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Court Remands Hyacinth Okeibunor, Ohai, 3 Others For Alleged Murder, Arson, Rape

Story on Page 15

Arewa Consultative Forum Board Chair Dies In Egypt



Group Similar To ENDSARS Tasks NLC, TUC, Others To Act Over Tactical Increase In Fuel Pump Price

*Embarks on rally

*Vows protest every Monday

P.15

Customs FOU Zone B Kaduna Seizes Items Worth Over N2bn In 2022

■ *Intercepts 72 bags of Indian Hemp concealed in bags of garri in Zamfara*

■ *New Nigerian Online Editor, others receive awards*

■ *Comptroller warns smugglers thinking of cashing in on Yuletide to stay off zone.*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Nigerian Customs Service, Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Zone B in its renewed drive to save Nigeria's economy from smuggling and other related issues, has seized items worth over two billion Naira in 2022.

Comptroller FOU Zone B, A.B. Hamisu disclosed this at the end of year press briefing and awards and score card held at its headquarters in Kaduna on Tuesday December 20, 2022.

According to him, compared to 2021 when they made seizures worth N1,319,332,763.00 billion, in 2022, it doubled to N2,345,155,763.00 billion.

He explained that the items seized at different

locations of the FOU covering the entire North West and some North Central States of Niger, Kogi, Kwara and FCT, was between January 1 and December 2022.

He attributed the increased number of seizures to motivation, inter agency collaboration, intensive patrol and effective intelligence gathering.

"Some of the factors that led to our successes in our anti-smuggling operations in the Year 2022 could be attributed to the following;

i. Motivation and support from the NCS Management in terms of logistics, capacity building and welfare to boost the morale of officers/men of the Unit.

ii. Intensive patrol, doggedness and Commitment of Officers/men of the Unit



Continued on Page 4

Global Maritime Standards Key To Maximising Nigeria's Blue Economy Potentials - NSML Boss

Story on Page 13

NGO Engages Media On Ethical Health Financing Awareness In Borno

Story on Page 13

Timi Frank Cautions DSS: Against "Illegal Plot" To Arrest Emefiele

P.16

Arewa Consultative Forum Board Chair Dies In Egypt



Late Ambassador Shehu Malami,

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Consultative Forum, (ACF) has announced the demise of its Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ambassador Shehu Malami, OFR, CON, Sarkin Sudan Wurno.

A statement signed by the Secretary General, ACF, Murtala Aliyu made available on Tuesday December 20, said that he died on Monday December 19, 2022 in Cairo, Egypt.

"Ambassador Shehu Malami was born in Sokoto in 1937 as a Prince of the Sultanate dynasty. He had his early education in Sokoto, Bida and Katsina.

"He also attended various Colleges in the United Kingdom. He had a degree in law from the Middle Temple. Amb Shehu Malami worked as private Secretary and then as Special Assistant to Sultan Sadiq Abubakar III. He had earlier worked for the BBC as a broadcaster," the

statement said.

It informed that at various times, he was Nigeria's Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa; Chairman, Assessment Committee of the Nigeria National Merit Award, director, the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, Chairman, Union Bank of Nigeria, Chairman, PZ Industries, among many many other top leadership positions during his long public service career that spanned several decades.

"The nation will undoubtedly miss Ambassador Shehu Malami's extraordinary leadership skills, his generosity, his sense of justice and fairplay.

"We send our deepest condolences to his family and the nation. It is our prayer that Allah, SWA, forgives his mistakes and grant mercy on his soul," it concluded.

Meanwhile, it was gathered that a condolence register is opened at the ACF Secretariat, IIA Sokoto Road Kaduna.

Council To Medical Laboratory Technicians Inductees, Shun Professional Rivalry

By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria

Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria, has advised the newly inductees from Elite International College of Health Science and Technology Zaria, Kaduna State to remain diligent and focused in the performance of their duties.

Registrar of the council, Mr. Tosan Erhabor, made the appeal during the induction ceremony of 51 Medical Laboratory Technician for 2022 Academic Session on Monday in Zaria.

Erhabor, represented by Mr Monday Tapgum, Zonal Director of the council in-charge of Kano, Kaduna and

Katsina states, urges the inductees to shun inter-professional rivalry and embrace healthy working relationship with other health professionals.

He said the concept of induction is to make the students feel a sense of belonging to the profession and to also enable them take a commitment that they are going to practice ethically.

He also expressed the readiness of the council to continue to collaborate with the college to further energise its Department of Medical Laboratory Science with a view to mitigating the dearth of human resources for health.

He added that the council would work with

relevant stakeholders to improve the standards of medical laboratory science training in Nigeria in line with international best practices.

The registrar said, "The Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria is delighted to associate with the college and its landmark achievements in galvanising 51 students for the induction ceremony".

The Chairman, Governing Board of the College, Dr Khalid Kugu, advised the inductees (who are technicians) to seek the guidance and counseling of Laboratory Scientist in the cause of the practice.

He also advised them to

advance their studies and to explore the opportunities in the Memorandum of Understanding between the College and Ahmadu Bello University, (ABU) Zaria.

In his remarks, the chairman of the occasion, Barrister Ibrahim Khalid-Soba a Senatorial Candidate for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Zone 1, Kaduna State commended the college for augmenting government efforts to boost the human resources for health.

Khalid Soba urged the college management to keep the good academic excellent they were known since in its inception to date.

Fire Guts Lagos Police Station

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A late evening inferno has burnt down the Divisional Headquarter of Badia Police Station in Lagos, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

Property, which include moveable and unmovable items, estimated at about millions of Naira were destroyed by the inferno.

Office documents, air conditioners, parked motorcycles, fans and personal effects of the officers and men were lost to the incident.

Our correspondent exclusively gathered that the fire broke at about 8.00pm and raged on for over two hours on Sunday.

As learnt, the fire which broke out as a result of power surge, was notice by detainees in the cell, who raised an alarm that attracted the attention of the cops on duty including the DPO CSP Ayoola Olawale.

The inferno, was said to have started at the backyard of the building from the roof, making it a bit difficult for fire fighters to immediately put out the fire.

Residents and passersby were said to have stormed the station to assist the officers and men in putting out the fire but were unsuccessful.

Men of the Lagos State Fire and Safety Service were said to have arrived lately and helped to prevent the fire from spreading beyond the premises of the station.

Our correspondent reliably gathered that the building is owned by the defunct Peoples Bank and has been taking over by the Police when its original building located few metres away got sinked about 10 years ago.

However, the sinked building has been reconstructed through the assistance of the Bankers Committee awaiting commissioning.

Efforts to get the comment of the police public relations officer SP Benjamin Hundeyin on the incident proved above as he failed to pick his calls and reply message sent on WhatsApp.



Side view of burnt police station

28 Feared Dead In Terrorist Attack In Southern Kaduna

**Sokwong community houses completely razed down*

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

In the renewed killings in Southern Kaduna in Kaduna State by terrorists, over twenty-eight (28) persons were feared dead on Sunday in separate attacks in Malagum I and Sokwong communities of Kagoro Chiefdom in Kaura Local Government Area.

The Council Chairman, Mr Mathias Siman, while confirming the incident on Monday, explained that he could only confirm

seven people gruesomely killed in Sokwong Community.

New Nigerian recalls that the Sunday attacks are coming about five days after about three persons were killed by unknown gunmen in Malagum I village in Kaura Local Government Area.

The Council chairman also confirmed that in Sokwong community, the houses were completely razed down by the attackers, explaining that he was yet to ascertain the

number of those killed in Malagum I.

According to the council chairman, "I urge the residents in the area to remain calm as security agencies are being deployed to carry out investigation in the area and ensure the perpetrators of the deadly attack are made to face the full wrath of the law."

Meanwhile, the Speaker of Kaura Local Government Area, Mr Atuk Stephen, confirmed that over 22 people had

been killed in Malagum I, saying that eight were killed in Sokwong.

He called on the Federal Government and security agencies to redouble efforts in order to curtail renewed killings in the area, describing the attack on the innocent people as deadly.

He regretted that the attacks in their area have been consistent and multi dimensional, with efforts of the security operatives and government not seen or felt.



Abba Ganduje

Dawakin Tofa, Rimin Gado Students To Benefit From Abba Ganduje's Educational Support

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Students from Dawakin Tofa, Tofa and Rimin Gado Federal Constituency would benefit from the scholarship from Engineer Abba Ganduje, the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for the House of Representatives.

This was contained in a statement signed and issued to newsmen in Kano, by the Director Media and Publicity to Abba Ganduje Campaign Council, Malam Kabiru Inuwa Hayin Hago on Sunday, adding that Engineer Abba Ganduje's policies on education would enable the beneficiaries to successfully further their studies with better results.

Hayin Hago said that his principal would ensure that students across Dawakin Tofa, Tofa and Rimin Gado local government areas acquire sound education, especially at present when the globe is rapidly

advancing in the education sector like what is being witnessed everywhere.

"Engineer Abba Ganduje is making good efforts to assist our students to have better educational support and I reassure that the good people of Dawakin Tofa, Tofa and Rimin Gado Federal Constituency would benefit from the provisions of our leader who is always making efforts towards the betterment of the people of all categories," the statement added.

Malam Kabiru Inuwa Hayin Hago described his candidate as a good politician, who is also having an excellent blueprint for the people of his constituency if elected into the National Assembly as member of the House of Representatives in the forthcoming general elections.

He therefore, thanked the people of Dawakin Tofa, Tofa and Rimin Gado local government areas for supporting Engineer Abba Ganduje.



Rice seized by Customs in Kaduna

Oyo 2023: Don't be Hoodwinked By Makinde's Promises, Last Minute Palliatives - APC Chieftain

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oyo State, Engineer Oyedele Hakeem Alao on Sunday warned the people of Oyo state not to be hoodwinked by Governor Seyi Makinde's various promises being made and last minute rush to do some palliative works

The APC Chieftain in a statement issued by his Media Office declared that as the 2023 general elections are approaching, the time has come for the people of Oyo State to be wary of the antics of Governor Makinde.

Engineer Alao accused Governor Makinde of embarking on what he called last minute rush to do some palliative works by his administration, to secure second term, saying, "he is on a desperate bid to retain power at all cost."

According to the APC Chieftain, Governor Makinde has been touring

the "state making outlandish promises to turn the state into eldorado when his tenure would end in few months' time, striving too hard to deceive the people with empty promises that he could not fulfil for over three years as governor.

"It is important to warn the people of the state not to be fooled by all the promises been made by Governor Makinde as he embarks on what could be described as jamboree across the state; all in his desperation to retain power at all costs", he said.

Engineer Alao added, "it is our belief that it is an inordinate ambition on the part of the governor to be seeking another term when he has failed the people woefully. And going around to make empty promises to hood-wink the masses/electorates is nothing but a great crime against the people. Moreso when in over three years he has only succeeded in fooling the people.

"From Oke Ogun to Oyo, Ogbomoso, Ibarapa and Ibadan, it has been promises upon promises of awarding new roads or re awarding of old ones, Saki-Ogbooro -Igboho, Ijio-Idiko-Ile, Igangan/Igbo Ora and Omi Adio-Ido, the question we should ask our dear governor is why now?"

The APC Chieftain maintained, "furthermore, GSM has abandoned for the last 3yrs other inter-city roads like Ibadan-Iddo-Eruwa road that were in deplorable and unmotorable conditions and needs urgent attention. He pointed out that the streetlights which have been moribund for some time now leading to high rate of insecurity in many parts of the state especially Ibadan, the state capital, have been reactivated, noting that the governor is doing all these to deceive the people of the state.

According to the Asiwaju of Irokoland, Governor Makinde, has brought

many woes to the state with not well thought out policies which are not in the interest of the state, and that his policy on education failed woefully leading to the axe of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) falling on 50 secondary schools in the state.

Engineer Alao stressed that "the bogus and uncoordinated free education of the administration introduced to spite the immediate past government of late Senator Abiola Ajimobi, is recording failure day by day with the state coming last among the states in Yorubaland.

"It is nothing but a fact that the glory of Oyo State is on a downward slide under the administration of Governor Makinde, thus our people should not be swayed by bold faced lies and empty promises that would make them vote again for a government whose scorecard is nothing but defeating the essence of good governance".

Customs FOU Zone B Kaduna Seizes Items Worth Over N2bn In 2022

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▪ *New Nigerian Online Editor, others receive awards*

▪ *Comptroller warns smugglers thinking of cashing in on Yuletide to stay off zone.*

as a result of effective performance management.

iii. Effective use of Intelligence, information gathering and surveillance operations in the Zone.

iv. Inter-Agency collaboration/sharing of intelligence by sister agencies.

v. Continued Stakeholders' engagement especially the traditional rulers as well as other sister agencies within the Zone," he said.

Comptroller Hamisu disclosed that three suspects were arrested in connection with some of these seizures and later released on administrative bail, stressing that the command under his watch shall continue to arrest anyone indulging in smuggling activities within the zone.

"As the Comptroller of the Unit, I would continue to operate an open door policy, give a sense of belonging to all Officers/Men and other Critical stakeholders, as well as instill discipline, for us to better fulfill the Unit's mandate.

He therefore, warned the smugglers that want to take advantage of the Yuletide sason to stay clear of the Zone.

"I want them to know that our operatives are on red alert and vigilant to tame smuggling activities during the festive period with a view of arresting and prosecuting them.

"It is my humble advice to smugglers to turn a new leaf and embrace the Federal Government agricultural policy and massive investment in local

the food security in the country," he advised.

Comptroller Hamisu explained that the unit has a mandate of suppressing smuggling activities in the zone, as well as translation of Federal Government Fiscal Policies into reality with a view to making the economy attractive and healthy.

"The action of our operatives are in line with sections 139 (provisions as to detention, seizure and condemnation of goods) and Section 158 (empowers officers to patrol freely) as enshrined in Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) Cap C45 LFN 2004, as amended," he added.

On the seizures made between November and December 2022, he said that 161 suspected contraband and illicit items worth over N300 million were intercepted.

"Scorecard of the Unit on suppression of smuggling from November to December 2022.

"I want to report that the Operatives of the Unit at various intervals and locations within the Zone, intercepted a total of 161 seizures of various contraband goods within the period under review with the total Duty Paid Value (DPV) of three Hundred and fifty one million, five hundred and eight thousand, six hundred and fifty-eight Naira and fifty-six kobo (#351,508,658.56) only," he said.

According to him, items seized range from 2,114 50Kg bags of foreign parboiled rice, worth



clothing, worth N18,820,777.50, 72 sacks of cannabis sativa (Marijuana), 65 numbers of 25Kg bags of foreign parboiled rice, worth N1,608,046.38 million and 818 cartons of foreign spaghetti, macaroni & couscous, valued at N5,943,964.28 million.

Others are, eight units of means of conveyance (vehicles) valued at N59,162,337.00, 102 cartons of foreign Carotone Body Cream (N15M, 235,867.5m), 102 cartons of foreign Eva Soap (N6,279,732,00m), 69 pieces of 5 litres of foreign vegetable oil (N848,010.00 thousand), as well as other items, including sacks of foreign used shoes, tomato paste, 13 sacks of Hides and skin (ponmo), 113 bundles of foreign textile, 10 cartons of foreign chewing gum and seven 25kg bags of flour.

The rest are, 55 pieces of foreign used tyres, 438 25 litres of petrol and 87 50kg bags of foreign

fertilizer.

Meanwhile, he informed that the spectacular seizure of 72 sacks of Cannabis Sativa (Marijuana) brought to the fore another trick by smugglers and means of concealment.

"In this case, the smuggler concealed the Marijuana inside sacks of cassava flour (popularly known as Garri). The Operatives of the Unit with the aid of informant intercepted the Marijuana along SoKoto-Zamtara axis and brought it to the office.

"The Marijuana would be handed over to the Commandant National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NLDLEA) Kaduna State Command today on the spirit of Inter-agency collaboration," he said.

The Comptroller on behalf of the FOU commended the Comptroller General Of Customs (CGC) and his

Management team for the motivation and support to the unit in discharge of its mandate, while appreciating the support of other security agencies, traditional rulers and other critical stakeholders, including the media.

In his response, the representative of NDLEA after the seized 72 bags of Indian Hemp were handed over to the agency, CSN Narcotics, Haruna Usman Danga thanked the Customs Service.

He described the feat as remarkable, adding that the interagency collaboration is yielding more fruits.

Earlier, Comptroller A.B. Hamisu in his welcome address, commended stakeholders for ensuring their activities were successful throughout 2022.

He said critical stakeholders that have ensured their success are



rice production, so that they can create employment and boost

N104,597,231.90m, 126 bales and sacks of foreign second hand

Continued on Page 5

Yuletide: DICON Officers' Wives Visit, Distribute Food, Provisions To Kaduna Orphanage Homes



By; **IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna**

Defence Industries Corporation Of Nigeria Officers' Wives Association (DICONOWA) has visited and shared food items and other essentials to orphanage homes in Kaduna as part of end of year humanitarian outreach to host communities. Coordinator of DICONOWA, Hajiya Nafisa Tafida stated that the distribution of foodstuff and provisions was done as part of the association's kind gesture of showing love, compassion and generosity to the vulnerable in the society so they could feel the sense of belonging in the forthcoming Christmas and New Year season.

Hajiya Tafida who is the spouse of Director-General of DICON, Maj. General H.G. Tafida, reiterated resolve of the Officers' wives to extend hands of

generosity to the needy and less privileged members of the society.

Orphanage homes visited by the women were Jamiyyar Matan Arewa and Adonai in the heart of the state capital.

Hajiya Tafida and members of the association also extended their visit to DICON medical facility, also located in Kaduna.

Items given to the orphanage homes included; bags of rice, beans, cartons of noodles, spaghetti, tubers of yam, red oil, groundnut oil among others.

Also in the items were diapers, towels and wipes.

The DICON coordinator became emotional and was moved to tears at Adonai Orphanage Home, while posing for a photo session with children in the care-giving facility, promising to remember them frequently in kind gestures of the association.

In her response, President of Jamiyyar Matan Arewa, Rabi Musa Saulawa, while commending the kind gestures of Mrs. Tafida and her team, pledged to utilize the donated items strictly for the purpose they were meant for, adding that the food and other essential items would go a long way in putting smiles on the faces of kids at the centre.

Saulawa enjoined other individuals and corporate entities to emulate the generous gesture of officers' wives, saying orphans needed to be pampered with gifts and show of love so they won't be overwhelmed by their status.

Handler of Adonai Orphanage Centre, Pastor Samuel Oyelowo appreciated DICONOWA for remembering the orphans, particularly in the Season of showing love to the needy as enjoined on followers of Christ

in the scripture.

He stated that the facility since its establishment about 28 years ago had not had any case of recording a casualty among inmates, some of whom he disclosed were university graduates through the sponsorship and efforts of the centre.

"We must appreciate people like you who have kept us rolling in our efforts to cater for these kids whose welfare and upbringing have fallen on us.

"At present, We have 37 children in this facility, 12 are in different universities such as; Ahmadu Bello University, Bayero University, Ekiti University and Kaduna State University all on our expense.

"We ensure all children in this Home are taught one form of trade and the other so they would become useful members of the society," he said.

Medical Director of DICON Clinic, Col. Maruf Yaya where items, ranging from mosquito nets, blankets, electrical current stabilizers, rechargeable lamps, dustbins among others were given out by the DICON Officers' wives, was full of eulogies for the association, saying the donated items would make positive impacts and be maximally utilized.

Mrs. Tafida expressed optimism that the facility which caters for primary health needs of both civilians and military would be upgraded with DICON becoming a military industrial complex in the nearest future.

While commending Col. Yaya for what she described as a neat and superb PHC, Mrs. Tafida expressed satisfaction with equipment and facilities present at the clinic, adding that she had no iota of doubts patients were in good and capable hands in the hospital.



2023: Uba Sani Promises To Focus On Rural Areas

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, has said that Governor Nasir el-Rufai has revamped education and improved healthcare delivery system within the last seven years, while vowing to focus on developing rural areas if elected in 2023.

Senator Uba Sani made this known at APC Zone 1 Town Hall meeting which was held at Kongo Conference Hotel on Sunday.

The gubernatorial candidate noted that Kaduna State ranked 26th in the education rating of country in 2015, but it is now the fourth in the country and number one in the North, under the leadership of Governor el-Rufai.

Senator Uba Sani also said that healthcare has been brought closer to the people, with the construction of one Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) in all the 255 wards in the state.

"Kaduna State has never witnessed the monumental infrastructural upgrade that has been recorded under the Urban Renewal Programme," he said.

According to the APC gubernatorial candidate, the huge infrastructural upgrade in terms of good road network, access roads, bridges and underpasses, encouraged foreign companies to set shop in Kaduna state.

The Senator added that the introduction of laudable policies and programmes enhanced the Ease of Doing Business in Kaduna State, adding that the World Bank rated it number 1 in its 2018 report.

"Because of the conducive business environment in Kaduna State, it has attracted the highest number of Foreign Direct Investment in the country," he noted.

The governorship candidate promised to focus on the rest 18 local government areas in the provision of infrastructure when elected.

Senator Uba Sani argued that the loan that government collected has been used judiciously as every single kobo was used for the intended purpose.

The Senator pointed out the getting a loan from multilateral institutions is in itself a clean bill of financial health because no institution will extend credit to a state that is profligate or without a repayment plan.

Senator Uba Sani promised to continue with the legacies of the El Rufai administration and extend development to all nooks and cranny of Kaduna State.

The APC candidate also promised to restore public schools to their former pride of place, by recruiting competent teachers and providing conducive learning environment.

"Women and youth empowerment will form the bedrock of my administration with your support and votes. I will continue from where our hard working and dynamic governor stopped, in sha Allah," he pledged.

The town hall meeting was attended by the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Balarabe, Senator Suleiman Abdu Kwari, the senator representing Northern zone, Secretary to Kaduna State Government, Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Commissioner of Local Government, Hajiya Umma K Ahmad, her counterpart in the Ministry of Planning and Budget, Hajiya Umma Aboki and Chairmen of all the eight local government areas of zone one.

Religious and traditional leaders, women groups, youth, tribal associations also graced the occasion.



Reconstitution Of NDDC Board 80th Birthday Gift To Niger Delta, Group Commends Buhari

**Urges support for new MD, Sam Ogbuku*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A citizens led anti sabotage organisation under the aegis of The Natives, has commended President Muhammadu Buhari for the reconstitution of Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) as a birthday gift for the region.

The group also congratulated the President on his 80th birthday anniversary, adding that Buhari has stabilised democracy not only in Nigeria but throughout Africa as attested to by the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden.

In a statement released on Tuesday in Abuja, the leader of The Natives, Hon. Smart Edwards, urged the elders and all the people of Niger Delta to reciprocate the good gesture of President Buhari by giving necessary support to the new board and the nominee for NDDC Managing Director, Chief Sam Ogbuku.

According to The Natives, the current administration of President Buhari has faced most turbulent times with multiple recessions and Covid-19 but has been able to steer the ship of Nigeria faithfully.

"Although your traducers will find it disturbing, the truth is that you held the Nation that was well at combustion stage. From Cattle rearing challenge, to IPOB, to Boko Haram/ISWAP, to corruption fight and corruption fighting back, to citizen focused activities like Amnesty, MarketMoni, Humanitarian N-Power, Anchor Borrowers Programmes, Covid-19 interventions, free and fair elections, among others, we can't but pour out this encomiums on you with encouragement to finish

strong.

"We are using this medium to appreciate the approach of Mr. President towards NDDC while sanitising it. Indeed hell was let loose, scores of scandals and scams all came to the fore, but you stayed forthright, committed and determined to give it a new face, you listened to the Governors, embarked on the forensic investigation despite the onslot of desperate politicians and opportunists, who got weary of any efforts to establish a new order.

"Indeed you are a man of legacies, you will not be forgotten. NDDC this is your golden opportunity " the statement said.

While commending Buhari for the reconstitution of the NDDC Board, The Natives said "this is a major lifeline offered again by the President to our people, it started with forensic investigation and then the desire for the rightful compensation of the region by given it a substantive Board. This is surely a new beginning and thus deserves the cooperation of all.

"We are calling on all Niger Deltans to embrace the new board without rancour, to pull themselves together in love in the interest of its people, to show the world that the welfare of its people is a priority in the hearts of their leaders than personal gains of private individuals.

"This Board is designed as a square peg in a square whole, the people want development and that is the interest of President Buhari, hence we will not fold hands to watch a powerful few sabotage this good intentions.

"We must begin to be deliberate as a Nation, President Muhammadu Buhari has signalled a new order and



has chosen a woman to head the Board, signifying the need for a passionate motherly touch he expects from projects and programmes of the agency for its people.

"Chief Sam Ogbuku, the nominee for Managing Director is a thorough bred, a former student leader, a youth leader and one who has been constantly in touch with the struggle for the emancipation of Niger Deltans, he is vastly aware of the major issues of militancy, an advocate of peace and conflict resolution, he is a testament of profound service, hence under him NDDC would be people-centered, youth and community engagements will take priority in the processes, planning, projects and programmes in the Niger Delta. The restoration of the life and environment of communities are expected at

the NDDC."

The group, however called on all peoples, tribes, tongues and persons of influence in the Niger Delta, particularly the elders and the unions, to sheathe their swords and end all bitterness and bickering that have underdeveloped its region, and allow the new NDDC leadership to works for its People.

"We charge everyone in the spirit of comradeship to rise above personal ego and perspectives towards the shortlisted board and embrace the timely opportunity to fast track development in the region.

"We call for support for Lauretta Onochie-led new Board and the wealth of experience Hon. Sam Ogbuku and his team in the saddle of the NDDC will bring forth.

"We call on all those who have

approached the court to stop the screening process to be weary of sabotage and the unnecessary consequences of others emulating such actions, as it would be counter productive to both the efforts of President Muhammadu Buhari and that of the masses who earnestly hope for renewal and restoration.

"We appeal to them to jaw jaw rather than war war, so we can begin the quest of the region together towards greatness.

"So President Buhari must be reciprocated with love, hence we call on the South-south elders to reach out to all the aggrieved parties to ensure a speedy clearance at the National Assembly. When as a Father of a Nation, the President does everything to move the country and its integral parts forward, we must show understanding and make sacrifices too."



NIWA Boss Bags Doctorate Degree In Public Administration

By; RAYMOND

TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Managing Director of Nigeria Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Dr. George Moghalu has been conferred with an Honorary Doctorate Degree Award in Public Administration from Gregory University, Uturu, Abia state.

Conferring the award at the 7th Convocation ceremony of the University, the Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Uwakwe Augustine Amadike disclosed that the Managing Director of NIWA is selected for the Honorary Doctorate Degree award (Honoris Causa) for his track

record in Public Office and contribution to National Development.

This was contained in a release by the General Manager Corporate Affairs Unit of the agency Jibril Darda'u made available to journalists in Lagos.

Responding, Moghalu thanked the University for finding him worthy of the degree and promised to do more in his contribution to the Social, Economic and Human development of not just Anambra state but Nigeria as a whole. He promised not to let the University down in the trust bestowed on him, assuring he will continue to do more and more for the country.



The award ceremony

MOWCA, African Development Bank Collaborate For Employment Creation, Dev

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) and African Development Bank (AfDB) have jointly identified areas of collaboration for maritime infrastructural development and employment creation.

This was a fallout of a meeting at the instance of Dr. Paul Adalikwu, Secretary General of MOWCA with officials of the AfDB in Abidjan on Wednesday December 14, 2022 where both bodies identified the need for collaboration.

Adalikwu who was received by the AfDB team led by the bank's Acting Director, Infrastructure and Urban Development Department, Mr. Mike Salawou explained MOWCA's importance and strategic positioning in harnessing the benefits of maritime transport development and the blue economy concept.

The SG invited AfDB to look at his action plan on repositioning MOWCA and provide assistance to implement the programmes of work.

He informed the bank of the planned establishment of a Regional Maritime Development Bank (RMDB) with headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria as an avenue to provide funding for African shipping industry to enable indigenous investors own ships and play active role in the maritime industry.

He stated further that 9 member States have signed the bank's Charter document with 51% equity share allotment to member States and 49% equity set aside for private sector investors and encouraged the Bank to see this as an opportunity to invest in the RMDB.



MOWCA boss and his host

The MOWCA SG disclosed plans to recruit officers to fill key positions at the Secretariat General, to encourage member states to replicate the existing anti-piracy laws of Nigeria and Togo for harmonisation of procedures and practices to prosecute criminals caught in the Gulf of Guinea.

He described the blue economy as an avenue for empowerment of women and youths through the ocean resources, thereby mitigating involvement in maritime crimes, Institutional maritime capacity building and engagement of more women in the sector.

He also talked about establishing an

information network relying on high technology equipment to increase situational awareness at sea in order to maximize the benefits from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) technical assistance programmes for member States.

The AfDB, through Salawou promised to engage with MOWCA on the review of the study on the development of the maritime sector that aims at promoting intra-African cabotage transport to reduce identified gaps.

The bank assured of partnership on promoting port efficiency through improvement of connectivity with rail

and road transport for facilitation of cargo transit to landlocked countries and assisting in overcoming the challenges in the sector through job openings for African maritime practitioners currently dominated by Asian seafarers.

The AfDB representative expressed that the Bank was developing its strategies to fully address maritime issues with the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), based on their involvement in the regional coastal shipping line project, SEALINK, initiated by the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI) and ECOWAS.

AfDB according to Salawou, is also considering the Port infrastructure development and city urbanisation in the Praia-Dakar link by sea.

The bank rep agreed with MOWCA on the need for job opportunities creation with the promotion of maritime related entrepreneurship and training for women and youths.

The AfDB team was delighted to learn that PMAWCA, RMU and ARSTM were Specialised Organs of MOWCA, and planned to consider inviting MOWCA in 2024 to the review process of the published procurement relating to these maritime issues.



From left, Director Aerodrome & Airspace Standard and representing NCAA, Engr. Tayyib Odunowo, Writer, Mr. Chinadu Eze, Chairman, Airpeace Airlines & Chief launcher, Dr. Allen Onyeama, Writer, Mr. Segun Koiki and General Manager, Public Affairs, Accident Investigation Bureau, AIB, Mr. Tunji Oketunbi at the presentation of a book written by Mr. Segun Koiki and Mr. Chinedu held at NCCA Annex Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

2023: Oyo Traditionalists Endorse Tinubu, Say He Stands Tall Among Candidates - Sanusi

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The traditional religion worshippers in Oyo State, known as 'Oniseese' on Saturday endorsed the All Progressives Congress (APC), Presidential candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as its candidate for the 2023 polls.

Rising from a meeting at Ilaji Hotel and Sports Resort, Akanran, Ibadan, presided over by the Aare Oniseese of Oyo State, Olukunmi Egbelade, the traditionalists said the step became necessary for the electoral victory of the APC presidential candidate.

In his address, the Aare Oniseese of Oyo State, Olukunmi

Egbelade, stressed that Yoruba would benefit a lot if their kinsman becomes the president, as it is the turn of the Yoruba to be at the helms of affairs of the nation.

Emphasizing that Asiwaju Tinubu should declare a nationwide holiday for the traditional worshippers across the nation when he becomes the president of Nigeria, the Aare Oniseese said the traditionalists prayed and endorsed Tinubu for peace, unity, progress and development of Yorubaland.

Chief Kazeem Omotosho in his remarks said there should not be any set back for the Yoruba in the forthcoming elections, as the strategic position that the Yoruba have been occupying in Nigerian politics could not be over-

emphasized.

"Some people believe we are not educated. They say we don't know God. But we believe in God than them. Many of the pastors and the Islamic clerics passed through us."

The Chief Executive Officer of Ilaji Hotel and Sports Resort, Chief Dotun Sanusi, who was represented by Mogaji Nurudeen Akinade, said the motive behind the event was to show love and support the APC presidential candidate, who is a leading candidate in the forthcoming general elections.

According to Akinade, Sanusi is neither a politician, nor vying for any political position, saying he is just a businessman and a philanthropist, who has

always been using his resources to cater for the need of the society.

"He is not a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), nor APC. But he is passionate about whatever that will lead to the progress and development of Yorubaland.

"We have the problem of insecurity. We have the problem of unemployment. We have leadership problem and many more. President Muhammadu Buhari is concluding his administration. We cannot say he hasn't done anything. He has done his best. In the next couple of months, we will do another election.

"The need for us to choose wisely brought us here today. I have researched the credentials of the

Webb Fontaine Emerges 2022 Most Innovative ICT Trade Solution Provider

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Nigeria's foremost maritime Information and Communication Technology (ICT) trade solution provider, Webb Fontaine Nigeria Limited, has emerged Nigeria's 'Most Innovative ICT Trade Solution Provider 2022'.

The award according to a statement by the Association of Maritime Journalist of Nigeria (AMJON), organisers of the Annual AMJON Conference and Awards will be conferred on the meritorious company on Monday, December 19th, 2022 at the Lagos Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja, and Lagos State

The statement disclosed that the company was nominated for the award because of its impeccable reputation in contributing to national economic growth through reliable ICT solutions that supports trade for government and private institutions in the country. AMJON President Paul Ogbuokiri said Webb Fontaine's value-adding innovations like the Nigerian Integrated Customs Information System (NICIS) and other solutions have helped the

Nigeria Customs Service to attain annual trillion naira revenue collections since 2017.

He stressed the importance for the survival of the Nigeria economy, the reported support the company is giving to not less than 14 agencies of the Federal Government with transparent revenue generating and efficiency promoting trade solutions for different sectors.

Ogbuokiri also said that recent feats that promote a sustainable blue economy in the Nigerian maritime sector like Customs cargo tracking being tested in Lagos and seamless integration of the Lekki Deep Seaport with Lagos Free Trade Zone are indeed laudable feats.

He further said that the company's provision of the ICT backbone for Nigeria's first automated deep blue in Lekki and the LFZ is a worthy trade master stroke.

According to him, this seaport will engender transparent faster ship turnaround time and assurance of cargo, crew and vessel security using the Webb Fontaine solutions within one of West Africa's largest and business trans-shipment hubs.



The traditionalists



Tinubu's Presidency Will Benefit Gombe, Usher-In Renewed Hope For Citizenry, Governor Inuwa Assures

**APC campaign train hits Kulishin, Boh, Lapan, Lailapido wards of Shongom LGA*



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has continued to canvass support for All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and all other party's flag bearers in the 2023 general elections.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Monday December 19, 2022, said that the governor, while speaking at the venues of the APC Campaign rallies held at Kulishin, Boh, Lapan and Lailapido wards of Shongom Local Government Area, assured the electorate that Gombe State stands to benefit a lot from Tinubu's presidency.

He said Tinubu is committed to the implementation of Kolmani Integrated Development Project commissioned recently by President Muhammadu Buhari, hence a vote for him and the APC at all levels, is a vote for renewed hope, development and prosperity of the people.

He called on the electorate, especially women and youths to come out enmasse on election day and vote for the APC candidates at all levels, stating that "If you support a party, then you should also support its candidates altogether", he asserted.

Governor Inuwa said the records of achievements of the APC-led administration in Shongom and other places are unprecedented and unbeatable, expressing confidence that APC will have a resounding victory in

the forthcoming elections in the area and the state.

He explained that in 2019, he promised to bring development to the people and thankfully, he was able to deliver, citing rehabilitation and upgrading of Boh Healthcare facility to cottage Hospital and revitalization of at least one healthcare facility in every ward of the LGA, construction of Lashule-Lalapido road among other developments.

The governor promised to extend these dividends of democracy to other rural communities, saying: "We constructed Filiya-Gwandum-Gundale Road that links more than 10 communities in four wards. Therefore, construction of Lapan-Labarya-Lasanja-Burak Road will not be an issue".

Speaking strictly to the crowd of women who converged to welcome him to the area, the governor pledged to continue to accord them the priority they deserve, citing the appointments of women in his administration as proofs to buttress his disposition.

"Our administration is the only government that produced women councillors in every LGA, appointed women to head Teachers' Service Commission, Civil Service Commission and man a lot of sensitive positions".

On some of the environmental problems bedeviling the areas, Inuwa said his government will take drastic measures towards controlling the erosion problem threatening agriculture, economic and social security of the people.

The governor noted that his government is an all inclusive one and shows no discrimination, urging the people to vote based on competency and credibility and shun politics of religion and ethnicity.

Gombe State Coordinator for Tinubu/Shetima Campaign, Dr. Jamilu Ishiyaku Gwamna and APC Stalwart, Dr Bala Bello Tinka who spoke at the respective venues of the campaign rallies, urged the electorate attested to the credibility and competence of the APC candidates.

The indigenes of the area who spoke in the same vain included Commissioner of Information and Culture, Hon. Meshak Audu Lauco, Former Chairman Shongom LGA, Hon. Samuel Bulus, Company Secretary of Bubayero Microfinance Bank, Barr. Robert Wobida, Director-General, Federal Government Bureau, Mr Nuhu Sada Laumara and other APC candidates.

They said, "nobody has invested in Shongom LGA better than Governor Inuwa Yahaya courtesy of his infrastructural and human capital development", promising to produce the highest number of votes for the APC in the forthcoming elections.

Hundreds of defectors were received by the state leadership of the APC, stating that their cross-carpeting was inspired by the development projects executed by Inuwa-led administration in their respective wards, LGA and Gombe State in general.



Fruits, Vegetables Ensure Health, Prevent Communicable Diseases - Researchers

**UI VC says Nigeria is facing challenge of various forms of malnutrition*

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan
Nutrition experts at the weekend, disclosed that regular intake of fruits and vegetables will help correct under-nutrition and obesity among low-income population in Nigeria.

The experts from the University of Ibadan and Wageningen University and Research at the Netherlands, made this known at a stakeholder meeting held at International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan.

Speaking at the stakeholders meeting titled, "Increasing fruit and vegetable intake of low-income populations in Nigeria and Vietnam through food system innovations", also known as FVN project, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Prof Kayode Oyeboade Adebowale disclosed that Nigeria is facing the challenge of various forms of malnutrition, the prevalence of under-nutrition, over-nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies.

Prof Adebowale said diet related non-communicable diseases are on the increase and various sectors are working together to address this hydra-headed problem and that among the populations labelled as the most vulnerable to malnutrition, the poor are particularly at risk due to multiple deprivations they face.

"People experiencing poverty are disproportionately affected by rising food prices and rising inflation, such people are forced

to employ coping strategies such as skipping meals, reducing the amount they eat, preparing meals with fewer nutritious foods, and buying cheaper, food options."he said.

The Vice Chancellor added, "in the midst of these, consuming adequate amounts of fruits and vegetables in the diet becomes a distant secondary concern, and the implications for health include undernutrition, obesity, and diet related disease among those who are already struggling the most."

"Addressing these inequalities will take transformative actions across multiple sectors in the Food Systems of Nigeria. This is the focus of the Project FVN. This project aimed at addressing malnutrition among low-income urban populations in Nigeria and Vietnam by increasing intake of fruits and vegetables through food system innovations that improve access through the diversification of retail outlets, enhance affordability through a client-specific coupon system, and boost acceptability through promotional campaigns and behaviour change communication".

An associate Professor of Human Nutrition at the UI, Mrs Folake Samuel emphasized that fruits and vegetables are one of the most important interventions in human nutrition deficiencies correcting the erroneous believe that fruits and vegetables are meant for high income earners because of the cost.



From left: Dr Oluyemisi Shittu (Co-investigator), Dr Folake Samuel (Local Principal Investigator, Nigeria) and Godwin Bamsa (Consumer Intervention Lead of the Fruits and Vegetables intake Vietnam and Nigeria Project)

Mrs Samuel who is also local principal investigator of FVN project stressed that the low-income populations need to consume it for healthy living, saying, with very little amount every individual particularly low-income urban population can get varieties of fruits and

vegetables to correct both undernutrition and overnutrition if adequately taken on daily basis.

One of the researchers, Godwin Bamsa in his presentation said the research realized that that people eat enough fruits and vegetables and there is the need

to take fruits in regulated quantities for better and healthy lifestyle.

He stressed that eating adequate fruits and vegetables daily is an important part of healthy lifestyle, which helps reduce the risk of having non-communicable diseases.

Customs FOU Zone B Kaduna Seizes Items Worth Over N2bn In 2022

address, commended stakeholders for ensuring their activities were successful throughout 2022.

He said critical stakeholders that have ensured their success are being awarded to motivate them to doing more.

The awards were presented in four categories, including officers, stakeholders, neighbours and general officers, while the fifth category, featured the adhoc staff at the office.

Officer of the year was claimed by ASC 1 K. Ahmed, who was described as on officer who always delivers tasks given him, while Officer of Month, went to

BSC Bello Umar.

Journalists presented with awards, included the Online Editor of New Nigerian Newspapers, Jacob Onjewu Dickson, with the Comptroller describing the media outfit as a pride to the North and Nigeria.

Others are, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Chairman Kaduna State, Asmau Halilu Yawo of VON, Mohammed Ibrahim Yaba, Daily Trust, Isaiah Benjamin of Leadership Newspapers, Husseini Mohammed of Vision FM, Rabo Haladu of Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo, Sawura Jibril Maidoki of

KSMC, Husseina Yakubu of NAN, Mohammed Bashir Abdulrahman of Freedom Radio, Moses Abimaje of AIT, and others.

For stakeholders presented awards, Motor Dealers Association of Nigeria Kaduna State, petty traders, fuel stations, motor mechanics and others were honoured.

Similarly, Mrs. Hannatu James Kanyip was awarded.

Several other officers of FOU Zone B were presented with certificates and commendation letters, including an adhoc Staff, Mr. John Ayo Davies.



Stop Patronizing Chiefs, Indigenes, Only FCT Minister Has Authority To Allocate Land

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) reaffirmed on Monday, that only Malam Muhammad Musa Bello, the FCT Minister, has the legal authority to allot land in the nation's capital.

While informing locals that local Chiefs and indigenous people have no legal authority to distribute or sell land to anyone in the territory, and to quit supporting them.

This was announced at the clearance of illegal structures at Guzape I and Guzape II in Abuja by Comrade Ikhara Attah, Senior Special Assistant on Monitoring, Inspection, and Enforcement to the FCT Minister.

According to him: "Cleanup of illegal structures in Abuja will continue 'during' and 'after' the yuletide. "We came here today to actually continue from where we stopped because some persons in FCDA informed us that we haven't finished the job.

"The one at Kobi village in Guzape II, all the illegal structures on the road corridors were all removed today in order to give way to the infrastructural work that is ongoing in that area.

"The main Guzape I village here, we are trying to remove the illegal structures, shanties and all encroachment that are owned by non indigenes were all removed here.

"We have warned the non indigenes to stop buying land from the locals, the locals are up, you can see the village up there, they are in their respective homes watching what is ongoing".

He continued: "We had earlier marked structures for removal and we are now here to remove them. When we came here they thought the locals will come and tell us when to remove and where not to

remove, the locals are in their houses and those who bought land from them are crying and the Minister has asked us to clear to pave way for the infrastructural work that is ongoing in the area.

"We will be working deep into Christmas and probably 'during' Christmas and 'after' the Christmas", he said.

One of the affected persons, who simply gave his name as Mr Amos said he bought the land about two years ago for N120, 000 from the indigenes and moved in 2021.

"I built here in Kobi Sarki. I built about two years ago. I bought 25:30 square meters at N120,000, nobody told me that the land is illegal. I bought the land from the indigenes and they gave me a paper from Madaki house and it was the Emir that signed the paper they gave to me. I even paid for the signing of the paper, I paid N3k.

"I started building in 2020 and I parked in 2021, and I spent about N1 million to build the house and everything is gone now".

He lamented that, "Nobody informed us that the land is illegal if they had told me I wouldn't have bought the land or build here. The locals are suppose to tell us that they will still demolish the buildings".

He said he might be moving back to the village.

Also, Mr. Yohana who was also affected lamented the fact that nobody told them that their houses will be demolished one-day.

He said the first demolition they held a meeting with the indigenous people and they assured them that no demolition for now but now their houses are gone.

He said he bought his land for N70,000 and he wants his money to be refunded.

He said the Madaki has already instructed to go after the people that sold the land to them in order to get their refund.



Global Maritime Standards Key To Maximising Nigeria's Blue Economy Potentials - NSML Boss

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

For Nigeria to maximise potentials of the Blue Economy, it must embrace the global maritime standards in the areas of safety, efficiency, security, capacity building and competence, the Managing Director, NLNG Ship Management Limited (NSML), Mr. Abdul-Kadir Ahmed has said.

He pointed out that the Blue Economy is not local; but an international industry with global standards, adding that it is the responsibility of regulators to make sure that these standards are strictly adhered to by operators in the sector.

Ahmed made the submission while delivering a keynote address at the 2022 edition of the Association of Maritime Journalists of Nigeria (AMJON) Conference/Award with the theme: "Maximizing Nigeria's Blue Economy Through Automation", in Lagos.

His words: "The set of rules that contain the activities of players within the sector apply not just to Nigerians; they are a global set of standards that deal with safety, quality, efficiency and security. And in that falls the purview of the regulatory bodies; the ability to define and enforce those standards, and most importantly, the ability to carry the industry and ensure that these standards are upheld. "The second element pertains to capacity and competence, the ability not only to develop but also to domesticate the capacity to drive the Blue Economy. It is very critical and without the people and competent hands, it is impossible to ensure that the Blue Economy will develop in a sustainable manner.

"NSML is a subsidiary of NLNG, primarily responsible for shipping and maritime services and operations, and the aim of the creation is simply to develop and domesticate the global skillsets when it comes to shipping and marine services, which are critical to the Blue Economy.

"It is also quite important when you look at it from that perspective, to recognise that at the end of the day, the development of our resources will have an effect and impact on the lives of people. Nigeria as a country of 200 million people, with over 50% of our people below the age of 25, requires us to sustainably develop our resources in such a way that we can provide the means of livelihood for this vast majority

of people. And to effectively do that, there has to be a focus on the development of capacity and skill set".

Emphasising on the importance of safety, security, competence and capacity, he pointed out that it is not enough to have an industry with these standards, but one that enables, drives and imbibes these standards, "because they are critical in terms of how we develop and sustain the Blue Economy".

Speaking further on maximising the Blue Economy through automation, the NSML boss noted that the aforementioned elements are also very germane to achieving this.

"I have been thinking quite extensively about the theme of today's conference, and from my perspective, it is an effective and sustainable development of our Blue economy, but looking at it from the angle of automation, how do we automate? All of these elements that I have mentioned will come into play.

"I think the (AMJON) president also mentioned something about automating the regulatory infrastructure, and that is quite critical. And it goes beyond just safety enforcement, but also creating that environment that, as he rightly pointed out, enables ease of doing business. For us to really move this sector forward, it is important that there is clarity, a level playing field, competitiveness, and a drive towards efficiency, safety and security", he said.

Mr. Ahmed who noted that journalists covering the maritime sector have a critical role to play in checking the activities of stakeholders, tasked them to professionally and objectively perform their watchdog duties in order to ensure accountability of all participants in the industry.

According to him, "this can be done by understanding the very nature of the industry, the elements that drive the changes we see, and events like this are a good place where we can rub



NLNG boss receiving an award at the occasion.

minds together and share ideas about the nuances about an industry that is fast evolving. And I think that carrying out research will not just enable you to come up with reports on the opportunities and challenges that exist, but most importantly, you can hold us accountable in terms of what we need to do.

"Hence, my appeal is for us to continue on this collaborative path by creating an understanding on the nature of the industry, of the opportunities of the sector and the requirements of the industry. You can continue to hold us accountable, drive us to be the best we can be and most importantly, ensure that, as the name entails, the Blue Economy is not just about exploiting the resources, but doing so sustainably and in a manner that drives the economy forward and changes the lives of our people". On his part, the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) while delivering a paper titled: "A Drug-free Society for National Development", the theme for this year is apt because the world is currently driven by technological innovations and Nigeria must not be left behind in a generation almost driven by automated processes and procedures.

Marwa who was represented by Mrs. Omolade Fabuyigbe stated that the need for a sustainable

use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem cannot be overstressed.

According to him, the maritime sector is key towards economic development of the nation, and for Nigeria to achieve the much desired foreign direct investment through a 24-hour clearance of goods at the ports, the maritime activities must be automated, adding that the sector should therefore be driven by efficiency and effectiveness in her operations.

He said: "The problem of substance abuse in Nigeria if not adequately addressed, may be a huge hinderance to this anticipated drive for an improved economy. The maritime sector by the nature of its operations features prominently in the two major strategic pillars of drug supply and Reduction, hence the importance of the sector in our drug control efforts. It is unfortunate to note that some major drug shipments are usually done through the sea.

"The personel working in that sector equally need to be shielded from drug use and dependency for better productivity. There is therefore a need for the NDLEA and the maritime sector to employ synergistic approach to drug control.

"It is therefore necessary to develop automated systems in

the maritime environment that will establish incidences of drug use and aiding of drug importation or exportation.

For instance, a comprehensive drug tests should be carried out on every personnel boarding our ship. Automated rummaging of the ship is equally critical in ridding the ship compartments of every trace of drug".

Speaking on the role of the media, the NDLEA boss noted that the press has remained an ally and a critical stakeholder in the anti-narcotic agency's drug control efforts.

Marwa stated that for a robust and effective sensitisation/advocacy, the media, especially the maritime journalists must be carried along.

"We must police our waterways to prevent drug shipments into our country and protect the maritime labour force from possible entanglement with drugs. I want to encourage maritime journalists to develop contents and programmes that will address drug awareness needs of the maritime community.

"The drug problem requires the collaborative and collective efforts of all and sundry especially the media and indeed the maritime journalists. We must all rise in unison to combat the ugly monster of drug demand and supply in Nigeria. I urge you not to relent in your effort at creating awareness and educating our citizens on the danger of drug abuse in our society", he added.

NGO Engages Media On Ethical Health Financing Awareness In Borno

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR,
Maiduguri

United Kingdom (UK) partnering Palladium in facilitating the first of its kind, 'Lafiya Project in Nigeria', has engaged media practitioners to create awareness and carry out sensitization on Lafiya Project Ethical Health Financing (EHF) for health and social service initiatives.

The Borno State Focal Person of the Lafiya Project, Dr. Largema Bukar who stated this at a one-day training workshop held at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Press Center Maiduguri on Tuesday, disclosed that the Lafiya programme is also aimed at ensuring the establishment of community based EHF institutions in some selected states of the federation.

According to him, members of the NUJ have been engaged for their role as the voice and eye of the people, charged with the social responsibility of educating, enlightening and informing the public in the society, due to the essential and professional roles media practitioners play in the society in sensitizing the people on the establishment, importance and benefits of the Lafiya Project to people in the society.

Giving an Overview on the Ethical Health Financing at the Workshop, Dr. Largema added that the project has since commenced in some states mentioned above and is at various stages of implementation after the sensitization and awareness campaigns by the media in those states.

He also said the programme is further aimed at strengthening and consolidating on health services in five Northern states of Nigeria, namely, Jigawa, Sokoto, Borno, Yobe and Kaduna.

Largema also noted that the programme cannot be achieved without the significant role of the media as stakeholders to create awareness and sensitize the general public on the importance and benefits of the project, while commending the leadership of the state NUJ for its support and cooperation with the organizers of the workshop and facilitators of the project.

Professor Babakura Mamman Gadai who is also a resource person and facilitator of the Lafiya Project, explained that the

workshop's objectives include plan to engage Media Practitioners on Ethical Health Financing through Waqf and Zakkat, to ensure sensitisation facilitator and Rand creation of awareness on Ethical Health Financing through the formation of Waqf and Zakkat foundations at strata of the society.

Others include to agree on role and responsibilities of media practitioners with regard to Ethical Health Financing at societal level, to sensitize other media outlets on the need for and importance of EHF.

Prof. Gadai also expunged on the concept, practice and role of EHF (Zakat and Waqf as social welfare systems in Muslim communities), while Alhaji Abba Bukar, the Lawan of Mai Sandari, highlighted on the Ethical Health Financing Institutional Framework



among others.

In his papers presentation, another resource person, Prof. Mohammed Bello of University of Maiduguri dwelt extensively on his

lecture, titled, " Waqf: The Past, Present, and Future " and "Waqf Foundations Here in Borno?"

Professor Gadai also presented a paper titled, "Resource Mobilisation and

awareness creation for EHF" before conducting a Group activities to Develop a Media Framework to Support EHF through Waqf and Zakkat that will be community based participatory in terms of

establishment, management and operations to suit the environmental, cultural, social and economic.

Group Similar To ENDSARS Tasks NLC, TUC, Others To Act Over Tactical Increase In Fuel Pump Price

*Embarks on rally

*Vows protest every Monday

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Students and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) coalition, Nigerians Arise Movement, has called for immediate rejection of tactical increase in the pump price of petrol in the country

Speaking through the National Coordinator of All Workers Convergence, (AWC), Comrade Andrew Emelieze on Tuesday at the Oyo State Secretariat of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) in Agodi, Ibadan, the coalition kicked against the ongoing pump price increase across the country

Comrade Emelieze during a protest tagged, "Operation Resist Hardship" specifically tasked the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and other workers unions in the country to rise up from their slumber and defend the Nigerians masses.

He stressed that it was unfortunate that the NLC, TUC and other workers union across the country are keeping quiet as well as "sleeping for too long"

amidst the continuous hardships on Nigerians.

According to Comrade Emelieze, it is time for the leadership of the NLC, TUC and other workers unions in Nigeria to rise up and jointly reject the increase, alleging that Federal Government is bent on increasing the pump price of Petrol and that it is only the NLC, TUC and other workers unions that can fight for the masses.

"We are here to tell the NLC, the TUC to speak out on the fuel Price hike, we are here to tell them that they have slept off. The Nigeria Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress should wake up and rescue workers and Nigerians from hardship", he said.

The coalition spokesperson added, "We say no to fuel price hike. Our major agreement at the rally is to continue to have a permanent constant protest until our people are free from hardship."

"For a start, it shall be protest every Mondays, Monday Protest, Nigerians Arise, No retreat no surrender, It shall be from #EndSARS to #EndHardship. People arise, what we need now



Comrade Andrew Emelieze during the protest at Oyo State NLC Secretariat in Ibadan.

is permanent protest". Members of the coalition during the protest, displaced placards having inscriptions such as "Labour Wake Up",

"Nigeria Cost Of Living Crisis". "Protest @ President Muhammadu Buhari pay Cost Of Allowance", "Workers are suffering in silence".

Katsina Guber: PRP Members Back APC Candidate

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

All Members of the People's Redemption Party (PRP) in Katsina State have pledged to support the gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Dr Dikko Umar Radda.

A statement by Director, Media and Publicity of the APC campaign Council in the state, Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir said the PRP Katsina State Chairman, Dr Ahmed Alhassan made the disclosure in Ingawa at the campaign rally of Dr. Dikko Umar Radda.

Alhaji Abdulkadir said the PRP Chairman, Dr Alhassan has revealed that, the entire leadership and members of PRP in Katsina State have no choice but to support the APC Gubernatorial Candidate since they share the same ideals.

He said the APC Gubernatorial Candidate Dr. Dikko Umar Radda was in Ingawa Local Government Area to seek support during the forthcoming elections. Pointing out that, Ingawa was the tenth local government area the APC candidate visited, out of the twelve local government areas in Katsina North Senatorial District.

Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir said Dr Radda has visited more than 100 wards in the local government areas and paying homage to traditional rulers and community leaders.

Accordingly, in Kwatta Ward, Mani Local Government Area, Dr. Radda

was so moved when he was informed that, the community had no means of getting safe drinking water that he immediately directed for a borehole to be built for them.

Similarly, the representative of the Village Head, Alhaji Isa Galadima, told the Gubernatorial Candidate that they had no electricity even though they had a transformer and instantly, the Mani Local Government Chairman, who was among Dr. Radda's entourage promised to immediately get the transformer connected.

Another request, according to the Director, Media and Publicity of the Katsina state APC Gubernatorial Campaign Council, Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir made by the Village Head was for the construction of a road to connect the ward with Mani, which was just about three kilometers away.

While rounding off the first leg of the Katsina North Senatorial District campaign tour in Kankiya, the APC candidate, Dr Umar Radda donated five motorcycles to the Kankiya Security Committee at the District Head's Palace to enhance security and expressed belief that now that he had first hand knowledge of the problems of the area he would know what to do when elected as Katsina State Governor in 2023.

He explained that, in all the places he visited, Dr. Radda told his hosts that he was campaigning for both the Presidential, National and state Assembly Candidates

Court Remands Hyacinth Okeibunor.Ohai, 3 Others For Alleged Murder, Arson, Rape

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Five suspects were arraigned before the Magistrate Court at Asaba for conspiracy, arson, rape, malicious damage, assault, and murder and remanded at the Federal Correctional Prison at Ogwashi-Uku, on Tuesday December 20, 2022.

The names of the said suspects are, Godwin Asikawili alias Terror, PPPRA officer Hyacinth Okeibunor Ohai alias high roller, Fidelis Nweke Odafé and Christopher Uche Odene.

This paper learnt that other suspects are currently at large. The police is said to be on manhunt for them.

It would be recalled that June last year, youth under the sponsorship by some well placed members of the Azungwu Community in Ogwashi-uku Kingdom, attacked the Odogwu (warlord) of the community.

The wife of the Odogwu (warlord) of Ogwashi-Uku Kingdom was allegedly stripped naked and raped by community youth over a chieftaincy tussle.

In the process, three houses, livestock, farm and two vehicles, all worth over N500m and belonging to the Odogwu, Chief Gabriel Ohai, were set ablaze, while other property were looted.

The incident, was said to have left over 12 persons with varying degrees of injury and rendered the Odogwu and his family homeless.

Narrating his ordeal to correspondents in Asaba on Tuesday, Chief Gabriel lamented the lawlessness and impunity on the part of the suspects.

He said, "The police came to arrest one Ikechukwu Iloba last year, who led hoodlums to beat a 75-year-old man to death, after the autopsy result was released.

"The suspect raised the alarm and called his cohorts; and as early as 6am, they had already converged before the arrival of policemen and resisted his arrest.

"Immediately the police left, the hoodlums moved from the Ogwa (Hall) of ACP Chike Nwabua to my house, pulled down my gate and fence, and proceeded to my palace, set my house ablaze, stripped my wife naked, raped her, burnt down two of my vehicles and moved to my farm, which is about 20 kilometres away from where I live, and set the building there ablaze.

"My workers' quarters were also burnt down; my livestock of over 3,000 birds, 100 pigs and others were released into the forest. The farm was completely destroyed; some of my properties were looted and others set ablaze. It has been a long walk for me to get to this

point today. The suspects with the connivance and master architect of one ACP Chike Nwabua did everything possible to frustrate the investigations so the suspects will not be brought to justice. I have complained to the Obi of Ogwashi-Uku, the governor, human rights organisations and the police hierarchy about my predicament.

"At each point, the suspects were using money and influence to frustrate the investigation. It became imperative for me to talk to the world, the government and human rights organisations to know what I am passing through in the hands of those who thought they were above the law."

He continued, "Today, some of them have been brought before the courts. They will have their day in court to respond to what they did to me and others in the community.

"I have been told that they are making moves to continue their bribery and use of influence to pervert justice but God willing, we will get justice. We cannot allow impunity and lawlessness. I am starting my journey to justice because without justice, there will be no peace.

"The dead man they killed is crying out for justice, my wife they raped is crying out for justice, my properties they looted and burnt is crying out for justice, the people close to me they injured are crying out for justice, the Church they burnt down is crying out for justice."

When our correspondent contacted the Palace Secretary of the Ogwashi-Uku Kingdom, Prince Ifeakanachukwu Emordi, he advised that the Palace will not comment on matters in court, saying that he trusts the courts in the state to deliver fair and unbiased justice.

Timi Frank Cautions DSS: Against "Illegal Plot" To Arrest Emefiele

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Tuesday, urged the Department of State Services (DSS), to urgently halt their alleged grand plot to harass, humiliate, arrest and illegally force the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele, out of office.

Frank who was reacting to allegations to that effect made by the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) in Abuja on Monday, also called on President Muhammadu Buhari to call the DSS and other conniving officials to order in a bid not to intensify the already heightened security situation in the country at this critical time.

Frank who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, in a statement Tuesday said such gestapo tactics employed by the DSS against Judges of the Federal High Court and Supreme Court in the past must be condemned by all well meaning Nigerians.

He insisted that even though he is neither friend to or fan of Emefiele of the present administration, he would not

fold his arms and remain quiet when a grave injustice is about to be meted to any Nigerian because injury to one is injury to all.

According to the Bayelsa-born political activist, allegations remain allegations, no matter how finely couched, until proven otherwise before a court of competent jurisdiction. Therefore, the rule of law and due process must be followed if at all this present onslaught by the DSS is not a politically motivated witch-hunt against Emefiele.

He said: "Let us not allow the kind of kangaroo and commando-styled Operation by the DSS that was used to remove a former Chief Justice of Nigeria in the recent past.

"I call on all well meaning Nigerians to resist a repeat of this type of injustice and inhumanity in our nation.

"If any government official has been found to violate certain aspects of our laws, let the Rule of Law be followed in redressing any such infraction.

Why would any group of people want to remove someone who is trying his best to give some sort of credence to this government - that has failed in all aspects of good governance - It is not only sad but an attempt to worsen the current situation that we are in

as a country.

Is the government trying to play an ethnic card?

This brings to mind, what happened to the former Chief Justice Of Nigeria, Onnoghen and the former Acting DG of the Department of State Services, Seiyefa -Both were removed unceremoniously.

Many key people under this government have been said to have purportedly committed various illegalities and none has been treated like the way Emefiele is being treated.

"I will never fold my hands and watch when injustice is being perpetuated against any Nigerian."

"I also received with dismay that members of this government are part of the plot. Governor Emefiele has suddenly become a persona non-grata, obviously because



Emefiele

of his recent policy on the redesigning of the Naira." Not minding that this policy is to help fight corruption and looting that has become endemic under this APC administration.

"The current government knows that they cannot win any election except through vote buying. Hence, he is no longer in their good books."

"I am, therefore, using this medium to caution the DSS and

their cohorts in government to desist from this illegality for which they have purportedly procured an illegal court order to mask their sinister intentions."

"I call on President Muhammadu Buhari to call the DSS and other conniving officials to order in order not to heighten the already heightened security situation in the country at this critical time."

2023: PDP Gives Reasons Why Deltans Should Renew Their Mandate

**Set to commence local govt campaigns*

**Says many have dumped opposition party after seeing "the light"*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Delta State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Campaign Council has called on Deltans to renew their mandates, to govern the state in 2023, as it has demonstrated tenacity in the development of the state since 1999.

The party expressed this at a press conference by its 2023 Campaign Director, Rt. Hon Funkekeme Solomon on Tuesday December 19, 2022 at the campaign office in Asaba, while announcing the commencement of the party's campaign to the 25 local government areas of the state from Wednesday, December 23.

The campaign director stated that the first phase of the campaign to the 270 wards in the state, was a very big success, as the party visited each of the wards, where they called on the electorate in each of the wards to vote for the party to continue the even development of the state.

"We have met with all Deltans at the ward level, as we have visited the 270 wards in Delta State. We used the visit to explain to them why they should vote for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in next year's election, as we have done well for the state

since 1999.

"The ward campaigns also brought light to many people who dumped the opposition and confessed that having seen the light, they have decided to embrace the PDP as the only party with the capacity to rescue, reset Nigeria and reunite Nigerians."

"We appeal to them not make the mistake Nigerians made in 2015, when they were given false hope of change. PDP is coming with change, change to rescue Nigeria, from darkness and loss of hope.

"PDP is the only party that will rescue Nigeria, from the deception of 2015, where almost all aspects of the Nigerian life have been destroyed, and brought to its knees," PDP said.

The party assured Nigerians that its campaign will continue to be based on issues and not slandering of their opponents.

"We shall as usual, undertake issue-based campaigns and will not indulge in frivolities about the mischievous pranks of the opposition parties, except when necessary, we shall educate the people about why they must prefer PDP to other parties, and vote for all our candidates at the 2023 elections."

The party lamented the grim situation,

caused by what it called the incompetence, and ill informed ruling of the All Progressives Congress (APC), promising to eliminate the hardship faced by Nigerians.

"Nigeria is facing a grim situation, courtesy of the incompetent, ill-informed, and wicked rule perpetrated by the All Progressives Congress (APC)-led Federal Government. Today, our nation has become the poverty capital of the world, amid unparalleled insecurity that has made Nigeria an insecure place for life and property.

"Besides, unemployment, inflation, and food insecurity have brought untold hardship on Nigerians, the type we have never seen since the evolution of this nation.

"Our issue-based campaign will showcase the competence of our candidates, who are men and women of experience in the art of turning things around. The Atiku-Okowa Presidential ticket is what Nigeria needs to reset and rescue this nation from the mess that the APC has plunged her into.

"Our governorship ticket of Sheriff Oborevwo and Monday Onyeme is what Delta State needs to build further on the good legacies of the administration of former Governor James Ibori, former Governor

Emmanuel Uduaghan, and the legacies of the wonderful administration of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, who is also the Vice Presidential candidate of PDP. This will be done through the M.O.R.E. Agenda.

"PDP believes that Nigeria needs seriously to depart from our current experience of electing incompetence and free herself from the APC tragedy that has turned a land flowing with milk and honey into a suffering nation.

"We agree that rather than present candidates for the 2023 elections, APC should be apologizing to Nigerians for the rot it has brought the nation into. The clueless party and its officials lack the gumption to understand and appreciate the enormity of the problems APC has created and so lacks the basis to even field candidates.

"It is against this background, that we call on Nigerians not to relent in holding APC to account for the worsening state of affairs in Nigeria, and therefore reject it with their ballots at the polls by voting massively for all the candidates of PDP across board for the purpose of resetting and rescuing Nigeria from the untidy and chaotic path that APC has brought her."

Buratai Bags Icon Of Integrity Award



By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna
Former Chief of Army Staff (COAS), His Excellency Ambassador (Lt. Gen. Rtd) Tukur Yusuf Buratai CFR Garkuwan Keffi, has again bagged another award of excellence, an Icon of Integrity Award by the Zero Tolerance for Corruption Association.

The Icon of Integrity Award, which was conferred on the former COAS in Kaduna, was informed by his relentless commitment to the service of humanity,

before, during and even after his tenure as the Chief of Army Staff.

According to the leader of the association, Aminu Abbas Jalingo, "we also selected him for the award following his track records of service and the way he handled his office with transparency and accountability and job creation in our society.

"We believe job creation is one of the ways to curtail the rate of unemployment in our country. We wish this award will serve as a token of encouragement and

motivation Sir, Congratulations once more" he said.

In his acceptance speech, General Buratai said, It has not been easy dealing with corruption in the land, but the commitment has been sustained and successes are being achieved.

"We are happy President Muhammadu Buhari included anti corruption in his campaign promises and he is living up to expectation and keeping to his promises. He has fought corruption thoroughly in his administration, you can see the

numbers and quantum, in terms of the convictions and forfeitures

"I urge you to introduce your programme in primary schools in order to induct people from tender ages because this is a right step and a step forward in the right direction, particularly in recognizing who ever has done wonderful in the fight against corruption.

" I sincerely appreciate you for this recognition and to inform you that this will further spur me to do more and become more committed to fighting this societal scourge, now and always. God bless you all" he said.



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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

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- 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.
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- 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: Appeal Court Reinstates Tukur As APC Senatorial Candidate For Nasarawa West

By; SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

The Court of Appeal, Abuja Division, has reinstated Architect Shehu Ahmad Tukur as the senatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress

(APC) for Nasarawa West District in the 2023 general elections.

In a unanimous decision, the three-man panel, led by Justice Biobele Abraham Georgewill, set aside the judgment of the trial court and ruled

against Barrister Labaran Shuaibu Magaji.

The Federal High Court had on December 2, annulled the primary election that produced Tukur as candidate over gross irregularities and ordered the ruling APC to

conduct fresh exercise within 14-day.

However, on Monday, the judgment of the High Court presided over by Justice Nehizena Idemudia-Afolabi was overruled by the Appeal Court.



Kaduna Govt Condoles Victims Of Attack In Kaura LGA

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Government has sent heartfelt condolences to the Malagum and Sokwong communities in Kaura LGA over attacks by gunmen suspected to be terrorists.

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

on Monday December 19, 2022, the military and other security agencies reported that bandits attacked the locations and killed several citizens, while burning houses and other property.

"Governor Nasir el-Rufai expressed deep sadness at the report of the incident and prayed for the repose of the souls of those killed, while offering condolences to their families.

"The Governor condemned the attacks as inhuman, considering the efforts of government, security forces, the traditional institution and other critical stakeholders within the last week.

"The Governor has also directed the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the communities," the statement said.

It informed that an urgent security intervention is being conducted by the Defence Headquarters Operation Safe Haven, as the Commander - also the GOC 3 Division Nigerian Army - Major General Ibrahim Ali, and Sector 7 Commander, Colonel Timothy Oporum are presently in the location.

"The Kaduna State Government will make public further details on the incident as it receives feedback from the security forces," it assured.

Bauchi Security Operatives Neutralize 12 Bandits/Kidnappers

By; MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi

Security operatives of the Bauchi Police Command have in the efforts to stem the menace of banditry in the state, neutralized 12 bandits/kidnappers including their kingpin, Madaki Mansur who has been terrorizing the Alkaleri Local Government Area of the

state and its neighbouring states of Gombe, Taraba and Plateau states.

The Command Public Relations Officer, SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakil said in Bauchi Monday that, "On the 19th December 2022 at about 0230hrs a Joint Operation of security operatives engaged suspected bandits/kidnappers in four different hideouts;

Mansur, Digare, Gwana and Dajin Madam in Alkaleri forest".

SP Wakil said that as a result of hot exchange of superior fire-power by the Bauchi Police Command operatives, it left twelve (12) of the kidnappers neutralized while others were subdued, dislodged, and scampered in disarray into the nearby bushes with possible gunshot

wounds and abandoned their camp.

He explained that following the hot exchange of fire, weapons and operational motorcycles were recovered during the operation, saying that the command is intensifying efforts to apprehend the fleeing members of the syndicate.

Court Jails Fake LASTMA Officer In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences (Mobile) Court sitting at Bolade, Oshodi has sentenced a fake LASTMA officer to 4-month jail term for impersonating and extorting money from motorists particularly commercial bus drivers in Lagos

The convict, identified as David Oluchukwu was arraigned by the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) on a 2-Count charges of "Conduct likely to cause breach of peace" and "Impersonation" before the court.

In a press statement released by the Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of (LASTMA) Mr. Adebayo Taofiq, he was sentenced on Monday by Magistrate Adesanya Ademola.

Adesanya emphasized that the convict should serve the 4 months jail term without any option of fine due to the gravity of the offences.

The Court Prosecutor Barrister Agbaje

Oladotun stated that both offences levied against the convict (Breach of Peace and Impersonation) contravened Section 168 (D) and Section 78 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State (2015) respectively.

In his reaction to the judgement, the General Manager of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) Mr Bolaji Oreagba said the judgement was a welcome development as it would serve as deterrent to others who are still extorting money from innocent members of public under false pretense.

According to Mr. Oreagba "Our Surveillance and Intelligence Unit which has now been fully restructured would continue to hunt for other bad elements disturbing the peace of the society"

The General Manager however urged motorists particularly commercial bus operators to adhere strictly to the dictates of the Lagos State Transport Sector Reform Law 2018



The fake LASTMA officer

Zulum Commissions Projects, Distributes Vehicles In MMC

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State has commissioned two newly constructed department and renovation works carried out by the Chairman of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Hon Ali Umar Bolori. Zulum while unveiling the projects, said the state government is proud of his achievements and will continue

to support the council provide dividends of democracy to the people at the grassroots.

The projects include remodelling of the LGC secretariat complex which is one of the 39 projects executed under the two years administration of Hon Bolori which attracted commendations from the LG staff and the members of the public.

The governor who arrived the council secretariat together with the commissioner for Local

Government and Emirate Affairs, Hon. Sugun Mai Meleh and political office holders among others was received by the chairman.

After the commissioning of the newly constructed Primary Health Care Department, the chairman took the governor round the executive chamber and other parts of the edifice which has undergone thorough renovation after so many years of neglect.

The governor had also inspected

the distribution of 45 cars that were lined up for distribution party supporters and members as beneficiaries by the MMC Chairman for electioneering campaign

It is expected that other projects will be commission simultaneously soon in other LGCs of the state as Governorship Campaign has been launched by the governor since last week.

In his remarks, the Chairman of Maiduguri Metropolitan

Council Hon Ali Umar Bolori appreciated the governor and his support to the council and residents of maiduguri metropolis in all the sectors of tje state economy despite the teething economic recess abd security challenges.

He also thanked the party leaders and stakeholders for their support and encouragement while recognizing the support and cooperation of all the staff f the MMC during his two years tenure.



Zulum Commissions Projects, Distributes Vehicles In MMC



Dunni and Seinde Arigbede: Couple who live for tomorrow.

By Owei Lakemfa

It was in 1979. Words went round the University in Ife that students of Ijaw nationality should gather at the Post Graduate Hall to listen to an emissary. Then walked in a tall, slim man. He talked about the neglect of the Niger Delta, its exploitation and the need for us to resist.

Tony Engurube was a self-assured man who had lived in Sweden before being thrown out for trying to guide its youths towards revolution. I am not sure the contribution I made, but he told me to wait for further discussions.

Then he asked me to accompany him on a visit to a friend at the staff quarters. They were similarly built: Engurube and our host, Dr Biodun Jeyifo. As I watched these strange men embrace and talk excitedly about an idyllic past and future, seemingly oblivious of my presence, I realised they had been in some underground movement in the recent past. That was when the name, Seinde Arigbede, dropped.

As the months went by and I joined the radical students movement, the name loomed over. The person seemed mysterious, like some fairy tale. Essentially, it was about a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine who in furtherance of his resolve to build an-exploitation-free society, not only left his highly prestigious and good paying job, but also abandoned the comfort of campus life for an uncertain and rustic one in a rural village.

More intriguing was that his wife, Dunni, a nurse, had also taken the same decision. This was a strange phenomenon in a country where the flow of life is from the abandoned rural areas, to the glittering cities with their supermarkets and super highways, clubs and hotels where the middle and upper classes dazzle and float.

The debate went on in our circles whether this 'class suicide' was a correct step to take. But this was more of an ideological debate. There was an assumption that in relocating to the rural areas and living amongst farmers, the Arigbedes believed that the Nigerian revolution would be led by the peasantry rather than workers which was the main Marxist-Leninist line. So were they some Maoists?

When eventually, I met Dr Arigbede, he was to dispel all

those stories. He was so well read that I felt like an illiterate. He recommended various books and seemed forever trying to learn from my colleague, Adeolu Ademoyo and I. His interests included current events in Ife and campuses across the country. How do we hope to mobilise students and youths for the liberation of the country? He threw me off balance when in realising that we were from the Drama Department, he switched to discussing not just the arts but drama. We discovered that he was quite familiar with our Head of Department, Professor Wole Soyinka and had actually been part of the latter's early 1970s film, 'Kongi's Harvest', though he had professional disagreements with the future Nobel Laureate over the use of his dance steps in the film. So the medical doctor was also a professional dancer? It was at that point I became conscious of Dr Arigbede's beautiful command of English language with an arresting, booming voice which seemed naturally made for broadcasting or the theatre.

But more shocks were to come when I learnt that he was a song writer, composer, vocalist and guitarist who had performed before audiences. His wife, Comrade Dunni Arigbede, was comparatively reserved but was a full revolutionary who made us feel welcome to their home in Ode Omu, in today's Osun State. Sometimes, we simply sat with her to learn at her feet. We had long discussions and debates and were constantly reviewing tactics and strategies. Once, Adeolu and I got information that there were some villagers in Ife who wanted to learn how to read and write in English language. We informed the Arigbedes who took us through some tutelage on how to mobilise the peasantry. Together, we designed a literacy programme.

That was the beginning of an adult education programme in the villages of Abagboro and Oke Ake which Adeolu and I ran on Sunday afternoons. We developed peasant cells in those places with potentials of developing more, but we had no party to harvest them. Besides, we were also involved in many other things such as the Ife Students Union, helping to run and popularise the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, which was in its infancy, running the radical Alliance of Progressive Students, ALPS, and being part of Left organisations on campus and nationally. Yet, we were students who needed to attend lectures and pass examinations! It was a grooming like no other.

The Arigbedes had developed and fabricated agricultural equipment that could revolutionise farming in the country. This had come to the notice of the Ondo State Government. Governor Adegunle Ajasin whose Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, had rural development as a cardinal programme, invited them to put their knowledge and invention to practice. This was in the early 1980s.

Then, there were the 1983 gubernatorial elections and people poured out into the streets to stop the opposition National Party of Nigeria, NPN, from stealing the vote.

The NPN which was the ruling party at the centre, sent in armed military and security forces to subdue the populace in what turned out to be a quite bloody 'war' in which many were killed. The invading forces believed that Dr. Arigbede must have been one of those who mobilised the mass resistance. They 'captured' him as a prisoner of war.

Professor Soyinka in the 1988 preface to his famous book *The Man Died*, narrated what



happened next: "Seinde Arigbede did not die... (he) was taken to an empty cell, where he was hung up by the wrists and left dangling, his feet away from the ground, from specially fixed ceiling hooks.

Between beatings and other forms of torture the question was incessantly put: Where is the training camp? ... His wife, Aduni, moved with desperation in every possible direction and, through intervention from higher police quarters, Seinde's ordeal was ended after a week."

This was one of the ordeals the unique couple underwent in their unshakable resolve to build a better Nigeria. Their sacrifice, commitment and contribution to the emancipation of the oppressed and repressed, are unquantifiable. However, these are not the type of people given national honours.

The legendary warrior of the working class, Dr Makanjuola Olaseinde Arigbede, on Friday, November 4, 2022, marched on. He left Comrade Dunni the task of leading their children, Rotimi and Irawo and others in interring his earthly remains on December 16, 2020. The story of Dunni and Seinde Arigbede, the couple who live for tomorrow, is yet untold.

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Gusau Hails Tobi Amusan, Others For Emerging CAA's Best in 2022

By; AMOS MATHEW, Kaduna

The President of the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) Region II, Engr. Ibrahim Shehu Gusau has congratulated the best ranked athletes, coaches and technical officials for the year 2022, as released by CAA.

Engr. Gusau in a statement issued and signed on Tuesday, said that the commitment and resilience of those selected typified the "African Spirit" of always striving to be the best.

The statement reads, "I congratulate those who made the CAA's list as the best in Africa. The commitment and resilience of those of you selected typify the African Spirit of always striving to be the best.

"As you all are aware, what makes a champion is the consistency and the quest to always pull the rabbit out of the hat; look beyond 2022.

"On behalf of CAA Region II, I want to congratulate you for being the beacon of victory in Africa. Let's do more in the years ahead".

It went further to say that, the list released on Monday by the

athletics continental body saw Nigeria's Tobi Amusan topped the female category, as she was closely followed by Faith Kipyegon of Kenya; while the trio of Letesenbeth Gidey, Goytom Gbreslase and Gudaf Tsegay of Ethiopia occupied the third, fourth and fifth place respectively.

It added that, in the male category, Morocco's Soufiame El Bakkali emerged as the best male athletes; while Kenya's duo of Ellud Kipchoge and Emmanuel Kortr occupied the second and third place respectively. Ugandan's 1000m



Tobi Amusan

runner, Joshua Cheptegei was placed fourth and Tamarit Tola of Ethiopia occupied the fifth spot.

According to him, Botswana's

Kebone Modisa Dose Mosimanyane emerged as the best coach in Africa; as Kenya's duo of Patrick Kiprop Sang and Paul.N. Ereng took the second

and third spot as the best coach respectively. The CAA named Khemraj Naiko of Mauritius as the best Technical Official of the Continent.

Nom's Club, Morning Star FC Win Maiden KISA Football Tournament

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nom's Football Club of Maraban Rido and Morning Star FC of Gonin Gora are the winners of the maiden edition of the Kelprince International Sports Academy football tournament. Nom's FC defeated Flamingos FC of Narayi by a lone goal scored by Jesse Pius in the U-15 category to claim gold, while Morning Star FC defeated Snickers FC of Sabon Tasha 2-1.

Morning Star's goals were scored by Benjamin Marcus and Marshall Lukas respectively, while Snickers' lone goal came off the boots of Japhet Obadiah.

The two finals were played on Saturday December 17, 2022 at the football pitch of Government Day Secondary School (GDSS), Sabon Tasha.

Lucky Boys FC and Flamingos FC Placed third respectively in both categories.

Lucky Boys beat hard fighting Fantomas 1-0, while Flamingos defeated FC Roma by 2-1.

Various prizes were awarded to the eight teams that finished 1st to 4th in both categories of the tournament, courtesy of Uzegi Communication Enterprise, publishers of "The Nigerian Thrive" who partnered with the organizers of the tournament.

Nine teams participated in the U-15 categories, while ten featured in the senior category. The teams in the U-15 category are Nom's FC, PDR, Juventus, Lucky Boys, Fantomas, Monaco, Flamingos, Future Stars and

Santiago, while the teams in the senior category are, Future Stars, Snickers, Sabo Warriors, Morning Stars, Sabo Gunners, Monaco, FC Roma, Santiago, Flamingos and Kelprince selected.

A member of the main

organizing committee and the co-ordinator of the tournament, Mr. Emmanuel Peter Achinbee emphasized that the essence of the tournament is to encourage the development of the game at the grassroots and to create an avenue for the youth that are

talented in the game to exhibit their talents.

He called on the Chikun Local Government Council where the tournament was hosted and other stakeholders, to support the competition to ensure its continuity.



**Gusau Hails
Tobi Amusan,
Others For Emerging
CAA's Best in 2022**

Story on Page 23

INEC Planning To Jeopardize 2023 Polls, Action Alliance National Chairman Alleges

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

National chairman of the Action Alliance (AA), Dr. Adekunle Rufai Omoaje has taken a swipe at the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over what he described as the commission's flagrant disobedience to court judgment, saying that the commission is bent at jeopardizing the 2023 general election, through its actions.

Omoaje while featuring a live television programme, chastised the electoral body for disobeying many court rulings that ordered it to recognize the candidates, he (Omoaje) presented for various political positions in the 2023 general elections.

He cited the judgment of a Federal High Court, Abuja and those of the Ogun State High Court sitting in Abeokuta and the

Abuja Division of the Court of Appeal, which all ordered INEC to publish the names of candidates submitted by him on its website and also paste same in all its offices.

Omoaje lamented that the action of INEC is capable of jeopardizing the forthcoming general elections, stressing that the elections may not hold, should INEC fail to respect the court orders.

The AA National chairman, said INEC has not given any reasons why it failed to obey all the judgment delivered in his favour by the courts, despite being represented in the courts that delivered the judgment and was adequately served the judgment. He said the ongoing political campaigns of the presidential candidates of various political parties and others contesting other positions in the 2023

general elections may be an exercise in futility as the party would challenge the conduct of the election.

Omoaje informed that there is no faction in the party as Mr Kenneth Udeze who claimed to be a factional national chairman of the party, had long been suspended and subsequently expelled from the party.

He declared that the Action Alliance is one under his leadership and various court judgment also affirmed his position with INEC fully aware of the development.

He said INEC was well represented at the meetings where Udeze was suspended and expelled, adding that INEC should respect court judgment for it to earn the respect of the masses ahead of the next year's general elections.



Omoaje

Opera Mini storms Google Play Store, Emerges No 1 Downloaded App In Nigeria

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Opera Mini, the data-saving browser that already boasts of over 100 million users across Africa, has become the number one downloaded app over the weekend in Nigeria, thanks to the tremendous success of Opera's "Shake and Win" campaign on the continent.

Dedicated to football's greatest celebration, the World Cup, "Shake and Win" offered Opera fans the chance to win over \$300,000 in prizes. Users needed only to shake their phone to potentially win airtime from popular providers, cash prizes, or brand-new phones.

Africans responded enthusiastically to the excitement of this year's unforgettable tournament.

Over 13 million people participated across the continent, shaking their phones over 1,000,000 times a day. More than 200,000 prizes have been won, with many grateful users taking to social media to comment on how much fun they've had with "Shake and Win."

Nigerians were especially caught up in the spirit of the fun, with daily shakes peaking at over 900,000 shakes in the app,

and over 140,000 prizes given away.

New Nigerian users downloaded Opera Mini so much that it has reached number one on the Google Play Store.

Opera Mini, a unique, data-saving browser, is built with the needs of Africans on mind. In recognition of the extremely high data costs on the continent, it allows users to save up to 90% of their data.

Moreover, Opera always adds new features to the browser, to craft the best online experience possible, there's an integrated messenger, regular campaigns offering free data, and now live scores of football games and news about the latest



matches, to name just a few.

"The 'Shake and Win' campaign was a huge success, and we've been honored to share the overwhelming emotions of the World Cup with our users. Football fans in Nigeria should continue to keep their eyes on Opera Mini, since we plan to continue bringing amazing user experiences to football fans there, especially with the return of the Premier

League just around the corner," said Jørgen Arnesen, EVP Mobile at Opera.

But that's not all, Opay – Opera's one-stop mobile-based platform for payments, transfers, loans, savings and other essential services – shot up the rankings in the Play Store as well, becoming the second-most downloaded app.

Opay is already the largest mobile payment platform in Nigeria, clocking over \$3bn in monthly transactions.

With over 18 million registered users, Opay continues to help more Nigerians send and receive money, pay bills, and manage their finances online.

Both products are important components of Opera's Africa First strategy.

Announced in December 2017, the company has pledged to develop mobile products and services tailored first and foremost to the needs of the African consumer. We'll keep the ball rolling in 2023 as we continue to bring Nigerians updates and products that are fast, efficient, and focused on our users.

"Download Opera Mini and join millions of Nigerians using the browser built with local needs in mind!" Jørgen Arnesen assured.