeria's unity for sustainable development, revive our economy and combat insecurity, usher in 24-hour electricity across the nation, restore confidence in government through transparent governance

Tetanus: Borno Govt, WHO Immunize Over 1m Reproductive Age Women

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Borno State Government in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF and partners have immunized over one million women of reproductive age against the deadly disease of tetanus recently.

The Executive Director, State Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Dr. Lawi Mshelia disclosed this at a one-day orientation for media, traditional and religious leaders on maternal and neonatal tetanus in Maiduguri.

He described Tetanus as a preventable disease, but Nigeria



MNTE Integrated Vaccination in Gwage Ward Maiduguri, Borno State capital

is yet to eliminate the burden because of low immunization coverage.

According to him, so far, the government in collaboration with other partners have successfully covered 94 per cent during the first round.

The WHO State Coordinator, Borno State Field Office, Dr. Ibrahim Salisu, disclosed they are working closely with the government to ensure the death rates resulting from the disease are reduced.

"We are working with Borno state government, UNICEF and partners to ensure that women of child-bearing age and the children targeted are adequately reached during

this round of the campaign. This campaign is integrated with Measles, Routine Immunization and COVID-19 vaccination"

"WHO has been supporting the Borno State Government to strengthen the Primary Health Care system. We are working to ensure people in Borno state including those in security-compromised LGAs have access to qualify life-saving services"

The WHO State Coordinator used the opportunity to call on traditional and community leaders to encourage the people to come out and take up the services as well urged women to avail themselves and their children of the opportunity to receive the vaccines.

2023 Polls: Consolidate Your Love, Vote 100% for Tinubu, Other Candidates - Oyo APC

**Lauds large turnout for Mapo rally*



Asiwaju Bola Tinubu raising the hand of Senator Teslim Folarin at the Mapo rally in Ibadan

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The All Progressives Congress, (APC) in Oyo State on Friday, asked the people of the state to consolidate their love for APC by voting 100 per cent for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and all the party's National Assembly candidates on Saturday February 25 elections.

Oyo APC in a statement signed by the Deputy Director General for the Presidential and Gubernatorial Campaigns Council, Asiwaju Yemi Aderibigbe expressed appreciation to the people of the state for their massive turnout at the record presidential rally held in Mapo, Ibadan on Thursday.

According to the party, the mammoth, unprecedented crowd that came out to receive the Presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress was a confirmation of the love the people of Oyo State have in the party and its Presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu".

Emphasizing that the "whole leaders and members of the party across the 33 local government areas of the state profoundly appreciated the love shown to APC by the good people of Oyo State", the party maintained that the number of people that trooped out en-masse from Alakia to New Ife Road, Iwo Road, Idiape, Gate, Bus Stop, Oje, Labiran,

Bere, Yemetu, Total Grden, Bodija UI to Mapo and other routes passed by the presidential motorcade to cheer Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the campaign train had never been seen in the history of Oyo State."

"This has never happened in the history of Oyo State. It is a phenomenal, unprecedented. Our party, and all the leaders, from the State Coordinator of Presidential Campaign Council, Senator Teslim Folarin; State Chairman, Chief Isaac Omodewu; the Director General of the Presidential and Gubernatorial Campaigns Council for the state, Dr. Isiaka Kolawole; Chairman, State Elders' Council, HE, Chief Iyiola Oladokun and all the

national, zonal, state, local government, wards officers and members fully appreciate the honor done to APC with this great turnout. "Thanking support groups for Asiwaju, volunteers, market women and men, traders, social and cultural associations, faith based groups, professional and vocational unions, artisans, youth and students for the love", Oyo APC noted that "the party and its presidential candidate would never take their support and love for granted promising that it would make life much better and prosperous for the people of Oyo State and Nigeria as a whole when he becomes the President of Nigeria".

Kano Businessman Calls On FG To Allow N500, N1,000 Notes To Continue Circulating



Buhari

By; JABIRU A HASSAN, Kano

A businessman in Kano, Alhaji Usman Dan Gwari has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to allow N500 and N1,000 notes to continue circulating, pending the Supreme Court final verdict.

In an interview with newsmen in Kano, Dan Gwari stressed that up till now, there is huge amount of 500,1,000 Naira notes at hand, while the new notes remained in scarcity despite the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN's) directive to make it available in the banks.

He added that, "The presidential speech has added more fuel to Naira redesign problems in Nigeria, and Nigerians are really suffering, in respect of the Naira scarcity and we hope that the president would allow the Supreme Court to judge rather than scaling it's constitutional rights".

Alhaji Usman Dan Gwari called on Nigerians to remain calm, law abiding and prayerful for the Naira redesigning issue to cease before the forthcoming general elections.

He was optimistic that the elections would be free and fair as expected.

63rd Birthday: Kaduna Govt Officials Gather, Wish el-Rufai Well

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai of Kaduna State at the weekend, marked his 63rd birthday.

Kaduna State Government officials gathered to wish el-Rufai a happy 63rd birthday.

In his remarks, el-Rufai expressed gratitude for all the felicitations and prayers from around the world.



Gov el-Rufai

Borno Mega Rally: APC Will Shock Atiku In North-East - Ajaka

300 Vulnerable Girls Trained In Cap Making, Computer Literacy In Borno IDPs Camp



Ajaka

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following the success of the Presidential rally of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Borno State on Saturday, the Deputy National Publicity, Hon. Murtala Yakubu Ajaka, has declared that the party will shock the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Atiku Abubakar in the North-East region where he hails from.

Ajaka, who attended the presidential rally thanked the state governor and people of Borno for coming out en-mass to support their son and the Vice Presidential candidate of the party, Sen. Kashim Shettima.

In a statement released in Abuja signed by the APC deputy spokesman, said not even the biting cashless policy will stop the determined people of Borno and entire North-east from coming out next week Saturday vote the APC.

He said: "The Borno outing is a clear message for the PDP and its Presidential candidate that a surprise is awaiting them in the North-east."

Ajaka expressed confidence that his party will not only win in North-

east but emerge victorious at the general election across the country.

The statement, however, called on other states and region to emulate North-east by ensuring massive mobilisation for the APC.

He said: "The people of Borno state have spoken loudly and the message is clear that they are for the APC and the fact that not even the ongoing biting cashless policy will stop them from voting Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu and their son, Senator Kashim Shettima next week Saturday. I, honestly commend the government, the APC leadership and the people of Borno for this show of massive support."

"I will urge them not to relent or tire until the main goal is achieved next week Saturday."

The APC chieftain also assured the people that "Asiwaju Bola Tinubu is a promise keeper who will fulfil all the promises he has made in his manifesto and reposition the country for better."

The APC spokesman called on Nigerians not to be distracted from the issues of competence, capacity and antecedent of Presidential candidates seeking their votes next week.



By ; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

A non-governmental organisation (NGO), dedicated to improving adolescent health, Action Health Incorporated (AHI) has trained 300 displaced girls in cap making and computer at the El-Badawe Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in Maiduguri.

Speaking at the project dissemination meeting in Maiduguri on Thursday, the Executive Director of the AHI, Adenike Esiet, said the 300 who benefited from its empowerment training comprised of 200

girls trained in cap making and 100 others trained in basic computer literacy and coding.

Esiet said that the beneficiaries would be given start-up kits.

Esiet said that the AHI project in Borno started in 2020 with support from International Research Development Centre (IDRC) of Canada and has so far reached out to 2,300 adolescent girls and young women with Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services.

She said the project also engaged husbands and male partners to improve acceptance of SRH services and mitigate

Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the camp.

She lauded the support and cooperation of Borno Government through Ministry of Women Affairs and partners like United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the smooth execution of AHI project in the state.

In her remarks, the Borno Director Women Affairs, Falmata Hamza lauded the intervention of AHI in supporting the vulnerable in Borno and assured of government collaboration at all times.

Hamza advised beneficiaries of the empowerment programmes by AHI to

embrace saving culture to generate capital to boost their businesses.

In her message, the Director-General of Borno State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Hajiya Yabawa Kolo lauded the health and empowerment support to the vulnerable which she said, has gone a long way in complementing government efforts.

Some parents and children from the camp who spoke, also lauded the intervention which they said, not only provided them source of livelihood, but also improved their reproductive health education and hygiene.



I Want To Champion Challenges Of My Constituents At National Discourse - APC Reps Candidate

Dr. Samuel Adesola Adedayo, a medical doctor, a former chairman of Apapa Iganmu Local Council Development Area and the All Progressive Congress (APC) House of Representatives candidate, Apapa Federal Constituency in the forthcoming 2023 general elections, in a no hold barred interview with RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, said his mission is to bring the challenge of his constituents for national discourse. Excerpt:

Having served as a Council chairman, what informed your decision to vie for the House of Representatives position?

Well, for me, it's a call to service. I had been local government chairman for two terms, which is the limit and am not tired of serving my people. I have therefore put forward myself to defend their common interest at the Green Chamber and improve their livelihood.

What would be your priority if elected?

I will work with Representatives from other parts of the country to enact laws that will improve the welfare of the down trodden. Most areas in Apapa Federal Constituency are categorised as low income areas and many of the residents are peasants. In that constituency, we have 10 Wards and four of those Wards are in an elites environment, that's those in Apapa GRA and Apapa Tincan Wharf, but the large percentage of the people that live in Ijora Oloye, Apapa-Iganmu, that constitute six Wards are peasants.

The whole of Apapa Iganmu is actually a slum and one of the things we need to do is to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor if we don't want to run into crisis because the standard of living in that place is well below average. I believe if their Representative can bring there challenges to a national discuss, people will see the need to assist them.

As a former Council chairman in the Constituency, what would you consider as their major challenge?

Well, I will like to look at it from various segments of that society. I want to look at the large number of unemployed youth, they constitute a risk to the society. Not all of them are uneducated, many of them are educated but have no jobs. Secondly, there are some of them that have no skill, we should help them to develop a skill as a form of empowering them so that they can stand on their own and earn a decent living.

There are two major Ports at Apapa Federal Constituency, but right now, this Constituency is short-changed in terms of remuneration as regards what the Federal Government earns as revenue from them. We should look at the Ports along the Nigerian coast and earmark something like derivation for them. People living along those areas should have a form of relief because they generate alot of money for the Federal Government. Therefore, the Federal Government needs to pay special attention to them.

The other issue may be issue of accommodation, housing is a big problem for these people. If you see the way they're living, the government needs to do a lot to assist them, this can be done either through mortgage or owner occupier.

The environment is also not too conducive for living well, it's in jeopardy because there is open drainages

with mosquitos and all those kind of a thing. Honestly, we need to do something drastically to improve the environment and this will in turn boost their living standard. And of course, we have a large number of children in the society and we need to take care of their education.

Again, even the sporting facilities in those areas, we need to improve on them. When I was the Council chairman, I facilitated the building of a mini Stadium for them, but nothing has been done there since I left office. We need to encourage them so that we can also pick those of them that are skillful for further development.

These are some of the things am thinking about and of course am going to liase with the stakeholders to know exactly what are their needs so that we can do the need assessment. Once we do the need assessment, I will work with other legislators and the executive of course to see how we can improve the standard of living of these people. Honestly, we have a large number of them that are earning below one dollar a day. So we must look at a way of reducing what they call the gene index.

What are your chances of winning the election?

Let's start by discussing the platform on which am contesting. The All Progressive Congress (APC) is a platform that is acceptable to the people in Lagos and this is due largely to what the government of the progressives has done since 1999 and they have been helpful to the people of the state. So, I can't see anybody living in Lagos that have not benefitted directly or indirectly from the progressive governance that we have since 1999 that was spare headed by Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

This is an advantage for me. The second one is that on a personal note, I have been Council chairman between 2008 and 2014 and I have been residing with them since 1988. I have been a community leader and a philanthropist in that area and am at home with every segment of the community. When you talk of the Yorubas, am at home with them, you talk of the Hausas, am at home with them, even the minorities like the Ilajes, Apois, the Nuipes and all of them. Again, because I have an hospital there that serves all these people and it's like a community hospital for that area. Am sure those competing with me will lose their deposit if they ever bet.

The fuel scarcity issue coupled with the crisis of cash crunch seem to have hit up the polity and there is anxiety that the Election may not hold, how do you react to this?

I am a firm believer in God and I believe it doesn't matter what people are doing to scuttle the election. The election will hold, we will have winners and a



Dr. Adedayo

democratic government in place, ready to take over power from the outgoing government.

I don't want our people to be discouraged. There is no doubt that there are some forces that are trying to scuttle the election and those forces shall be defeated

by the grace of God. I appeal to our people not to be discouraged because they will soon smile.

I believe if Asiwaju wins by the special grace of God, there will be remarkable changes based on what he had done when he was Governor of Lagos State.

Tinubu Pledges To Tackle Insecurity, Dwindling Economy, Improve Infrastructure Across Nigeria

**APC National Chairman optimistic of victory at polls*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR,
Maiduguri

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Candidate, Bola Tinubu who arrived Maiduguri, the Borno State Capital as his 36th state including FCT Abuja nationwide presidential electioneering campaign/ rally early Saturday around 3am has assured that if elected on Saturday as the President of Nigeria, he will first and foremost, tackle insecurity problem of the state, the Boko Haram Insurgency.

He also pledged to address all the major issues or needs of Borno State, which the royal father, the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Garbai Ibn Umar El Kanemi had earlier requested when he visited the his palace, which includes the resuscitation of the Lake Chad Basin Authority to boost agricultural activities and farming in the state.

Addressing a large crowd that converged on the rally ground on Saturday at the El Kanemi Warriors Sports Center Maiduguri, Bola Tinubu said, "I am just here to say thank you. Mungode. This is your leader, Kashim. Success is back. I can guarantee you that we will do it. We will revamp Nigeria. We will win. We will be able to differentiate. God will take over.

"You have suffered deprivation. You have suffered. Honestly, we will take care of all of you. Your smile is back. Your happiness is here. APC government is government of the people, for the people and by the people.

"All of you will be happy. Your children will; inherit a better future. You will have better education. By next week Saturday 25th of February, you will vote. All of you will vote. You will vote for who? God bless you," Asiwaju said.

According to him, all issues and problems of Borno State will be addressed by his government if voted into power and he gets the maximum support of Borno, stressing that, his government if elected, is that of Borno State as his running mate is from the state.

Although this is coming a week to the Presidential Election, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the APC Presidential Candidate while addressing the crowd that converged on the El Kanemi Warriors Sports Center Maiduguri rally said APC is in



pole position to win.

While on homage at the Shehu's palace, His Royal Highness in his speech, thanked the APC Presidential Candidate and his entourage for their visit, while praying for smooth, credible, peaceful and successful campaign and subsequent election.

The royal father however, said that the visit is a sign of respect accorded the traditional council by the visitors and called for improved security and provision, as well as rehabilitation of federal government basic infrastructural facilities like

federal roads, electricity, resuscitation of the Lake Chad Basin Authority, resumption of oil exploration at the Lake Chad Basin and recruitment of large number of unemployed youth among others.

He also assured of the support and cooperation of the Borno State Traditional Council to all the candidates and peaceful conduct of the general election, while appealing for continuous attention to the traditional council by the state and federal government, as royal fathers play a great role in peace building, unity and stabilization of the people and society, being

custodians of the people who are part to the people at the grassroots.

The APC Presidential Candidate further appreciated all and sundry for their solidarity, support and staying strong behind him hundred per cent to his political ambition, while reiterating his pledge to support, develop and improve the socio economic position of the state and county at large.

Tinubu further assured the people of Borno that if he is elected President, his government will ensure all the demands of the state are attended and addressed, noting that, for

decades, he has been with the state and has been relating with the state and leaders of Borno since he was the Governor of Lagos.

He added that with the support of Borno and their son as his running mate, Kashim Shettima, all privileges and benefits of the state will be channeled regularly and directly, while commending Governor Umara Zulum and the party leadership in the state for their support and cooperation.

Governor Babanaga Umar Zulum of Borno State, Governor Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State, Senator Kashim Shettima, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff, National Chairman, APC Senator Abdullahi Adamu, Chairmen, Northern State Governors Forum and Director General of the campaign, Simon Lalong, Borno APC Chairman, Ali Bukat Dalori and others in their respective speeches, thanked the people and called for collective and massive votes for all APC candidates on election days from, the presidential election down to the state assembly election.

They also called on people of Borno State to continue having confidence on the APC candidates to improve the economy and bring succour to their door steps and improve on their livelihoods, pointing out that, with the people's votes and support on Saturday, APC will be elected.

"We will win election. We have won election in other places. We will definitely win. We have the capacity, trust and confidence that we will win on Saturday. With us, election is over. APC will win all elections," APC National Chairman Abdullahi Adamu said.

Earlier, Bola Tinubu was received by his running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima, APC National Chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, Deputy National North, Senator Abubakar Kyari, Gombe State Governor, Inuwa Yahaya, Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule, Kano State Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni, Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, Borno State APC Chairman, Hon. Ali Bukat Dalori, ETF BOT Chairman, Matawalle Kashim Imam and General Abdulrahman Dambazzau as well as other party stalwarts and supporters.



Presidential Polls: Kashim Shettima As Atiku, Obi's Achilles Heels

By: STANLEY NKWOCHA

From years to months, months to weeks, and now just a matter of days, the nation would head to the polls to elect the next president of Nigeria. Needless to state that President Muhammadu Buhari, with the constitution of his transition team headed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, 'knows what time it is' like the Americans would say.

There is no denying the fact that the change in the naira denomination along with the cash swap policy of the Buhari administration as well as the litigation subsisting at the Supreme Court has affected the mood for the 2023 General Election - attempting to, in very clear terms, derail it.

While the Federal Government struggled to compete with electoral campaigns in terms of attention, it is now clear that come Saturday, the ballots would be loud, loud enough to make a definite and emphatic statement on the resolve of Nigerians to protect their rights to democracy. Clearly, a new leadership for the country is in the offing!

I make bold to say that of the front runners in this election, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has run the most robust, technical, populist and indeed all-encompassing campaign. With a unique style of campaigning, his lieutenants have left no stone unturned in marketing his vision and ideas as contained in his 80-page manifesto.

While criticisms of his age and the Muslim-Muslim ticket was made an issue at the initial stage, Asiwaju's dexterity, vibrancy, energy and openness made capacity, sacrifice, experience, vision and political will to top the discourse ahead this election. Truth be told, Tinubu has indeed acquitted himself especially in terms of capacity and unison in the run up to the elections. He is undoubtedly not just the front runner but the expected favorite to win.

But beyond the rhetoric, permutations and political scheming of how this election would be won and lost, is the role of one character who has proven that in his choice of vice presidential candidate, Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu, brought his class intelligence, unique political wizardry, experience and understanding of exceptional leadership qualities to the fore. His choice of Senator Kashim Shettima as running



Atiku



Shettima

mate has paid off as finally the former Borno governor is the one puzzle that is set to do in Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Peter Obi of the Labour Party (LP) in this presidential election.

To have a clear shot at the Presidency, it is my opinion that every presidential candidate must secure his base. While it can be argued that Tinubu has his Southwest base in the kitty and Peter Obi another strong candidate has the Southeast as a stronghold, PDP's Atiku Abubakar sadly cannot lay claim to his Northeast base as a result of Kashim Shettima's strong footing in the region.

While the former vice president will struggle to win his home state of Adamawa, he cannot as at today, beat his chest as dominating neighboring states of Taraba, Gombe and Bauchi States as both Borno and Yobe States, usually with huge voter turnouts, are under Kashim Shettima's political enclave.

Shettima's political doggedness has seen him move into Gombe, Taraba and Bauchi States 'quietly' resolving and reconciling powerful political figures in the region. It can be safely stated that these moves have left Atiku wounded and distraught in the home front and thus helpless. The depletion of the PDP's support in its hitherto political bases in the Southeast and Southsouth further leaves the PDP's candidate in a quagmire and hence his desperation for 'votes - scurving' in the Northwest which only holds his pathway to electoral victory.

But as if punching it in the bags

of the opposition presidential candidates is not enough, Shettima's reach, hard work, eloquence, sophistry, vibrancy and highly cosmopolitan nature has continually made ridicule of other vice presidential candidates and proving to be the last nail on the coffin of other presidential candidates.

Of the prominent vice presidential candidates in this election, only Yusuf Datti hails from Northwest. Sadly, in terms of prominence, impactful strategy and visibility, the LP vice presidential candidate has been a shadow of himself - surrendering the region to the exploits, visits, nexus and seeming political genius of Shettima, prompting not a few pundits to assert that not even his ward would Datti win on election day much more his local government.

I dare say, were the G5 Governors crisis inherent in the

APC, Shettima would have been the man to fix it. Sadly, PDP's vice presidential candidate and Delta State governor, Patrick Okowa lost the capacity to contemplate a resolution of the crisis as he was a major dramatis personae in the crisis that has rocked the PDP in this election.

When as governor of Borno State and chairman of the Northern Governors Forum, Shettima travelled to all the Southeast states reassuring the Igbos of their safety when the Arewa Youth Consultative Forum led by Yerima Shettima, gave Igbos in the North the infamous quit notice, it was a leadership skill that sold him to Nigerians as a rare leader and bridge builder.

Recently, just after the APC presidential campaign in Kano, while his principal headed for Edo State for the next phase of campaigns, Kashim Shettima stayed put in Kano for three days reconciling all factions and ensuring that all stakeholders in this most crucial state are all on the same page ahead the polls. Needless to state that all issues in the state are today a thing of the past with Kano ready to vote enmasse for the APC. If this is juxtaposed with Atiku's VP candidate, Okowa, under whose nose intra party crisis continues to unsettle its Delta, Edo, Abia, Rivers, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Ondo, Ekiti and Lagos States chapters ahead the poll, it may well be safe to conclude that Atiku would be green with envy at Asiwaju. Ditto for Obi and Kwankwaso when their vice presidential candidates' efforts are also calibrated.

Of importance too, is the

identification and deployment of local and cultural politicking. Of all the vice presidential candidates none has transversed singly to all states in their bases again like Shettima. Unlike Atiku's Okowa who is rarely seen campaigning or embarking on critical visits in the South or even embarking on local campaigns, nor even Obi's Datti up North, only Kashim Shettima boasts of visiting virtually every traditional ruler up North, paying respects and further soliciting for their support. If every politics is local, then Shettima depicts a perfect understanding of this.

Shettima's recent exclusive media adverts and mobilisations for his principal shows how far a vice presidential candidate could go in firming up support for his principal.

Alexander the Great's, "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion" statement might have been used over time in the depiction of strength in leadership and character, however, it will once more come into play on Saturday as days wind down to hours, minutes and eventually to seconds.

An established fact remains that Shettima's massive involvement and presence in the presidential elections has been a huge win for the presidential aspiration of Bola Tinubu. It can be said that in the choice of Kashim Shettima, the presidential candidate of the APC struck gold.

Nkwocha, a member of the Public Affairs Directorate, APC Presidential Campaign Council, wrote in from Abuja.

"To have a clear shot at the Presidency, it is my opinion that every presidential candidate must secure his base. While it can be argued that Tinubu has his Southwest base in the kitty and Peter Obi another strong candidate has the Southeast as a stronghold,"

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

CORPORATE OFFICE:
AHMADU BELLO WAY
KADUNA

Advert e-mail: joenibro@gmail.com || joe_ibro@yahoo.com
FOR ADVERT BOOKING AND PLACEMENT:
Kaduna: 08033118023, 08028784378
Lagos: 08033257282, 08117876009

ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
- Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions, and it is payable only at the end of a campaign (to be deducted from balance pay).
- COPY DATE:** for all the Title Heads is two working days for the North and three working days for the South.
- Cancellation of previously booked advert will be accepted in writing within four working days notice, less than 24 hours to the date of publication will attract 50% surcharge.
- Advertisers/Agencies are to provide their Camera ready artwork in electronic copies, in e.g. PDF, or JPEG format.
- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

2023 Election: Are The Security Agencies Ready For The el-Rufa'is?

By: HASSAN GIMBA

The death of a thousand good men is not as tragic as having an unfit man in a position of national leadership - Usman dan Fodio.

The above quote by Sheikh Usman 'Dan Fodio, a Fulani philosopher, Islamic religious teacher, revolutionary, and leader who founded the Sokoto Caliphate and ruled as its first Caliph, is quite true. This is so because an unfit leader can cause the death of millions and plunge a nation into chaos, anarchy and civil war.

We are just about five days away from a presidential election, an important one because it is to usher in a new president since the occupant is about to complete his tour of duty.

However, it is coming on the heels of a currency redesign and scarcity coupled with the unavailability of Premium Motor Spirit, causing long queues at fuel stations. Unfortunately, despite the issue of fuel scarcity being a perennial problem for us, one of the presidential candidates told the nation that it was aimed at him - as well as the Naira redesign.

Sadly, some governors in his camp seem to have accepted his allegation hook, line and sinker, making them rush to the highest court in the land to seek a reversal of the currency policy. They did not stop at that; they are doing all they can to blackmail and arm-twist the president, who is in the same party as them and to whom most of them owe their electoral fortunes.

It may have been okay, perhaps, if it stopped at that. But no, it did not. They are openly calling for mutiny, instigating the public against the president, who is the symbol of our sovereignty.

The governor of Kaduna State, who could never have been a state governor in the first place if not for the bandwagon effect the popularity of President Muhammadu Buhari had on the elections of 2015, has called for outright disobedience of the president. And in doing so, he swore that if his presidential candidate won the election of 25 February, they would abrogate the redesign policy.

First, he started by saying "a cabal in the villa" was against

his candidate. He then said, "the North has no elders". He moved on to speak about the "dullness" of those around the president, that he has no confidence in the intelligence of those advising the president, a euphemism for saying the president is unintelligent!

In all this, he claims that he is a staunch believer in "the rule of law", and "respector of the judiciary" and has an unmitigated love for the "masses". But is that true?

People who knew him well have told us otherwise. In his book, "My Watch" Vol 2; pages 110-112, Obasanjo summed Nasir el-Rufa'i as "a petite-sized man with an elephantine brain that has a penchant for lying, disloyalty."

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, who was instrumental in bringing the Kaduna State governor to the limelight, also accused him of dishonesty, disloyalty and biting the fingers that fed him. Senator Shehu Sani, in January 2019, then representing Kaduna Central in the Red Chamber, while on The Osasu Show with Osasu Igbinedion, predicted that Nasir el-Rufa'i will turn against President Muhammadu Buhari in the future. He described him as a "serial betrayer" who turns against any government when it is no longer in his favour.

Now, the "serial betrayer" is claiming to be fighting for the "poor" and is caressing "respect for the judiciary". But nobody takes el-Rufa'i with any seriousness when he speaks of love for the masses, the rule of law or obedience to court orders. He has, on countless occasions, refused to abide by court orders in his capacity as governor; a man whose successor as minister of the Federal Capital

Territory inherited over 3,000 court cases. We can still 'see' the picture of the late Justice Bashir Sambo sitting outside his house as it was being demolished on el-Rufa'i's instruction despite a restraining court order. That singular act, more than anything, hastened the northern elder to his grave.

The late Justice was an elder in the genuine sense of the word. He was a Grand Kadi, Sharia Court of Appeal, Kaduna, and later that of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. He also chaired the Code of Conduct Tribunal and was an acting national secretary-general of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (NJI) as well as the chairman of the Kaduna State Council of Jama'atu Nasril Islam. The late Justice was an executive member and treasurer of the Council of Ulama of Nigeria, an executive member of Jama'atu Nasril Islam and an executive member of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA). He also published volumes of Islamic Religious Studies Books. But then, el-Rufa'i, our enfant terrible, has concluded that the north has no elders but him because he is 63 years old!

As for the love of the masses, when some state governors, especially that of Yobe State, Honourable Mai Mala Buni, were providing succour for the people of their states, it is on record that el-Rufa'i turned Kaduna into a hell on earth to the



Hassan Gimba Monday Column

extent that all those passing through were subjected to the most inhuman and degrading treatment. Surely, if he was concerned about the economic well-being of the people, he would not have demolished many of the masses' means of livelihood.

Since we all know that in any election there must be a winner and a loser, and being someone hell-bent on winning, for whatever reason, el-Rufa'i can do anything if he does not win. But the damage he has inflicted

on his candidate is worse than what the entire opposition parties have done to him. Apart from him, there may be some parts of the country that can be instigated into mayhem if their presumed "must-win" contender comes up a cropper.

If someone who should know better can openly challenge his commander-in-chief, his benefactor, because he thinks he is now lame-duck and so has no need of him - another quality of a disloyal betrayer - then he can instigate a nation against itself if he does not get his way.

Charles Dickens once said, "The sun himself is weak when he first rises and gathers strength and courage as the day gets on." And so, what are the security agencies thinking? How prepared are they for the el-Rufa'is, Gandujes and all those who wish to truncate our democracy because of their rejection at the polls?

Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

"The governor of Kaduna State, who could never have been a state governor in the first place if not for the bandwagon effect the popularity of President Muhammadu Buhari had on the elections of 2015, has called for outright disobedience of the president. And in doing so, he swore that if his presidential candidate won the election of 25 February, they would abrogate the redesign policy."

Elections: Catholic Bishops Advise Nigerians To Vote Credible Candidates

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), has advised electorate against voting candidates with questionable characters in the forthcoming general elections.

The Bishops believe that such candidates if elected, would not work for the common good of the people and development of the country.

The Bishops, in a communiqué issued at the end of their 2023 first plenary meeting, held at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Abuja, was co-signed by CBCN President and Secretary, Archbishop Lucius Ugorji, and Bishop Donatus Ogun, respectively.

They noted that politicians with evil intentions do not possess a good intention for the wellbeing of the people and the development of Nigeria, urging the electorate

to be wise in casting their votes to candidates that will move the country forward.

According to the participants, the upcoming elections provide Nigerians another opportunity in their national history to choose leaders capable of governing for the interest of all Nigerians irrespective of any different but to ensure the welfare of all is taken care of for the common good of the entire country.

The communiqué emphasized, "This is now the time to reject evil, greater or lesser, and wisely choose good and capable candidates at all levels. Our votes are precious; we must use them well."

The meeting encouraged all eligible citizens to come out en masse to vote for God-fearing, honest, vibrant, and transparent leaders, assuring that it is the only way the country could be a better place for a better Nigeria and humanity.

The Bishops warned that the newly adopted technologies for accreditation, transmission, and collation, are not manipulated to give false results by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and its officials and advised that all should be used judiciously for the interest of all Nigerians.

The meeting equally called on the law enforcement agents, whose primary duty is to enforce law and order and ensure the protection of persons and materials during the elections, to efficiently and professionally carry out their responsibilities without fear, favour, or partiality.

In the same manner, the meeting advised youths not to allow themselves to be used as thugs and agents of disruption and violence before, during, and after the elections and enjoined voters to ensure that proper counting is done before the transmission of the results.

The Bishop condemned in strong terms the practice of vote-buying and selling, noting that it was aimed at frustrating and compromising the free choice of the people and give the country leaders with questionable characters.

The Bishops also condemned such practice and urged politicians and the electorate to avoid the unlawful and sinful practice and embrace the values of human dignity, integrity, and decency in order to have free, fair, and credible elections for the progress of democracy and development of Nigeria.

The Bishops also called on all judges and lawyers to see themselves as ministers in the temple of truth and justice, calling on them to work to make the judiciary the 'last hope of the common man' by ensuring the right thing was done.

Parents, Students Of Rochas College Zaria Seek Partnership To Halt School Drop Out

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The parents and students of Rochas College Zaria, Kaduna State have celebrated the love and kindness of founder, Senator Rochas Okorochoa for the less privileged and appealed for more partnerships to reduce out-of-school children in Nigeria.

They made the appeal separately during the joint commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and the Valentine's Day.

The event was organized by the college on Friday in Zaria.

Malam Mohammed Bamalli a father appealed for more partnership with other philanthropists with the foundation to strengthen school enrollment, enhance the services provided by the foundation and foster national development.

"If we had similar gesture from other partners, it will inculcate the habit of giving to the needy in the students who are the future leaders thereby, enhancing national unity," he said.

Bamalli said Valentine's Day is meant to celebrate kindness and love and that is what the founder of the college has exhibited to the students.

He said the college which commenced operation in 2017/2018 session with about 200 students who were orphans and less privileged, has about 700 students now and they are enjoying free and qualitative education.

He therefore, appealed to other parents to complement the foundation's efforts by ensuring that their children attend school regularly and provide uniforms and shoes, especially when the ones provided by the college become tattered.

Malama Amina Kabir, who spoke on behalf of the mothers, commended the presentation by the students, as well as teachers for impacting the life of their children.

She also re-echoed the need by parents especially mothers, to encourage their children to attend classes on time by providing little token as transport fare for their

children to be in school.

Earlier, Hafsat Ibrahim on behalf of the students, described the founder of the college as an icon of love and humility, a role model, supporter, giver and a father with difference.

"Daddy you are a person with diamond heart not a gold heart, a heart that shines and makes others shine from it, a heart that can never be broken," she said.

Ibrahim said as beneficiaries of Okorochoa's benevolent gesture which makes most of their moments extraordinary, they (students) pray for God to keep and preserve him in joy and endless blessings.

While speaking on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Hajiya Rabi'at Ibrahim, Principal of the college, said they encourage students, especially the female to be scientists.

The principal added that the encouragement is aimed at enabling them explore emerging opportunities in science and technology.

"It is a known fact that we have shortage of manpower in the health sector, encouraging girls to study sciences would eventually bridge the gap in the human resources for health," she said.

The principal said the about 94 students are writing WAEC from the college this year and the founder has paid for their examination and JAMB.

She, therefore, said the prayers of over 30,000 students of the foundation across its 11 schools in Nigeria, will always protect the founder.

It would be recalled that on December 22, 2015, the UN General Assembly decided to establish an annual International Day of Women and Girls in Science to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, celebrated on 11 February, is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women, in collaboration with institutions and partners.



Catholic Bishops

We Will Help You Deposit Your Old Naira Notes In CBN After Polls, el-Rufai Assures Kaduna Residents

By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Residents of Kaduna State have been assured that their old Naira notes would be collated and deposited at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Kaduna branch after the elections.

Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai of Kaduna State on Thursday, expressed this in a statewide broadcast to citizens. He, assured residents that the Kaduna State Government, in collaboration with elected legislators, traditional institution, elected local government councils, markets, and traders associations will help you collect, record, document, collate and deliver all your old notes to the Kaduna branch of the Central Bank on their behalf into the new ones immediately after the elections.

He therefore, appealed to all residents of Kaduna State to continue to use the old and new notes side by side without any fear.

He said, Kaduna State Government and its agencies shall seal any facility that refuses to accept the old notes as legal tender and prosecute the owners, hence if need be, "we shall take further consequential actions according to the law."

The governor during the state broadcast, said that Kaduna State Government is making the appeal, and taking all these measures to shield its people from the terrible consequences of the currency redesign policy.

el-Rufai said the state seeks to protect its people's hard-earned money, their ability to engage in trade and exchange and buy what they need.

"We also seek to protect your civic rights, liberties and freedoms under a democratic dispensation," he added.

He therefore, called on the people of Kaduna State to remain peaceful and vigilant in the face of brazen attempts to engineer crisis in order to get a pretext for unconstitutional or undemocratic

actions.

The governor urged all not to fall for these antics of the enemies of Nigeria.

"Please be patient and continue to exercise resilience in the face of open provocation and deliberate disinformation," he appealed.

He encouraged citizens to be ready with their permanent voters cards (PVCs) to vote in the February 25 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

"We are doing all we can to ensure that it is peaceful, orderly and hitch-free.

"I appeal to you to understand the shenanigans of these unpatriotic elements in Abuja and ensure you vote massively for the intended victims of these last-minute policies of needless hardship and incitement of the citizens - our party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its candidates in all the elections.

"However, let us stay calm and peaceful, and support the lawful means being utilised to solve our problems," he said.

Kaduna Dominates, Customs Shines As 4th President Beach Volleyball Championship Ends

**Nimrod splashes millions of Naira on winners*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Hosts Kaduna State had a swell time at the 4th edition President Beach Volleyball Championship ended at the prestigious Ahmadu Bello Stadium on Saturday night.

The hosts left no one in doubt of their superiority as they claimed the top spot of all the categories, beating others silly at the four-day event.

Kada Kings retained their crown in the senior male finals as they

beat Nigerian Customs by two straight sets 2-0 in the highly entertaining final watched by several spectators from all over the country.

For their efforts, they smiled to the banks with a N200,000 cheque, as well as a giant trophy and medals for keeps.

Second position Customs, are playing in the male finals of the championship for the first time and would be motivated by their second place finish.

Customs team received a cheque

of N180,000, trophy and medals. Third spot went to yet another home side, Kada Stars, who walked away with N150,000, trophy and medals.

In the senior female category, Kada Emeralds were all out for victory as they beat defending champions, Customs to claim the N200,000 cash prize.

They were also presented a giant trophy and medals.

The female Customs team though disappointed, their efforts earned them N180,000,

trophy and medals.

For the U-17 male category, Kada Princess stole the show as they fought hard to subdue Pro Spikers.

Kada Princes smiled away with N150,000 cheque, a giant trophy and medals.

Runners-up Pro Spikers, received N130,000 cheque, medals and trophies.

Wonder Boys, another Kaduna based team, claimed the bronze and got N100,000, trophy and medals.

In the U-17 girls category, Kaduna teams had two podium appearances for the first and third spots.

Kada Princess finished tops, beating Katsina in the final match.

Their efforts earned them N150,000 cheque, a giant trophy and medals.

The Katsina duo were consoled with a N130,000 cheque, trophy and medals, while Filcom placed third and got N100,000, trophy and medals.



Red House Win FAMAKS British Schools Kaduna 2023 nter-House Sports

By: AUSTINE AGBO EMMANUEL, Kaduna

As an aftermath of the just concluded FAMAKS Inter-House School competition in Kaduna State, Red House has emerged and crowned Champion of the institution, haven garnered a total of 224 points. Yellow House came second with 183 points, Blue house came third with 172 points, while greenhouse settled for the fourth spot with a total of 160 points. The points were gathered from Track and Field, Catching the Train, Backing the Doll, Sorting the Ball, Running in Daddy's Shoe, Egg spoon race, Tug of War, Sack race, Board games, Skipping, Badminton, Penalty

Shootout and lots more. Addressing the students, the special guest of Honour, Brig. Gen. Adam Yuguda, congratulated both the winners and the entire students, urging them to put in their best at future competitions. Speaking with journalists shortly after the event, the School's Director of Sports, Mr. Yakubu Abubakar, said the programme is aimed at harmonizing academics and sports, quoting a popular adage of "all works and no play makes jack a dull boy." Abubakar added that, "from time immemorial, academics and sports have gone hand in hand and you will agree with me that if you flash back to these

early years of Nigeria, the core athletes of our nation were gotten from schools and that tradition has to continue so here we are not just discovering talents that will represent the school but equally represent Nigeria in the nearest future. Asked about the performance of the students, Yakubu said it was fantastic, stressing that parents have supported them right from day one and were present at the event in their numbers. Also, the Principal of the school and Coordinator of Sports, Mr. Daniel Odobo disclosed that "before now, we always have sports as parts of our curriculum because of it's importance. So this is one of the biggest events that we carry out once in a year.

We normally showcase it for parents to see how fits their kids are. "Today, track and field events took place and of course we had other ones like tug of war with parents and children, Teachers and Parents and it was really nice. We also discovered new talents. "Our belief is no child is dull but every child both boys and girls should be able to be fit and participate in sports. That's what we have done today and we were able to carry all students along and not just about selecting just few to participate in some sporting events but making it all encompassing for every student in every class to have a race and then to have other events."

A friend of the school who also graced the occasion, Ismaila Lere, said the performance of the students is highly encouraging. Lere expressed that "seeing what happened today here we are really interested in seeing that school sport is enhanced at the level of primary and secondary school so that we will develop their skills and abilities at very young age as they grow up. This is part of the objectives of sports development. He reiterated that "infrastructure will still remain a challenge until when we start to inculcate sport into our Education system. Very soon, we will have a sport policy in Kaduna State and it's geared towards achieving that objectives."



Beach Volleyball: All African Countries Dream Of Beating Nigeria - Nimrod

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

With the current form of Nigeria's beach volleyball players, other African countries are working hard, with the sole aim of defeating the country's teams at international outings. President of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF) Engineer Musa Nimrod, disclosed this on Saturday night while addressing players and spectators who were at the closing ceremony of the President Beach Volleyball Championship at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna. Nimrod, who was visibly excited by the standard of play at the championship, disclosed that the open rivalry was further exposed, during his visit to Cote D'Ivoire, from where he arrived on Friday.

"African countries are watching us and they want to beat us at competitions. They keep saying Nigeria has money. Where is the money. Our money is God," he

said.

Nimrod said that from his recent trip, he saw Nigerian players playing for clubs outside the country.

"I am happy that are our players are doing well in other countries. They were excited seeing me and came over to greet and interact," he added.

He disclosed that for this year 2023, beach volleyball players should get set for lots of action.

"Immediately after elections some of you will be coming back to camp. Get set, to prepare both junior and senior teams," he declared.

He praised the players for making Nigeria proud at previous competitions, charging them to maintain same tempo in subsequent events.

On the 2023 Beach Volleyball Tour, he expressed optimism that it would be bigger than previous held.

"The last lap of beach volleyball tour will be grand. We will do other tours at our level, but we will hope to get sponsors to

make the final grand," he said.

He thanked all stakeholders, for making the fourth edition of the President Cup a remarkable success.

"I want to thank the Kaduna State Government, coaches and management of Ahmadu Bello Stadium," he said, while also appreciating the officials for excellent officiating and the media for coverage.

He cautioned players to stay away from being used as thugs by politicians in the forthcoming general elections.

NVBF President further cautioned players against indulging in illicit drugs.

In an interview with newsmen on the sidelines of the colourful closing ceremony, Commandant Nigeria Correctional Services Training School Kaduna, ACG Nigeria Correctional Services, Olanre Amoran, praised the players and coaches for the competitive display.

He also commended the media for making the game more popular through accurate and positive reportage.



ACG Amoran is optimistic that with the rate at which the game is growing, Nigeria will be a team to watch at world competitions.

Earlier, the Correctional Services Training School Commandant announced cash bonus of N10,000 each to young

players sighted at the championship.

Nimrod, had also donated two balls each to all states that participated.

It would be recalled that it was earlier reported that no fewer than 38 teams from all over the country participated.

Mogadishu Battalion Win Maiden Watermanship Competition

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Mogadishu Battalion have emerged winners of the maiden edition of the Cadets Brigade Inter-Battalion Watermanship Competition organised for Army Cadets of 70 Regular Course (70RC).

The event which took place at the Nigerian Air Force Base Dam, Kaduna, is a culmination of a two-week Watermanship Training package organised for Army Cadets of 70RC.

At the end of the competition, Mogadishu Battalion scored a total of 340 points, out of the 400 points obtainable, to emerge first ahead of three other battalions.

Dalet Battalion, on the other hand, came second with 320 points, while Burma Battalion polled a total of 280 points to come third, and Abyssinia Battalion came fourth with a total of 180 points.

During the competition, all four battalions competed in four



events, namely, Boat Race, Boat Relay, Casualty Evacuation and Construction and Crossing with Improvised Raft.

The Guest of Honour (GOH), Commandant NDA, Maj Gen IM Yusuf, in his remarks, revealed that the watermanship training embarked on by the cadets is a part of the revised training for cadets of the Academy, which he noted is aimed at making cadets to become versatile in combat in all kinds of terrain.

He also encouraged cadets to always maintain a high morale no matter the situation. In his words "A soldier's morale must be seen to be high at all times and

in all circumstances."

Maj Gen Yusuf also used the occasion to thank the Commander of the Nigerian Army School of Military Engineering (NASME) and Citizenship and Leadership Training Center for their support throughout the course of the training, as well as during the competition. He equally thanked the Nigerian Air Force for its continuous support to the Nigerian Defence Academy. High points of the event include the presentation of trophy to Mogadishu Battalion and presentation of certificates to the cadets.

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 3 No. 108

Monday 20th February, 2023

Shaban 29, 1444

Oyo SDP Candidate Denies Party's Adoption Of Makinde

*Says purported adoption, a ruse

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) governorship candidate in Oyo State, Barrister Michael Lana yesterday, said the party never adopted Gov Seyi Makinde as its candidate for the March 11 elections. Barrister Lana in a statement, disclosed that contrary to the purported adoption of Governor Makinde, all the SDP candidates in Oyo State for the general elections are intact.

The SDP gubernatorial candidate in the statement, described the said adoption of Governor Makinde as a ruse and that

the person claiming to be SDP National Deputy Secretary, who addressed journalists in Ibadan on Saturday, on the phoney adoption, is not a member of the party.

According to the SDP governorship candidate, "the fake adoption of Gov Makinde, was the job of desperate politicians who realizing there is no hope for them in the elections are now paying hungry agents to spread false information to the unsuspecting public."

Barrister Lana maintained that the person that addressed the Saturday press conference "is not known to the party neither is he its officer," and that members of the public

should "google SDP and would discover that his name is not on the website of the party.

Disclosing that SDP mega rally would hold in Ibadan on Tuesday, the former Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice in Oyo state enjoined members of the public to come and see whether Adeshina would show his face and mount the rostrum at the event.

"Let the public also ask Engr Adewole whether the name of Chief Ayorinde SAN was the name published by INEC as the SDP's candidate for Oyo State or he has not woken up from his slumber to realise that Chief Ayorinde was only

the party's candidate in 2019 and not for 2023 election", he said.

Barrister Lana added, "and he should tell us the National Convention witnessed by INEC as required by section 83 of the Electoral Act, where he and his co-dreamers were elected and at which Congress his conjured candidate was elected."

The SDP governorship candidate stressed that it would be preposterous to suggest that he as the governorship candidate of the SDP would step down for a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governor who is going to be expelled by his party in the coming days for anti-party activities.

Beach Volleyball: All African Countries Dream Of Beating Nigeria - Nimrod

Story on Page 23

Supreme Court Affirms Mr LA As PDP Kaduna Central Senatorial Candidate

By; IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna

Supreme Court in Abuja has affirmed Mr. Lawal Adamu as authentic candidate of People's Democratic Party (PDP) Kaduna Central Senatorial candidate for the February 25 general election.

The five-member panel of legal luminaries headed by Justice Simeone Okoro on Friday February 17, ruled that Mr. Adamu widely known as Mr. LA was the duly elected candidate and winner of the party's primary election.

The apex court argued that Hon. Usman Ibrahim Sardaunan Badarawa who hitherto was parading self as PDP candidate shouldn't have been pronounced winner of the second primary election held in error.

The bench of Judges

further added that PDP was not fair to Mr. LA by submitting the name of Sardaunan Badarawa to the election umpire.

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was accordingly ordered by the nation's Court of highest jurisdiction to recognize Mr. LA as authentic candidate of PDP in the interest of justice and rule of law.

When contacted by New Nigerian Newspapers for response, the campaign camp of Sardaunan Badarawa hinted that an official statement in that regard would be issued soon, adding that the politician as a firm believer in democracy entrenched in rule of law and above all a loyal party member shall take a noble stand.

Kaduna Yoruba Community Endorses Uba Sani

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Yoruba Community in Kaduna State has endorsed the All Progressives Congress (APC) gubernatorial candidate, Senator Uba Sani, and promised to vote for him to become governor in the March election.

The community also endorsed all APC candidates, from the presidential to the National and State Assemblies flag bearers in the coming elections.

The endorsement which was made on Sunday at an event held at Nawairdeen Society of Nigeria, Benin Street, was attended by leaders of Yoruba societies and organizations in Kaduna State.

Speaking at the event, the President of Yoruba Community in Kaduna State and the Vice President of Yoruba Communities in the 19 Northern States, Alhaji Abdulrazak M Gadaffi, commended Governor Nasir el-Rufai for creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive and for running an inclusive government.

According to him, several Yoruba sons and daughters are occupying key positions at the State Executive Council and as heads of departments and agencies of Kaduna State Government.

Gadaffi stated that Yoruba leaders have been doing house to house campaign for the APC in Kaduna State because they have witnessed what the APC

has done and, "we want continuity for the state to progress".

The Yoruba leader further said that the manifesto of Senator Uba Sani and all other APC candidates represent the aspirations of the generality of the people of Kaduna state.

"APC administration has done enough for the Yoruba communities and all citizens of the state and we want the incoming government to continue", he said.

Also speaking, the National Leader of the Muslim Council of Nigeria, Imam Ahmad Aluko, reiterated that "the Yoruba community in Kaduna has promised to vote for all APC candidates".

Imam Ahmad advised the APC candidates to

maintain an open door policy and run an inclusive government when voted into power.

In her remarks, the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Balarabe, expressed gratitude to the Yoruba Communities for the confidence they have in the APC government and its candidates.

Dr Balarabe described the Yoruba people as a very peaceful ethnic group, adding that they are also peace builders.

"I appreciate the leaders of the Yoruba Community for putting this meeting together and for the vote of confidence repose on us and for promising to vote for the APC. In sha Allah we won't let you down," she promised.



Mr. LA