

Kwara Police Arrests Doctor Over Serial Murder Of 4
*Recovers exhibits

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Army Approves Hotlines For Operation Safe Conduct During Polls

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Kogi Govt Condemns Explosion On Local Govt Secretariat

*Says efforts on to fish out masterminds

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State Government has condemned in strong terms, an explosive device attack which affected a section of the Okehi Local Government Secretariat Complex in the central Senatorial district. The government, however, noted that that no casualties were recorded in the blast that

was allegedly targeted at the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the late hours of Monday.

The Commissioner for Information and Communications in the state, Kingsley Fanwo, in a statement yesterday, said Government was on top of the situation while efforts to fish out the masterminds are on top gear.

"This is our responsibility to all Kogites irrespective of their political affiliations. Those behind this will be fished out and severely dealt with to serve as a deterrent to others in their league," the state government said.

Fanwo called on residents of Okehi Local Government Area and indeed the entire people of Kogi Central Senatorial District to remain calm,

while urging parents to properly guide their wards against being used as political thugs in the forthcoming elections. "Government will be unsparingly decisive in dealing with issues of political thuggery before, during and after the elections," he stressed.

To him, it is an act of cowardice that will continue to fail in the

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Timi Frank



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Kaduna Govt Rolls Out Measures To Ease Impact Of Naira Crunch

*Free care for pregnant women, free bus rides along designated routes, included

Naira Redesign: APC Governors Pressurizing Buhari, Malami For Out Of Court Settlement, Timi Frank Alleges

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Elections: Nigerian Railway Suspends Train Services

Army Approves Hotlines For Operation Safe Conduct During Polls

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In pursuant of its constitutional mandate of providing support to civil authorities and safeguard the sanctity of Democracy in Nigeria, the Nigerian Army (NA) has approved list of Hotlines to monitor and report the conduct of troops during the 2023 general election.

This was made known in a statement signed by the Director Army Public Relations, Brigadier General Onyema Nwachukwu, made available yesterday.

The effort which is part of the NA gesture to support the lead agency for the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections will position the institution to professionally discharge its constitutional duties.

It could be recalled that the NA earlier produced and circulated Code of Conduct and Rules of Engagement for Operation Safe Conduct to formations and Units which is aimed at guiding

and ensuring that troops operate within the purview of international best practices.

Accordingly, members of general public are enjoined to call the phone numbers below in their various states including Federal Capital Abuja for any misconduct by the NA personnel or report any security breach during the forthcoming 2023 general elections.

1. ABIASTATE

08031113129

2. ADAMAWASTATE

08022750987

3. AKWA-IBOM STATE

07034470916

4. ANAMBRA STATE

07035891185

5. BAUCHI STATE

08128063675

6. BAYELSA STATE

08033241005

7. BENUE STATE

08080754339

8. BORNO STATE

09099616160

08086987079

9. CROSS RIVER

08037084192

10. DELTA STATE

07035070797

11. EBONYI STATE

08158274048

12. EDO STATE

09066325953

13. EKITI STATE

08037851448

14. ENUGU STATE

09032102212

08023097458

15. GOMBE STATE

0 7 0 6 3 9 0 8 7 7 9

08082557782

16. IMO STATE

07034907427

17. JIGAWA STATE

0 7 0 1 7 7 9 1 4 1 4

08100144363

18. KADUNA STATE

0 7 0 3 1 5 4 4 2 2 7

0 8 0 2 8 5 8 0 9 7 8

08035242633

19. KANO STATE

08038432656

20. KASTINA STATE

08108854061

09012998054

21. KEBBI STATE

09130213661

22. KOGI STATE

08033217964

23. KWARA STATE

09060001270

24. LAGOS STATE

0 8 0 3 4 0 2 5 8 2 5

0 8 0 2 3 1 9 0 4 8 7

0 9 0 2 4 4 0 9 0 0 0

08033709434

25. NASSARAWA

STATE

09051009404

26. NIGER STATE

07031346425

27. OGUN STATE

09116589494

28. ONDO STATE

08036130535

29. OSUN STATE

09019683922

30. OYO STATE.

07047703000

31. PLATEAU STATE

0 8 0 3 7 1 1 6 3 9 5

07031260622

32. RIVERS STATE

08064274222

33. SOKOTO STATE

0 7 0 6 9 0 8 4 5 7 0

0 7 0 5 2 6 9 3 5 3 2

08136913284

34. TARABA STATE

0 8 1 3 6 7 2 8 9 6 9

08060902363

35. YOBESTATE

08061397656

36. ZAMFARA STATE

08140075541

37. FCT

0 9 1 1 4 9 1 3 1 6 4

0 8 1 8 6 6 9 0 4 7 1

0 8 0 7 9 1 5 3 8 6 0

0 8 0 3 4 2 7 6 2 4 0

0 8 1 6 4 3 0 4 2 5 5

09159793968

Atiku Will Resuscitate Ikere Gorge Dam, Other Facilities In Oke-Ogun - PDP PCC member

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Presidential Campaign Committee (PCC), Hon. Olasupo Abiodun has said that Alhaji Atiku Abubakar will resuscitate the abandoned Ikere Gorge Dam alongside other major social infrastructural facilities in Oke-Ogun.

Hon Abiodun while speaking during a rally for Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Governor Seyi Makinde and other PDP candidates, said that the PDP Presidential flag-bearer has assured of his readiness to resuscitate the abandoned Ikere Gorge Dam project, situated in Iseyin Local Government Area

The PDP PCC member stressed that the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) has failed to deliver on any of their promises to the people of Oke-Ogun from 2015 to 2023.

"I can categorically tell you that we have the confidence of the leadership of PDP and Alhaji Atiku that the

abandoned Ikere Gorge Dam will be resuscitated alongside other major social infrastructural facilities in Oke-Ogun", he said.

Hon Abiodun added, "the APC Government has promised to complete and put the dam into use for generation of electricity and portable water but as we have all seen, they failed us".

"Apart from this, there is no federal presence in our region, this will change if we vote for Atiku and return Makinde for second term in office."

The former member House of Representatives emphasized that the "Ikere Gorge Dam is a major earth-fill dam in Iseyin local government area of Oyo State with reservoir capacity of 690 million m³."

The dam was initiated by the military regime of General Olusegun Obasanjo and started in 1983 by the administration of Shehu Shagari and was targeted at generating over five megawatts and supply portable water to residents of Oyo, Kwara, Ogun and some parts of Lagos State.

MAAUN Kano Organizes First Food Festival

By; MUSTAPHA IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Maryam Abacha American University of Nigeria (MAAUN) Kano, on Sunday, organized a magnificent food festival, featuring the best of local and foreign dishes, homemade pastries, music and dances as part of an effort to promote food culture and socialization among the students.

The festival, which is the first of its kind ever conducted at any university nationwide, was singlehandedly organized by MAAUN Students Foundation under the supervision of Campus Life unit of the university.

During the occasion, variety of foods were prepared and sold to invited guests, while beverages were carefully chosen to pair well with the different dishes offered.

The event was attended by no fewer than one thousand people, including; the President of MAAUN, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Israr, Head, Corporate Communications and Protocol Unit, Engr. Bashir Garba, other members of staff, students, parents, family and friends as well as other students



from different Universities across the country.

In his remarks, the Vice President Campus Life, Dr. Hamza Garba, who stressed the importance of the festival, said it provided the avenue for cooking demonstrations which gave the students and other attendees the opportunity to learn how to prepare some dishes.

Dr. Hamza noted that MAAUN is a University that welcomes innovation and encourages student-centered learning, where the students would learn

to cook their favorite culinary and enjoy a range of entertaining activities in a relaxed environment.

He thanked the Founder and Chairman Governing Council of the University, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo, for the painstaking support and for his relentless effort to make MAAUN not only an institution of learning but a breeding ground for future world leaders.

In an interview, the President of MAAUN Students Foundation, Mr. Abdulrahman Ibrahim

Michika, said the program was initiated as part of an effort to raise funds which will be channeled to charity and other humanitarian services.

According to him, the Foundation has been offering philanthropic services, saying it had recently distributed writing materials to over 300 students of the University.

Michika, who is a student from the Software Engineering Department, expressed immense gratitude to Prof. Gwarzo and the entire

University management for their support and encouragement in ensuring the success of the program.

Speaking shortly after the Festival, the Chief Consultant at MAAUN Cafeteria, Mr. Boris, described the event as an amazing one, saying it provided a serene atmosphere for the display and marketing of food dishes.

Other highlights of the event included artistic drawing of Prof. Gwarzo and musical performances, among others.

Naira Redesign: Nigerian Railway Not Rejecting Electronic Transfer for Boarding Tickets - Management

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has clarified that it is not rejecting electronic transfer for train boarding ticket.

The corporation noted that passengers of Abuja-Kaduna Train Service (AKTS) have been enjoying online electronic train ticketing system seamlessly for quite some time now.

NRC explained that as a result of the present swapping of old Naira notes with the new ones, it is accepting only physical cash across-the-counter for train boarding with the Naira notes approved as legal tender by the government.

The corporation said this in a news release titled, "NRC Not Rejecting Electronic Transfer."

In the news release dated 20th February 2023, the Deputy Director, Public Relations of NRC, Yakub Mahmood, wrote: "The Board and Management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) attention have been drawn to news trending on the social and mainstream media platforms, claiming that NRC does not accept electronic transfer and old Naira notes for train boarding ticketing at their various passenger train stations, especially Lagos-Ibadan Train Service (LITS) and Warri-Itakpe Train Service (WITS).

"As we are all aware of the currency policy introduced by the Federal Government which redesigned some denominations of the Naira notes that are being gradually swapped with the old Naira notes, pending when the transition from old to new will be completed. We only accept physical cash across-the-counter for train boarding with the Naira notes approved as legal tender by the government.

"However, on the Abuja-Kaduna Train Service (AKTS), passengers have been enjoying the online electronic train ticketing system seamlessly, for quite some time now."

NRC appealed to passengers, especially those using Lagos-Ibadan Train Service and Warri-Itakpe Train Service routes, to bear with them during "this temporary commercial transaction challenges."

The corporation disclosed that it is bracing up to deploy the online train ticketing system on LITS and WITS routes soon, with far-reaching arrangement which is being concluded for hitch-free deployment of the technology.

2023: Appeal Court Affirms Kumalia Borno Central PDP Candidate

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Court of Appeal, Gombe holden at Gombe on Monday, declared Barrister Mohammed Umar Kumalia as the People's Democratic Party (PDP) authentic and legitimate 2023 candidate for Borno Central Senatorial' election come February 25, 2023.

Similarly, Court of Appeal Abuja Judicial Division FCT Abuja on Monday, set aside appeal against the decision of the lower court being the Federal High Court Abuja Judicial Division delivered on September 20, 2022, declaring Barrister Mohammed Umar Kumalia as the legitimate PDP Senatorial' Candidate for Borno Central.

Addressing journalists in Maiduguri on Monday evening and displaying photocopies of the two judgments from Gombe and Abuja respectively, Barrister Kumalia added that, "as the Abuja judgment was coming out in my favour where Tatabe appealed against Abuja Federal High Court ruling that I am the legitimate Candidate of Borno Central senatorial 2023 election'.

"I won the appeal filed against the APC



Kumalia

Candidate for the Borno Central, Barrister Kaka Shehu Lawan in Gombe, where the Federal High Court Maiduguri Judicial Division asked INEC to set aside my name as PDP candidate and also stop me from parading as the PDP 2023 Senatorial candidate for Borno Central.

"My appeal against the candidate and the party where the judgment of the Appeal Court said the APC and the 2023 Borno Central APC Senatorial candidate, Barrister Kakq Shehu Lawan has no business with my party and candidacy.

"My candidacy is a personal matter and within my party, PDP not their party, APC which they don't have business with. So, the appeal Court quashed the judgment of

the Federal High Court Maiduguri which had earlier asked INEC to set aside my name as PDP candidate for the Borno Central Senatorial election.

"That means, I am the authentic and legitimate candidate of PDP Borno Central Senatorial seat in the forthcoming February 2023 election. Because since September 20, 2022 my name was with INEC up to; to January 21, 2023, before they asked the Federal High Court Maiduguri to tell INEC to remove or set aside my name as PDP Senatorial candidate.

"Now it is over. The court has set aside all the suits filed by both the APC Senatorial candidate, Barrister Kaka Shehu Lawan in Maiduguri and

Hon. Jibrin Mustapha Tatabe at Federal High Court, FCT Abuja which both judgments came out today Monday just about five days to the election.

"So, I call on you people here to tell the world that I am the authentic and legitimate candidate for the PDP Borno Central Senatorial election on 25th February 2023 based on the two judgments which equally have set aside the two cases that were appealed in Abuja and Gombe respectively," Kumalia said.

The 2023 PDP Senatorial Candidate further explained that already he has been on campaign across the eight local government areas of the Borno Central Senatorial district, since about three months ago, even when Tatabe dragged him to court.

He said he has never stopped campaigning, including the women wing of the PDP has been on campaigns mobilizing women for him and other candidates since about 50 Days ago, while the youth wing have been going round for long, campaigning for him.

"I have contested several elective positions and won some and failed some. And by the grace of God, I am going win this election. In sha Allah I will win the election," Kumalia said.

Namadi Sambo, Ahmed Makarfi, Ramalan Yero Promise To Unseat APC In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Former Vice President, Namadi Sambo, former Kaduna governors Ahmed Makarfi and Ramalan Yero, have vowed to bring back the People's Democratic Party (PDP) to power in Kaduna State. They have also vowed to do everything legitimately possible to unseat the All Progressives Congress (APC) from leadership in the state in all elections.

Speaking at the official flag-off and presentation of flags to candidates of the Peoples Democratic Party for the Kaduna Central Senatorial District for the various positions in the elections, in Kaduna on Monday, they vowed to work assiduously in all nooks and crannies in the state towards ensuring the success of the party

in the state.

The Senatorial candidate of the party for Kaduna Central, Lawal Adamu, recently triumphed at the Supreme Court to reclaim the seat, was officially handed over the flag of the PDP as its candidate. Sambo, who was the special guest of honour at the flag off, called on Nigerians and the good people of Kaduna State to come out en masse to vote for all the PDP candidates in the elections in order to liberate the state from



Namadi Sambo (right) and Makarfi

the present challenges it was going through and ensure sanity in the entire system.

Former Governor Makarfi called on all the PDP members to

as well as the governorship and state House of Assembly elections.

Makarfi assured, "We the former governors of the state will guide

unite, go back to their respective polling units and deliver the party's candidate in the polls come Saturday for the presidential and National Assembly elections

the governorship candidate of the party when voted accordingly towards ensuring that the entire state is carried along in every ramifications."

Former Governor Ramalan Yero enjoined all party members in the state to work as a family and ensure the victory of in all the elections to be conducted, stressing that they should conduct themselves in an orderly and peaceful manner towards ensuring the desired result.

Senator Shehu Sani and Senator Sani Bello, in their goodwill messages, called on residents of Kaduna State and Nigerians to vote the ruling party, APC completely out of government, pointing out that the present suffering would be a thing of the past and ensure a new beginning to all Nigerians.

Kaduna Govt Rolls Out Measures To Ease Impact Of Naira Crunch

**Free care for pregnant women, free bus rides along designated routes, included*

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Security Council met on Tuesday in Sir Kashim Ibrahim House to discuss the security situation in the state and the preparations for the elections.

Participants at the meeting, chaired by Malam Nasir el-Rufai, included the heads of the federal security agencies deployed in the state, royal fathers and officials of the state government.

According to a statement signed by the Special Adviser to the Governor (Media & Communication), Muyiwa Adekeye, made available yesterday, noted that security agencies briefed the meeting on the steps they are taking to secure the elections and the efforts being made to maintain law and order in the state.

They noted the improvements in the security situation since operations were launched

against the bandits late in 2022.

The meeting discussed the cash crunch, and its severe impact on citizen welfare, trade and economic activities.

It noted reports that managing the situation has necessitated the diversion of some security personnel from vital field operations to guarding key financial assets.

The council commended the security agencies for strengthening the state government's efforts to ensure that citizens remain calm, peaceful and of lawful conduct amidst the challenges.

The Security Council took recommendations on ways of mitigating the impact of the cash shortage on citizens. These measures are designed to provide a measure of immediate relief to the problems caused by the lack of cash by citizens to pay for services like transportation and health care, and for necessities

like food.

The council therefore, adopted these three emergency palliative measures to last for a week, starting from Wednesday, 22nd February 2023: The Kaduna State Government will provide free transport services along designated routes in Kaduna, Kafanchan and Zaria, the three biggest cities in the state.

This will be done in partnership with the transport unions, who will provide the buses and tricycles. The Kaduna State public health system will offer free routine care in government hospitals for common illnesses like malaria and typhoid.

This is in addition to the free care for pregnant women and children younger than five years that has been government policy since 2015.

Prescriptions will be given, and the health facility visited will administer drugs, if available. To access this

service, citizens will be required to present their National Identity Number or the Kaduna State Residency Card, issued by the Kaduna State Residents Identity Management Agency (KADRIMA). Provision of palliatives, as was done during the response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

KDSG went public with its concerns about the suffering associated with the naira scarcity on 1st February 2023. Since then, it has continued to seek lawful and peaceful means of resolving the matter.

While awaiting a resolution, it is important to seek ways of relieving human suffering. The measures above represent a limited intervention for a severe problem.

But every act of relief for citizens is welcome in a crisis, even if the crisis was needlessly unleashed by those who ought to know better.

Kogi Govt Condemns Explosion On Local Govt Secretariat

**Says efforts on to fish out masterminds*

attempt by enemies of the political thugs in the people to compromise the peace and security we enjoy in Kogi State.

This is our responsibility to all Kogites irrespective of their political affiliations stressing that those behind this will be fished out and severely dealt with to serve as a deterrent to others in their league.

"We call on parents to properly guide their wards against being used as

political thugs in the forthcoming elections as Government will be unsparingly decisive in dealing with issues of political thuggery before, during and after the elections.

The image lauder urged the people of Okehi and the entire Kogi Central to go about their normal businesses as government has put machineries in place to guarantee their

Mai Unguwa Commends Jigawa Electorates For Supporting Dan Modi



Dan Modi at a rally in Hadejia

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Dutse

The people of Jigawa State have been commended for their usual support to the All Progressives Congress (APC) Governorship candidate, Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi in order to actualize continuity in the state.

Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga made the commendation when the governorship candidate took his campaign to the Hadejia, adding that Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi is a trusted leader who would use his policies to transform Jigawa State.

Mai Unguwa Jaga, who is also the Chairman of the All farmers Association (AFAN), as well as member of the APC campaign council in the state, disclosed that from what happened during party's campaign rallies, Jigawa electorate are ready to vote wisely to make continuity a reality.

"We are happy that the good people of Jigawa State understand democracy and they are set to vote for APC in the forthcoming general elections, which is scheduled to hold on February 25 and March 11, 2023. I am using this opportunity to call on the electorate to shun anything that would be a threat to peace and unity in our great state," he emphasized.

Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga announced that Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi would bring more fortunes to agricultural development in order to promote profitable farming at both dry and rainy seasons, that is why farmers remain committed to ensuring continuity. He thanked governor Badaru Abubakar for steering the affairs of Jigawa State to an exemplary heights.



Gov el-Rufai at the security meeting with other officials.

Elections: Nigerian Railway Suspends Train Services

By: MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has announced the suspension of train services from Saturday 25th to Monday 27th February 2023 because of the general

elections which will take place on Saturday.

The routes affected by the suspension are Abuja-Kaduna Train Service (AKTS), Warri-Itakpe Train Service (WITS), Lagos-Ibadan Train Service (LITS) and Iddo Lagos-Ijoko Interstate

Mass Transit Passengers Train Service.

The Corporation stated this in a statement made available by its Deputy Director, Public Relations, Yakub Mahmood, yesterday.

The Board and Management of Nigerian

Railway Corporation explained that the decision was taken in order "to enable Nigerians exercise their civic responsibilities."

The Corporation assured the general public that normal train services will resume on Tuesday 28th February 2023.

Kaduna Dep Gov Commends UNFPA Over Support To State

***Excited over UNFPA's announcement that state is listed in next phase of interventions in Nigeria**

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, on Monday, commended the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the sustained cooperation and support to Kaduna State. Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe expressed a delightful heart, when she received the team from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) led by the Resident Representative in Nigeria, Ulla Elisabeth Mueller, who came to Government House in Kaduna.

According to her, Kaduna State Government is pleased with the announcement from Mueller that Kaduna is among the states to benefit from UNFPA's next phase of interventions in Nigeria.

In a remark, the leader of the UNFPA delegation, Ulla Elisabeth Mueller commended Kaduna State Government for its sustained commitments to protecting women.

"Consequently, protecting the girls' rights and investing in promoting the welfare of its people," she said.



Naira Redesign: APC Governors Pressurizing Buhari, Malami For Out Of Court Settlement, Timi Frank Alleges

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governors on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), are currently mounting intense pressure on President Muhammadu Buhari and the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, to settle the cases over Naira redesign policy out of the Supreme Court, it has been learnt.

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, gave this indication in a statement in Abuja.

Frank revealed that the AGF has allegedly acceded to the request of the APC and its governors to settle the case out of court.

He said the meeting between the leadership of the APC and its governors with Malami was aimed at pressurizing the President and Malami to agree for the out of court settlement request.

He said the Governors and the leadership of the APC have succeeded in blackmailing both the President and Malami to consider the reintroduction of the N1,000 and N500 notes before the Presidential and National Assembly elections on Saturday.

He insisted that the governors and the leadership of the APC are not working to protect the interest of Nigerians but to be able to deploy their looted funds to compromise the elections through massive vote buying.

He urged Buhari to be mindful of his promise to bequeath free, fair and credible elections to Nigerians as his parting legacy, saying any attempt to yield to the antics of the



Timi Frank

governors and APC's national leadership would defeat that noble goal.

He further urged Malami to be resolute and to stand by the people by not succumbing to the overwhelming pressure of the governors now calling for out of court settlement. He said the APC and its governors have become increasingly desperate to reverse the Naira redesign policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in order to fraudulently swing the results of the presidential election in favour of their unpopular candidate who cannot win if the elections are free, fair and credible and devoid of monetary inducement of voters.

He called on Nigerians to know that if Malami and the Governors withdraw their suits at the Supreme Court tomorrow (Wednesday) to settle out of court, then they should not expect the elections to be credible, free and fair.

He said: "Buhari must keep to his words by not bowing to the unholy pressure of APC's Governors to settle out of court and to have N1,000 and N500 notes

reintroduced.

"APC governors don't have the interest of Nigerians at heart. We have seen how they have serially blackmailed the President to do their bidding in recent past.

"Now they are trying to blackmail the AGF to withdraw his suit challenging their own suit for an out of court settlement during the sitting of the apex court tomorrow."

According to Frank, who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, part of the tactics of the Governors have been to consistently drum into the ears of Nigerians that Buhari has so far failed in administering Nigeria.

He said they have also told Buhari and the AGF that the Naira redesign policy and attendant scarcity of new notes would lead to the defeat of the APC during the general elections.

He said: "The APC Governors have told Buhari and Malami that the Party cannot win with the Naira redesign policy

in place.

"So they have continued to blackmail them. They know their presidential candidate is unpopular and cannot win the forthcoming election if one-man-one-vote prevails.

"Buhari and Malami should know that the forthcoming election is not all about APC and its governors alone.

"Rather, it's for the generality of Nigerians who desperately need succour from their present hardship through a new and purposeful leadership in the country."

He insisted that if there is any need to reconsider the reintroduction of the old N1,000 and N500 notes, it should wait till after the elections.

"Nigerians should know that we have only three days to go. Let us bear the pains for the next three days.

"Otherwise, the elections would be compromised through massive vote buying by the APC and its governors and the present order of cluelessness and hardship would continue," he said.

Obi, Kwankwaso Campaign Train Storm Zazzau Emirate For Royal Blessings

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Two Presidential candidates for the 2023 general elections have stormed Zazzau Emirate seeking for royal blessing from the Emir of Zazzau on Monday.

The Labour Party (LP) Presidential candidate, Mr. Peter Obi, said he was at the palace to inform the emir of his candidature for the number one sit of the country.

Obi said, he is not tribalistic nor a religious fanatic as some people wrongly labelled him.

He said, the issues of tribalism and religion is perfected by selfish politicians, who have no confidence in politics.

He appealed to the emir to enlighten his subjects on the choice of credible candidates that will successfully rule the

country.

Also during his visit to the emir, the Presidential candidate of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, he told the emir that his number one priority is security, followed by human empowerment and quality education for the youth.

He said, it is disturbing that Nigeria is facing security challenges and other vices which affect the socio-economic development of the country.

According to him, the situation Northern Nigeria finds itself with problems of abject poverty, beggars and out of school children is unacceptable.

In his remarks the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli urged them to be peace loving politicians.

Polls: Choose Unbiased Leaders, Masari Tasks Katsina Christians

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Aminu Bello Masari of Katsina State has enjoined Christians in the state to ensure right choice of unbiased leaders during the forthcoming general elections.

Governor Aminu Bello Masari was speaking at the second day prayer summit and award presentation ceremony organized by the State Chapter of Christians Association of Nigeria (CAN).

He observed that Nigeria has suffered economically as a result of failure of some past leaders to make heavy investments in the education sector.

The governor urged the Christians to enroll their wards to pursue Western education as a step to become useful members of the society.

Governor Aminu Masari who identified indigenous Christians as citizens with equal rights, thanked the state branch of the association for honoring him with the award.

On his part, the state chairman of association Reverend Richard Shu'aibu said the decision to honor the Governor with the award was in recognition his unbiased leadership and his firm commitment in repositioning the state to greatness.

Earlier, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Christian Affairs, Reverend Ishaya Garba thanked the governor for carrying along Christians in the governance. The Anglican Communion of Katsina, Bishop Jonathan BaMaiyi prayed for God's intervention on security challenges and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming general elections.

Highlights of the ceremony included presentation of an award to the governor, alongside the Senator representing Funtua, Senator Bello Mandiya, APC chieftain, Ibrahim Masari and some Christian leaders.

The State Chapter of Catholic Women Group also presented an award to the governor.

"The Governors and the leadership of the APC have succeeded in blackmailing both the President and Malami to consider the reintroduction of the N1,000 and N500 notes before the Presidential and National Assembly elections on Saturday."

Dattijo Launches Education Support Programme

**Gives financial support to undergraduates, pays JAMB, WAEC fees across Kaduna Central Senatorial District.*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In a bid to provide equal opportunities to indigent students to educational pursuits, the Senatorial Candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Kaduna Central Senatorial District, Muhammad Sani Dattijo at the weekend, launched 'Education Financial Support Programme' under the Dattijo Empowerment and Development Initiative (DEDI).

Under the first phase of the programme, students studying in higher institutions of learning across the country were given financial support of N50,000 each to ease their educational pursuits.

Similarly, the Senatorial Candidate paid for the registration fees for JAMB and WAEC candidates across the 81 wards of Giwa, Birnin Gwari, Igabi, Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Chikun and Kajuru local government areas of Kaduna Central Senatorial District.

In an event held in Kaduna, the Senatorial Candidate said the gesture will help the beneficiaries

pursue and achieve their educational dreams with hindrance.

"In line with our unveiled blueprint, we want to ensure every person gets the opportunity to study and accomplish their dreams and aspirations without hindrance." Dattijo said

Students Union Leaders who were at the event, expressed gratitude to the Senatorial Candidate for the kind gesture. In her remarks, the Vice President, National Association of Kaduna State Students (NAKASS), Comrade Amatulla Saulawa said; "on behalf of the entire beneficiaries, we thank Dattijo for the support to Students. This certainly reduces the burden on our parents. And it clearly shows that you have the genuine interest to give equal opportunities to children of the poor."

It would be recalled that the Senatorial Candidate had voluntarily taught postgraduate students studying Masters Degree in Policy and Development Studies without pay at the Kaduna State University (KASU) in 2020 academic session.



Dattijo

Kwara Police Arrests Doctor Over Serial Murder Of 4

**Recovers exhibits*

By; BILQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

The Kwara State Police Command has arrested a serial killer, Dr Abbas Adio Adeyemi, suspected to be responsible for four murders.

The suspect, a medical doctor, was nabbed, following investigations into the murder of a young lady, killed and remains dumped in a bush, according to the Commissioner of Police, CP Paul Odama, who paraded the suspect on Monday in Ilorin.

The CP said that so far, exhibits recovered from the suspect are, Toyotal Camry LE. Reg. No.: WSN 494 AA, one black and one pink female handbag, one Infinix phone, one tecno phone, a female wig, a black veil and one female pant, as well as an industrial waste bin.

"On 3/7/2022, at about 2350hrs, one Muktar Opeyemi (m) reported at F Division, Ilorin, that on /25/6/2022, he noticed that one of his co-tenants by name Ifeoluwa (f), of the same address, and her vehicle, a Toyota Camry, were last seen within the compound on 24/6/2022, which was unusual.

"While the investigation was ongoing on the missing lady, a case of culpable homicide was reported at Alapa Police Station to the effect that a lifeless body of a young, unknown lady was found in the bush beside the road with a violent mark of injury on her head and blood on her face.

"Investigation, however, revealed that the missing Olanipekun Ifeoluwa Ibukun which was reported missing at F Division was the same young lady killed and thrown into the bush at Alapa.

"Investigation into the case revealed that one Dr. Abass Adio Adeyemi was last seen with the deceased Ifeoluwa.

"The circumstances

surrounding the missing Ifeoluwa at Tanke and her being found dead at Alapa necessitated heightened suspicion that the Doctor knew something about the missing lady," the police said.

According to the CP, those murdered by the suspect are, Olanipekun Ifeoluwa Ibukun "F", Nafisat Halidu "F", Abubakar Mallam Abubakar "M" and an unidentified lady.

The police explained that while the command was searching for the Doctor, news filtered in that Edo State Police Command had arrested Dr Abbas Adio Adeyemi in connection with another case of killing.

"The command in an effort to get to the root of the serial murder case in Kwara State, succeeded in getting him released to the command to help in the investigation.

"He confessed to have killed Ifeoluwa by hitting her with an object on the head and dumped the body at a bush in Alapa, he also confessed to have earlier sedated and caused the kidnap and killing of one Abubakar Malam Abubakar 'M' and killing of one Nafisat Halidu 'f' a casual worker at General Hospital both in Kaiama and concealed her body in a trash-can, filled the trash-can with cement and kept inside a locked store in the General Hospital Kaiama with the key in his procession.

"He also confessed to the killing of one unknown lady buried inside the same general hospital store.



The suspected serial murderer

"Both bodies were exhumed, recovered and deposited at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital Ilorin.

"He confessed further to having been lured into organ harvesting by a yet-to-be-identified syndicate.

"A discreet investigation is still in progress to unravel other killings perpetrated by the suspect and his syndicate.

"Dr. Adio Abbas Adeyemi would soon be charged in court," the police assured.

In another development, on February 17, 2023, at about 23:50 hours, Musa Saka 'M' and Ridwan Shehu 'M' both of Onile-Aro village and Isalu farm settlements escaped and reported at Oke-Ero Police Division that some armed men invaded their farm settlements.

Policemen from the

Division and vigilantes in the area were mobilized and stormed the identified farm settlements, they were greeted on arrival at the scene with hails of bullets shot by the invaders.

The engagement by the police and vigilantes led to the neutralization of two of the unknown armed men, and one of the vigilantes sustained some gunshot injuries and is presently recuperating in the hospital.

Two AK-47 rifles with four live rounds of ammunition were recovered, and the bodies of the two unknown gunmen have been deposited in the mortuary while efforts are already in top gear to arrest the remaining fleeing suspects.

2023: All Our Votes Are For You, Fruits, Vegetable Traders Assure ABG

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Fruits and Vegetables Dealers of Kaduna State have endorsed candidate of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) for Kaduna North House of Representatives election, Hon. Shehu Bawa ABG.

This latest in a series of endorsement ABG has been attracting from constituents, came on Saturday from sellers of perishable food in their Bakin Dogo Base located at

Mogadishu Area in Central Area of the state capital, while on a campaign rally of Shaba and Mai Burji Wards of Kaduna North.

President of the association Alhaji Abubakar Kabala said the collective decision of his members to endorse ABG became necessary considering the numerous kind gestures of the House of Reps hopeful to people, including provision of solar-powered streetlights all around Bakin Dogo, known as business location of perishable food traders in Kaduna.

Kabala noted that before the lighting up of the whole business area by ABG, the place used to be unsafe and insecure after sunset, leading to his members losing their wares to thieves whom he pointed out took the cover of darkness to perpetrate their evil acts.

"The incidents of our members losing their wares to thievery have become a thing of the past since the installation of solar-powered lights all around the corners of our base here at Bakin Dogo.

"The streetlights installed are very bright and qualitative that one would assume it's daytime here even after sunset.

"Several politicians have promised to lighten this place without redeeming their pledges, only ABG was different from the pack of others to have made our dream a reality.

"It is in the light of the above that our members have collectively resolved to give our votes to that good man and compassionate leader who has done so much for his people all around kaduna

North and beyond.

"It is our conviction when voted he'll do more by ensuring what is due to the people gets to them as it should be," he added.

ABG, while appreciating the traders for the endorsement stated that it had always been part of him to respond to the needs of people when called upon.

He pledged to prioritize all issues of interest to the traders and other market men and women when elected when elected.



Chikun/Kajuru: Sabon Tasha Stakeholders Adopt PDP Candidates

***No Shaking tasks them on voting PDP from bottom to top**
***Stakeholders say APC neglected area**

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Key stakeholders and opinion leaders of Sabon Tasha Ward in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State have assured that they would work towards the victory of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for all its candidates to emerge victorious at the February 25 and March 11 elections this year. They expressed this, when the PDP candidates for Chikun/Kajuru in the general elections held a town hall meeting yesterday at the Wusili Hotels, Sabon Tasha Kaduna. Speaking on behalf of the youth, Comrade Michael Augustine said that Sabon Tasha belongs to PDP.

"We have started mobilising before now, so victory is ours. By coming to this place, we are assuring you of victory. Sabon Tasha is for you, No Shaking I," he declared.

Reverend Sunday Ani speaking on behalf of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), said that from 1999 to date, Chikun/Kajuru has been PDP.

"We want them as they enter, they should do something that will make us remember that we have been there for them. Sabon Tasha lacks good roads unlike other areas. No Shaking has been a good politician, he has not been decamping up and down, even when others left, he remained with PDP, so we would always support you in Sabon Tasha," he said.

Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) representative, Malam Adamu Abdulkadir in his remarks, said that No Shaking has touched several lives in the constituency, without bias.

He explained that himself and others have benefited from Hajj exercise courtesy of No Shaking.

Malam Abdulkadir said that as a result of the goodwill, they are looking forward to celebrating with No Shaking when results are announced on Sunday.

Gabriel Gani on behalf of traditional title holders, said that the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) brought about widespread hunger and poverty. He said the situation was worsened by insecurity which prevents people from going to

farms.

He appealed for PDP to come to power and help develop Sabon Tasha from its present state of neglect.

In his remarks, Member representing Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency, Honourable Umar Barde Yakubu aka No Shaking, said that Sabon Tasha is a large ward and he appreciates all the support he has been getting. He lamented that the roads are bad and some areas lack pipe borne water, blaming APC for the neglect of Sabon Tasha. He said that during PDP, there were traditional institutions who were much respected, however APC came and sacked some of them.

He assured that if PDP comes on board, civil servants and traditional rulers removed, will be recalled.

He further explained that with autonomy of LGAs, they would be able to construct roads and other infrastructure.

"The LGA funds from the FG are being depleted by state governments and leaving them with only a little to pay salaries.

"I wrote to FG under ecological funds and they have come to Ungwan Bulus which is under Sabon Tasha Ward, to ensure the erosion threat there is contained," he announced.

No Shaking told the gathering that he was not there to make promises, but assured them that by voting PDP from bottom to top, the area will witness several developments.

As part of the activities, the PDP Campaign Council for Sabon Tasha Ward was inaugurated.

They were tasked to go from house-to-house to canvass votes for the PDP.

Also, several decampers from APC and other parties were welcomed into the PDP.

Some of those spotted at the town hall, included, Candidate for Chikun Constituency in Kaduna State House of Assembly, Honourable Garba Madami, Chairman Chikun Local Government Council, Honourable Salasi Musa, member representing Chikun Constituency at the State Assembly, Honourable Chawazah, amongst several others.





COMMUNITY FOCUS

Nassarawa: The Forgotten Kaduna Community

By: IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna.

You won't be accused of hyperbolism for calling the community a slum or a squalor because the settlement sitting across an undulated swathe of rocky red topography lacks basic social amenities absence of which could be regarded in the circle of urban and regional planning experts as an inner city in a city but lacks the touch of an urban centre.

Nassarawa a suburb located in the southern part of Kaduna city shares same name as a Nigerian state in the North-central geopolitical zone but the similarities between the two entities start and end with the nomenclature.

Nassarawa, occupying some 11km² in in the trough of River Kaduna became a preferred settlement for retirees of the once booming textile industries that made the capital of the defunct Northern Region and later capital of North Central State a beehive of activities in the sixties up to early nineties before their eventual demise which could be attributed to free influx of smuggled textiles through the country's borders and systemic corruption.

The focus of this piece is not the textile industries that successive administrations in the state have made endless promises to revive but to no avail.

The article would look at how an inner city with a huge population has over the years been abandoned and left to its fate by concerned authorities.

The settlement is sandwiched by Kaduna Bypass, Kakuri and Tirkaniya (another community in urgent need of govt attention) in such a way that it is not easily distinguishable from the two mentioned suburbs.

Travellers along the Kaduna Bypass cannot miss that dusty settlement directly opposite liquor brewing and flour companies known by the names; IBBI

and Flour Mills. Drivers on transit through the highway overlooking Nasarawa must step on their breaks for uncountable potholes or for unending flow of residents crossing from both sides of the roads which underscores the explosive population growth of the Nasarawa settlement.

To begin with, the area lacks good access roads from all directions in spite of the strategic role it could play in linking up motorists passing through the Bypass with Kaduna metropolitan express road to avoid the traffic ahead from Barkin Ruwa up to Mando.

The uneven natural topography of the settlement which hinders smooth movement of motorcycles and tricycles used as means of transportation by locals has added to the anguish of the people who swim in thick dust during the dry season and also have to condone the inconveniences of the rainy season and its effects on their road one of which is presence of thick wet clays that could bury the tyres of a moving vehicle.

The settlement lacks every social amenities that make life worthwhile. Portable drinking water, regular electricity supply, good public and private schools, hospitals, neat markets, decent structures are all absent in the community.

Children born within the community, majority of whom grow up to become hostile and aggressive to others because of the nature of Nasarawa which falls below all indices of development needed



in nourishing youngsters into responsible adults in the society.

A visit to the community after nightfall is usually not a pleasant sight to behold as the whole area is enveloped in darkness, making social life after sunset impracticable as the few red light spots which serve as rendezvous for adults wishing to unwind after hours of work find it difficult to operate on generators due to scarcity of fuel.

A resident who simply identified himself as Joshua Gajere, a retiree of a textile company confided in our correspondent that he built his house using proceeds from his investment and what he could save as factory worker at Kaduna Textile Limited (KTL) in 1978, adding that there were very few of them in the whole suburb which had grown over the years to becoming a home of retirees of textile industry.

Speaking further, Gajere, an old man in his early eighties attributed the lack of development of the whole community to lack of vibrant and effective representatives in state and federal assemblies which he noted the Nasarawa Area had suffered over the years.

The octogenarian called on the state government to complete the road construction work which he said was abandoned halfway.

"That road which would have linked up the bypass through Nasarawa up to United Bus stop with Kaduna metropolis which was abandoned halfway was uncalled for.

"We were rejoicing when works began but our joy was short-lived following stopping of work without completing the tarring of our main road which is the most important access road in the community.

"Other access roads into our settlement are untouched but abandoning this one is

the height of insensitivity by the present administration," he fumed. Roadside mechanic, Tunde Tiyaminu lamented the dusty nature of virtually all roads in the area, saying it should be of concern to the government.

"I can boldly say that government doesn't know we exist despite paying all sorts of tax to local authorities whose agents collect taxes from commercial motorcyclists and tricycle operators with nothing to show for it.

"Accountability, We are told should be the hallmark of representative democracy like ours in serving the people and ensuring that their welfares are taken care of.

"But here the reverse is the case as we have been left to fend and cater for ourselves for virtually everything," he cried out.

A roadside food seller just after the comatose railway crossing-point connecting the community from Kakuri-Tirkaniya ends of the area whose eyes were almost Misty with tears as she explained to our correspondent the psychological tortures she noted people within the community had been made to go through over the years due to lack of road infrastructure and other amenities needed for socioeconomic life.

Mama Jonah who stated she had been selling cooked food for the past 25 years, adding that no meaningful development could be said to have come from the government as far as she can remember.

"The only tarred road that would have brought succour to us was abandoned halfway, is this good?" She rhetorically asked.

From the above submission, one could be excused for calling Nassarawa; the forgotten suburb of Kaduna.



Kaduna Govt Presents Report Of Committee For Reform Of Tsangaya Qur'anic Education

*Kaduna Deputy Gov Says Education Rids Society Of Crime

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Monday, said, when a society is educated, all the ills within the society are brought to the barest minimum.

Dr. Sabuwa Balarabe who expressed this, while presenting the Report of the Kaduna State Committee for the Reform of Tsangaya Qur'anic Education in Kaduna State and also unveiled the Curriculum for Teachers of Tsangaya Qur'anic Education

developed by the state government at the National Headquarters of the Jama'atu Nasir Islam of Nigeria (JNI), in Kaduna.

Representing Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, she commended everyone who took time to be present at the event.

According to her, it is part of Kaduna State Government's efforts to mainstream Quranic education into formal education with the aim of remedying the inhuman conditions seekers of Qur'anic education are subjected to and ending out-of-school

syndrome.

"However, the curriculum provides guidelines for certifying teachers of Qur'anic education, enabling them to obtain National Certificate of Education (NCE) in Qur'anic Education in Kaduna State," she said.

She thanked everybody who has taken time to work on the documents as a Committee was set up and they have worked tirelessly to ensure that they have this document to incorporate the entire system of education and Western

education.

"We pray that, with this incorporation, Qur'anic and Western education together in the same school, we will achieve a society where there's peace, security, spirit of brotherliness and a common humanity," she prayed.

Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, however, presented the Report of the Kaduna State Committee for the Reform of Tsangaya Qur'anic Education in Kaduna State and also unveiled the Curriculum for Teachers of Tsangaya Qur'anic Education developed by the state

government.

At the event, the leaders of Tsangaya Education in Kaduna State also endorsed Senator Uba Sani and Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe as the next Governor and Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, promising to mobilize people across the state to vote for them.

In attendance was Senator Uba Sani, the APC Governorship Candidate for Kaduna State, Senior Government officials, renown Academicians and Islamic scholars as well as clerics and Alarammas among others.



2023: North Still Has A Balance Of Four Years - Dr Aliyu

AMOS TAUNA in this interview with the National Chairman, Northern Consensus Movement, **Dr Abdullahi Awwal Aliyu**, where he spoke on national issues that bother the country and particularly, the North. According to **Dr Aliyu**, the North still has a balance of four in the presidency to make it to 14 years as occupied by the South. He called on the South to support the North to make it a reality in this coming election. Excerpts:

How does Northern Consensus Movement (NCM) see the happenings in the country?

Northerners are at the receiving end. In whatever circumstances you want to look at it, economically, security wise, agriculturally, in all aspects, the North is at the receiving end and our people are suffering. Unfortunately, our governors that will be the ones to work towards the alleviation of the suffering of the Northerners are not working for the people that elected them, they are just there for themselves, their families and friends. That is what is happening in the Northern political hierarchy.

Unfortunately, some Northerners are looking at President Muhammadu Buhari being a Northerner will concentrate on the North, but the reality is that President Buhari is a nationalist. As a retired military Head of states, who has served this country meritoriously during the civil war, he fought to keep the country one.

He has held national appointments, he is more of a nationalist that others will think he will only concentrate on the North. As Northerners, God has blessed them with administrative skills by carrying everybody along. On the North as a people and as a region, we are known to respect constitutional authorities because of our own culture and religion that taught us respect for elders and respect for constituted authority, they are parts of our religion and culture, and every Northerner is known for that.

That is why we are at the receiving end. Anything that triggers violence in other parts of the country will not happen in Northern Nigeria. Even if you want to do it, there are some elders that will tell you not to do it because of the respect of religion and culture, you find out that there is normalcy and respect for elders in the region. Northerners keep together as one entity. Northerners see Nigeria as our country and that is why we are at the receiving end.

How prepared is the North in the forthcoming elections?

Well, for the coming elections, I will say that the North is prepared and that is why with the recent happenings with the Naira redesign, you will discover that from the other parts of the country there is violence resulting to killings, burning of structures, but nothing is happening in the North because we believe in democratic



Dr. Aliyu

“I will say that the North is prepared and that is why with the recent happenings with the Naira redesign, you will discover that from the other parts of the country there is violence resulting to killings, burning of structures, but nothing is happening in the North because we believe in democratic governance and constituted authority.”

governance and constituted authority. So the North is ready for the elections.

The Southern governors threatened that it is their turn to lead the country but the Northern Consensus Movement came out to make the pronouncement that the North still has a balance of four years. If you compare the democratic government, PDP held 14 years with the South holding into the presidency, Buhari has eight years and then within two years of Yar'Adua and the eight years of Buhari making ten (10) years for the North and the Southern part has 14 years in the presidency. So if we are talking about equity, balance, fairness and democratic compensation, the North has been more democratic than any section in the country and has contributed democratically than any other region, so to be fair and honest, to have balanced in democracy, the North still has four years. So, it is only fair for the North to produce the next President. Then, thereafter, the country can come together and decide which region will produce the next President of the country. So, it is fair for other parts of the country to support the North to produce the next President. Recently, the Northern Elders Forum came together and supported the North to produce the next President in the forthcoming elections. We are praying that at the end of the election, a Northerner will emerge as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

What is your prayer for the general elections?

Well, my prayers for the 2023 general elections is for it to be peaceful, orderly, fair and to be credible. My call to Nigerians in general is that we should know that we don't have any other country but Nigeria.

This is the only country we have believed in and for those calling for separation or war. You don't separate just like that. History has shown that for any country to be divided, there must be war and that war will consume lives and property, which takes many years.

We don't pray for such things in Nigeria, so our prayers for all Nigerians to agree that we don't have any other country but Nigeria. So we should come together and salvage this country, work together towards making peace, unity, reconciliation and development.

Abuse Of Apparatus Of Power: Tangale In Gombe Alleges Threat, Alerts Security Agencies

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Commissioner of Police and Director of State Security Service in Gombe State have been asked to arrest One Babaji Babadidi, for allegedly inciting and causing a public disturbance in Billiri Local Government Area.

The General Assembly of the Tangale Community Development Association (TCDA) which alerted the authorities, also urged the State Governor, Yahaya Inuwa to warn Babaji Babadidi and his like minds, to desist from using government apparatus and other security agencies to continue to threaten the association and its members.

In a statement made available to newsmen, the association accused Babaji Babadidi of sponsoring thugs to cause

mayhem at the TCDA programme conducted on February 18, 2023, at the Gombe State College of Education, Billiri.

The ugly plan, the statement explained, was only averted because the TCDA members were law-abiding.

The leadership of the TCDA which vividly gave details of the averted incidence, said, "We noticed with dismay what transpired at the venue of a programme; launching of a Tangale film "KOL BIT-BIT" which it organized in collaboration with MG Multimedia Global Movie on February 18, 2023, at the Gombe State College of Education Billiri.

"While the stage was being set at the venue in the early hours of the day, the leadership of the association got privileged information that some thugs were being mobilised to come and

sabotage the programme with the backing of government apparatus.

"Shortly after that, the leadership of the association received a notice from management of the college, to step down from participating in the activity, otherwise approval of the venue would be revoked.

"To avoid skirmishes, the TCDA leadership towed the path of peace for a successful event.

"The Tangale people, whom the TCDA represent, considered the actions as threat to the existence, practice and display of their culture. A question that begs for an answer is, why should the Tangale people be denied the right to make use of a public facility sited in their domain?"

"Upon investigation, the TCDA learnt, unfortunately, that the act was instigated by a

Tangale man, one Mr. Babaji Babadidi, resident in Gombe, whose action was based on a Gombe High Court Judgement bordering on limit of powers of TCDA Patron. The said judgement had already been appealed by the TCDA and pending before the Court of Appeal in Gombe.

"The General Assembly noted that their actions have over time continued to tarnish the image of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in Tangale land", the statement emphasized. While calling on all Tangale sons and daughters to remain law-abiding, the General Assembly also charged the youth to shun all forms of thuggery, especially as the elections approaches.

It also advised Tangale indigenes to vote wisely in the coming elections.

Ikot Ekpene Senatorial: Groups Push Support For Emmanuel Ekon

**Insist on justice, equity*

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Ahead of this weekend's Presidential and National Assembly polls, pressure groups in Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District (Ikot Ekpene), Akwa Ibom State have come together pushing for justice and equity in the rotation of the senatorial seat.

At their respective positions reached after meetings in the area, the groups pushed for a former House of Representatives member. Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Ekon of Young Progressives Party (YPP) by endorsing his candidature for the coveted seat, against his opponents in All Progressives Congress (APC) and the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state.

While immediate past Minister of Niger Delta Affairs Ministry, Senator Godswill Akpabio holds APC ticket, the immediate past National Legal Adviser of PDP, Barr Emmanuel Enoidem floats his party's ticket for the slot.

Akwa Ibom North-West Senatorial District has 10 Local Government Areas carved into four of Federal Constituencies of Abak, Ikono/Ini, Ikot Ekpene and Ukanafun/Oruk Anam.

Stressing their position, the groups recalled saying, "Across all the four Federal Constituencies, only Abak Federal Constituency never had any opportunity since 1960 to occupy the Senatorial slot, but others like Ukanafun/Oruk Anam, had it with Senator Itak Ekarika and Chief Senas Ukpanah. Senator Akpabio had it for Ikot Ekpene in 2015, and left it for his kinsman, Senator Chris Ekpenyong, who is about serving out his tenure later this year.

"Before now, Senator Aloysius Etok, had taken the slot for eight years for Ikono/Ini, leaving only the Abak Federal Constituency to wallow in grave state of deprivation and wanton lack of physical development and human capital developments for all these years." Angry youths and students of Annang extraction lamented during a protest march in Ikot Ekpene at the weekend.

Comrade Akwaowo Akpan', a student activist, who led the agitations for the evolution of the slot to the Abak Federal Constituency told the electorate ahead of the polls to vote for Rt. Hon Ekon.

"Be ready with your Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) because we are looking for a younger and experienced candidate from Abak Federal Constituency to lead us because we know that the older ones can only think of the next election and not the next generation." He stressed.

At the extraordinary General Meeting, a youth group under the aegis of Future Leaders Forum of Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District (FLFIKSD), held at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Ikot Ekpene, endorsed the shift in slot from Ikot Ekpene, describing Akpabio as a "Meddlesome interloper, trying to usurp and alter the popular wishes of the people of Akwa Ibom North-West."

Chaired by the President-General, Comrade Aniekan Udo Mbere, the forum which drew participants across the zone, however charged electorate not to be carried away by the sentiment of voting for a political party, but by individuals, pointing out that Ekon's antecedents as a former Natural Assembly member for years at the Green Chamber, where he provided effective representation in the zone, recommends him for the mission to the Red Chamber.

"Ekon represents the best choice because Akpabio, is already out of the picture due to the fact that zoning is not in his favour. Ekon, for eight years at the Green Chamber has touched so many lives and provided social infrastructure in education, scholarships, skill training in the oil and gas industry, building of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) across schools and Local Government Areas of the state." Mbere recalled.

Describing Enoidem, as a green horn, the group in a communique pointed out that "it's not the time for someone who has never contested any elections before to be sent to such a hallowed chamber like the Senate to be swallowed up by experienced and seasoned lawmakers, who are more conversant and grounded in the politics of the national legislature."



Tangale cultural dancers

IGP Usman Decorates Newly Promoted DIGs

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The newly promoted Deputy Inspectors General of Police (DIGs) have been decorated with their new ranks by the Inspector General of Police Usman Alkali Baba. The event was performed on Monday in his office at the Louis Edet House, Force Headquarters, Abuja.

This is coming on the heels of the recently released promotions by the Police Service Commission, in which the three officers' recommendation by the IGP was approved by the Commission.

The DIGs are DIG Ali Aji Janga, psc, mni, in charge of the Department of

Research and Planning, DIG Hafiz Mohammed Inuwa, mni, in charge of the Department of Training and Development, and DIG Adeleke Yinka Bode, mni, in charge of the Department of Operations.

DIG Ali Janga holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Maiduguri. A Member of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, he has attended several professional courses/workshops. He has held several strategic positions in the past. These include as Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of the Police Mobile Force (PMF); AIG Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); AIG Zone 10

Sokoto; Commissioner in charge of the Police Mobile Force, Federal Operations and Kogi Command amongst others.

DIG Hafiz Inuwa, who is the immediate past Assistant Inspector-General of Police Force Secretary, has previously served as the pioneer AIG in charge of Zone-13 Ukpo — Dunukofia in Awka, Anambra State, covering Anambra and Enugu State Police Commands, Commissioner of Police in charge of Delta and Cross River States, amongst other strategic positions. He is a member of the prestigious National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPPS), Kuru, Jos.

APC To Gov Makinde: Don't See Tinubu Visit To Your Office As Endorsement



Asiwaju Bola Tinubu during his visit to Governor Seyi Makinde in Ibadan last Thursday

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan
Oyo State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) on Monday, cautioned Governor Seyi Makinde against seeing the last Thursday courtesy visit of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu to his office as his endorsement for the March 11 elections.

The party in a statement by its State Publicity Secretary, Comrade Wale Sadare said the governor should forget about taking the Asiwaju Tinubu courtesy visit as a tacit endorsement of his second term ambition.

Oyo APC emphasized that Asiwaju Tinubu courtesy visit to Governor Makinde was a demonstration of statesmanship and maturity as the number one citizen of the state at the moment, adding that the reported jubilation in the Agodi Government House over Asiwaju Tinubu courtesy visit on Governor Seyi Makinde was "laughable, childish and revealing".

"To set the record straight, Asiwaju Tinubu only demonstrated statesmanship and maturity by visiting Gov Makinde in his office as the number one citizen of the state at the moment", it said

Oyo APC added "And in as much as it is highly necessary for all hands to be on deck in Yorubaland to secure maximum number of votes for the APC's Presidential candidate in this Saturday poll, it won't be out of

place for Tinubu to pay such visit while everything he was quoted as saying was circumstantially appropriate.

"There were reports of different interpretation being given the development as those in the camp of Gov. Makinde and Oyo PDP were said to have claimed that the courtesy visit was a tacit endorsement of the governor by Tinubu in what they termed as a fulfilment of an agreement between the former Lagos state governor and the five aggrieved governors of the PDP who might have foreclosed the possibility of supporting former vice president, Atiku Abubakar, in this Saturday poll".

According to Oyo APC, "as a matter of fact, Gov. Makinde would be able to get the endorsement of the cerebral leader of the Progressives in Tinubu only if he could boast of 10 percent of what Gov. Sanwo-Olu has done in Lagos", and that "rather than dropping the name of Tinubu, Gov. Makinde should first seek forgiveness from all the gladiators who assisted him to power in 2019 only to be humiliated immediately he was sworn-in"

Tasking Gov Makinde to rise up to the plight of the people of Oyo state by emulating his counterparts in Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Ogun, Edo, Borno, Kogi and other states by raising his own voice too to challenge the hurting cashless policy of the CBN, saying, "lastly, we use this medium to impress it

upon Gov. Makinde that the time to showcase the humanitarian spirit in him is now. Governors of Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Ogun, Edo, Borno, Kogi and other states of the Federation have raised their voice to challenge the hurting cashless policy of the CBN while they have also issued directive to business people and bank executives in their respective states to receive old N500 and N1000 notes from depositors to ease the pain in the land.

The party stressed, Gov. Makinde must borrow a leaf from his colleagues and come to the aid of the suffering residents of Oyo state."

ENDS

In a statement issued on Monday and made available to journalists in Ibadan by its Publicity Secretary, Olawale Sadare, Oyo APC challenged Governor Seyi Makinde to take the advantage of the hardship inflicted on the people by the controversial cashless policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and demonstrate the populist in him if he indeed meant well for the masses or apologize for all the fake and misleading actions he has undertaken since he assumed office in 2019.

"Rather than dissipating energy and time on seeking endorsement here and there, Gov. Makinde should start thinking about what becomes of him after leaving office on May 29, 2023 since he has failed to deliver on his electoral promises

for close to four years now. Only God knows how much fortunes he (Makinde) has wasted in recent times in the name of securing endorsement for second term from every Tom, Dick and Harry even as most of those reported to have pronounced such fake endorsement later came out to deny it.

"The case of Ibadan Family Heads (Mogajis) took to the media space few days ago to denounce the story of fake endorsement being circulated by the Gov. Makinde's media handlers and sponsored propagandists. For his dream of genuine endorsement from all and sundry to be realized, Gov. Makinde would have to render an account of stewardship reflecting enviable growth in all the key sectors of the state economy, good relationship with all stakeholders including brother governors across South West states, flawless security architecture among others.

"To set the record straight, Asiwaju Tinubu only demonstrated statesmanship and maturity by visiting Gov. Makinde in his office as the number one citizen of the state at the moment. And in as much as it is highly necessary for all hands to be on deck in Yorubaland to secure maximum number of votes for the APC's Presidential candidate in this Saturday poll, it won't be out of place for Tinubu to pay such visit while

everything he was quoted as saying was circumstantially appropriate.

"In any case, the only genuine endorsement which a low performer like Gov. Makinde can get would be from hungry political tools usually assembled by a lousy and indecorous member of his cabinet who is notorious for constituting public nuisance in the political space. As a matter of fact, Gov. Makinde would be able to get the endorsement of the cerebral leader of the Progressives in Tinubu only if he could boast of 10 percent of what Gov. Sanwo-Olu has done in Lagos. Rather than dropping the name of Tinubu, Gov. Makinde should first seek forgiveness from all the gladiators who assisted him to power in 2019 only to be humiliated immediately he was sworn-in.

"Lastly, we use this medium to impress it upon Gov. Makinde that the time to showcase the humanitarian spirit in him is now. Governors of Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Ogun, Edo, Borno, Kogi and other states of the Federation have raised their voice to challenge the hurting cashless policy of the CBN while they have also issued directive to business people and bank executives in their respective states to receive old N500 and N1,000 notes from depositors to ease the pain in the land. Gov. Makinde must borrow a leaf from his colleagues and come to the aid of the suffering residents of Oyo state." APC concluded.

2023 - Oyo Arewa Community Endorses Tinubu, Folarin

*Promises

350,000 votes

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Arewa Community in Oyo State has endorsed the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu as their candidate for the February 25 Presidential polls.

Also, the Arewa Community endorsed the APC governorship candidate, Senator Teslim Folarin as their candidate for the March 11 governorship election.

Addressing the Arewa Community leaders, the APC governorship candidate, Senator Folarin said a vote for APC is a vote for national unity.

Senator Folarin emphasized that APC believes in national unity in the interest of stability of Nigeria and that the North have a major role to play if Nigeria wants to remain united due to their population compare to the South.

The APC governorship candidate said the party will run an inclusive government if elected as the governor of the state and that Arewa would play a big role in his government.

"You will not regret, we will recognize you as true Nigeria, you have to reflect true Nigeria in whatever you do, you will have a strong voice in my administration," he said.

The APC governorship candidate however

commended the APC Northern governors for insisting that power must shift to the south for the unity and stability of Nigeria

Chairman of Arewa Community in Oyo state, Honourable Bashir Maiborno said Asiwaju Tinubu remains the only Pan Nigerian leader that can unite Nigeria.

Hon Maoborno stressed that Asiwaju Tinubu and Senator Folarin if elected would prioritised the interest and addressed the challenges of Arewa Community in Oyo State.

"Nigeria is a united nation, with Tinubu and Folarin, we are good to go, they has the capability and sagacity to do it, they are the right candidate because they has what it takes to be a leader", he said

The Chairman, Arewa Community in Oyo state stressed that Arewa community in Oyo state "are ready to delivered 350,000 votes for the APC in the state" and that they would votes APC because of their love for the party and Allah.

Honourable Maiborno while noting that Arewa Community have been marginalised in the current administration in the state, said no one is representing the interest of Arewa Community in the present administration in the state, adding that they believe Tinubu and Folarin if elected would treat his members as one Nigeria.



17 Escape Death As Boat Capsizes In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

At least, 17 passengers cheated death on Monday in Lagos, as they were reportedly rescued by officials of the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) and other emergency responders after a commercial boat capsized on the state's waterways.

It was gathered that the passenger boat capsized enroute Ebute Ero in Lagos Island Local Government Area, when it

experienced mishap midway into the journey.

As learnt, the commercial passenger ferry named Fazma logistics capsized on Monday at about 7am, barely 15 minutes after leaving the Ikorodu ferry terminal for the final destination.

The ill-fated passenger boat, unfortunately, capsized around Third mainland bridge and a few meters away from the Bariga Ferry Terminal in the state.

Our correspondent gathered that the

proximity of the Bariga Ferry Terminal further aided the response time as many emergency officials at the terminal swung into action, saving all the passengers.

The management of the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) confirmed the accident in a release made available to newsmen.

According to the statement, "At about 7 am on Monday 20th of February 2023, a commercial passenger ferry named Fazma

logistics, loaded with 17 passengers, left Ikorodu ferry terminal at exactly 6:45 am en route Ebute Ero but unfortunately capsized around Third mainland bridge close to Bariga ferry terminal.

"All the passengers were rescued alive by first responders including officers of the Lagos State Waterways Authority LASWA.

"Boat recovery operations commenced immediately while the boat captain is been interrogated and investigations are ongoing

“Chairman of Arewa Community in Oyo state, Honourable Bashir Maiborno said Asiwaju Tinubu remains the only Pan Nigerian leader that can unite Nigeria. Hon Maoborno stressed that Asiwaju Tinubu and Senator Folarin if elected would prioritised the interest and addressed the challenges of Arewa Community in Oyo State.”



Pic during rescue operation

NSCDC Intercepts 3,896 Litres Of Stolen Petroleum Products In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Lagos State Command has again, recorded another success with the recovery of 3,896 litres of petroleum products suspected to be stolen by some unscrupulous elements.

Identified as Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) commonly known as petrol, the substance was said to have been discovered by operatives of the command while on monitoring of critical

national assets and infrastructure, kept in a bush path at Epeme village in Olorunda LCDA, of Badagry, on Saturday, 18th February, 2023, at about 01:35hrs during wee hours.

The spokesperson of the command DSC Abolurin Oluwaseun made the disclosure in a release made available to journalists on Monday.

"While carrying out evacuation of the aforementioned products above, on the following day, Sunday, 19th February, 2023, the Corps' operatives recovered

about twenty three sacks of about hundred litres each and fifty seven yellow kegs of about twenty eight litres each of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) also known as petrol at the scene.

"The total quantity of products recovered at the Epeme village totalled about three thousand eight hundred and ninety six litres of PMS.

"The State Commandant has ordered that the exhibits recovered, from the operation aforementioned above be brought to the State Command Headquarters,

in Alausa, Ikeja, for further interrogation and investigation on the matter, in a bid to ascertain and bring the culprits suspected to be behind the ugly scenario to book.

"Finally, CC Alfadarai also seized, the occasion of this operation, to further reiterate the Command's resolve and commitment to stamp out oil theft, illegal dealings in petroleum products and vandalism of other critical national assets belonging to the Government (s) in the State", the release stated.



Chief James Ume

Independent Newspapers Award: Arewa Assembly Congratulates Chief James Ume

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Arewa Youth Assembly (AYA), has congratulated Chief James Ume for winning Independent Newspapers Philanthropist Award.

The forum in a statement issued by Mohammed Salihu Danlami on Monday in Kaduna, said, "It is with great pleasure and joy, that the Arewa Youth Assembly joins the rest of the world in congratulating Chief James Ume (Ike Abam) for bagging the philanthropist of the year 2022 award from the independent newspaper.

"This is a sensational category of award, It is great and means a lot coming from the media. The media has always been the voice of the voiceless and vanguard of the oppressed in Nigeria and they have the best criteria for giving out such awards because they interact with people from all works of life."

The statement added, "First, it was the Sun Newspapers, and now the independent newspapers. Indeed, the reward for hard work is more work." The forum noted that the awards showed that the

choice made by the Sun was on course and that the independent newspapers confirm further that Chief James Ume is indeed marvelous, a rare and unique specimen of a human being that sees life only from the perspective of the downtrodden and the less privileged.

"As a young man with a brighter future ahead, your life is a blueprint for the younger and upcoming generation, it is worthy of emulation and appreciation because you have made the nation proud," the forum revealed.

The forum, therefore, urged the awardee to continue to be guided by the unfailing word of God in Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done".

It prayed Almighty God takes control of all his endeavors as no weapon fashioned against him shall prosper, saying that may he continue to assist the needy, and may the almighty replace and replicate any penny he has invested into the lives of others, and may He continue to protect and guide him.



Pic of the Commandant Alfadarai and other officers inspecting the recovered exhibits.

Umahi Charges South East To Disregard Calls For Disruption of Elections

*Holds special prayer, fasting service for peaceful election

*orders arrest of POS operators charging exorbitantly

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor David Nweze Umahi of Ebonyi State has called on people and stakeholders of the South East to speak up against the calls for disruption of the forthcoming general elections in the zone.

Governor Umahi who is also the Chairman South East Governors Forum, made the call during a church service to mark the end of a weeklong fasting and prayers for peaceful elections, held at the Christian Ecumenical Centre, Abakaliki on Sunday.

He appealed to the people, especially the youth, not to engage in acts that would further threaten the fragile peace in the zone going into the elections.

"My appeal to the people of the South

East is to talk to their children, the election must hold and hold peacefully in Jesus name, amen," he prayed.

The governor enjoined people of the state and South East to intensify prayers to ensure a peaceful and credible general elections.

"We have every reason to thank God in all honesty and sincerity, every Ebonyi man has every reason to thank God for what he has done for us in Ebonyi State.

"The nation Nigeria is waiting for this Nazareth called Ebonyi." He declared.

The governor also announced the commencement of distribution of various categories of palliatives to people of the state to mitigate their sufferings amidst the difficulties associated with the cash swap in Nigeria.

He directed security agencies to arrest

POS operators who charge exorbitantly for their services to the people in order to checkmate human-induced hardship on the people.

Governor Umahi also charged the people to reason above clannishness and ethnic sentiments in their choice of candidates going into the general elections in order to reengineer the country.

"I have done the will of God by standing on the footing of justice, equity and fairness, I have nothing to fear.

"There is no way clannishness can help us to grow, listen to God, do his will, otherwise, God will take that leadership from you.

"He that hates his brother is a murderer and no murderer will inherit the kingdom of God".

Polls: Be Neutral, Gen Enenche Urges INEC, Security Personnels

**Declares support for Obi*

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

A former defence spokesman, Gen John Enenche (rtd) has called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other security personnel that will be involved in the conduct of the Saturday's presidential election across the country to maintain neutrality. According to Enenche, a lot of people have suffered adding that Saturday's presidential election offers them an opportunity to elect a competent leader that will assuage the sufferings of the masses and move the country forward.

Speaking in an interview with newsmen, Enenche, who retired from the Nigerian Army as a two star general, said the electoral umpire and the Police who are the lead agencies when it comes to election conduct and security, should know that they have people depending on them to do the right thing. Enenche, who expressed confidence in INEC and the security agencies, urged them to do the right thing and protect every candidate where necessary.

The former defence spokesman, Enenche, who also called on Nigerians to stay away from trouble and other acts that could affect the credibility of the election, added that despite the cash scarcity, Nigerians should ensure they vote for their freedom.

"My advice to the security agencies, particularly the lead agency, which is supposed to be the Nigerian Police, is to be firm. They should not be distracted. Why am I saying so? Sometimes human beings want to bend to pressure, for several reasons.

"From what we've gone through from the past eight years and even beyond 16 years, and 20 years, if you are a Policeman, you are a soldier, you are an immigration or the State Service personnel, you are just one person in the organisation and you have multiples that are relying on you. Your relations are suffering. That one alone should be a challenge.

"But I am urging the security personnel to go and stand their ground. Let the credible candidate that we've seen now emerge. We are not saying you should defend a particular candidate and leave out others. We are saying that just go and do your duty. Let the Policeman go and do his job and not be bought over or look the other way round.

"Whatever you are supposed to do, ensure you provide security. Let no voter be intimidated. That is my advice to the police.

"Then the order agencies that will support, particularly the State Services and the other intelligence services, let them put their eyes on the ground to ensure that nothing funny happens. For the military, they are supposed to be the back up. Ofcourse, I know that the military is always firm and fair. My advice to them is to remain committed to the constitution, remain committed to Nigerians and assure them that they are going to be fair to all. And in that way, this translates into providing the backup security to the Nigerian Police, and other security agencies. That's my advice to them.

"Because I was there, I have a lot of dependents. So, I will not look at myself, but I look beyond myself, and once I look beyond myself, I should be able to do what I'm supposed to do. And what they are supposed to do is to ensure that they provide personal security, organisational security to INEC and all of them backing up the police," Enenche said.

Enenche, who also advised Nigerians to ensure they vote competent people, added that the presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP) Mr Peter Obi has a track record Nigerians should consider.

"Peter Obi is a man with impeccable integrity, a man of strength. A man of physical fitness and mental alertness. Highly cognitive and focused which I couldn't find amongst the other candidates.



General Enenche

TOKO Remains Most Viable Option For Nigeria - Okotie

By; ADO ADEBOYE, Akure

Fresh from vacation, interim government campaigner and former Presidential candidate, Rev Chris Okotie has reminded Nigerians ahead of the general election in a few days that his Restructuring proposition, which he has christened, The Okotie Option (TOKO), remains the best option for the country, moving forward. According to his media adviser, Ladi Ayodeji, Okotie decided to name his change mantra TOKO to give it a strong sound bite.

He said regardless of the outcome of the forthcoming election, his principal remains committed to his beliefs that only a properly restructured Nigeria under the auspices of an interim government could create the enabling environment for anyone seeking elective office to successfully implement their manifesto.

According to Rev. Okotie:

"The present system of governance has become inimical and subversive to the Nigerian cause. Only an interim government with a philosophy of a boriginal democracy can salvage Nigeria from the cusp of an imminent catastrophic disintegration. It's time for TOKO!!" The Reverend dismissed insinuations in certain quarters that his call for an interim government is inappropriate in an election year, saying previous transition programmes never produced a settled polity because of the contradictions of the current constitution. He argued that the ongoing election cycle would not produce the much anticipated change



Okotie

in the fortunes of Nigerians because of the inherent defects of the 1999 constitution being operated. Okotie insisted that only an interim government charged with the responsibility of bringing

about Aboriginal Democracy is capable of giving the country a legitimate framework for an all inclusive, indigenous constitution that would be acceptable to Nigerians.

Adamawa APC Denies Purported Suspension Of North East National Vice Chairman

**Says it's null and void, has no effect as Ward EXCOS pass vote of confidence on Salihu*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

State Working Committee (SWC) of the All Progressives Congress in Adamawa State has described the purported suspension of Comrade Mustapha Salihu, the North East National Vice Chairman as fake and illegal.

The State Secretary of the party, Dr. Raymond Chidama in a statement, said faceless and unknown persons are being used by the enemies of the party to disrupt the glaring chances of winning the forthcoming elections.

While condemning the suspension of Rumde

Ward Party Chairman, Yola Local Government Area by those described as party crashers, Chidama declared that their interloping attitude is unconstitutional, null and void and of no effect.

"We advise faithful members of our party to disregard such publication," Chidama said

Lending their voices and loyalty to Comrade Mustapha Salihu over the suspension, the Chairman of Rumbé Ward, Abdulkadir Abdullahi in a swift reaction to the purported suspension, said the action can never be and remains unrealistic.

He said that the ward is

peaceful and their relationship with Mustapha is cordial with unbroken party affiliation and as such, no one will suspend Salihu who has been a good leader, a true party man.

Abdulkadir at a press conference in Yola, at the ward party's secretariat, summoned executive members and signed a register, signifying a vote of confidence reposed on Salihu.

"In my capacity as the ward chairman of Rumde ward, I stand to say this is not true and can't be possible because nothing as such ever happened.

"I'm therefore, calling on all APC Supporters and

loyalists to remain calm and peaceful to face the election coming ahead," he said.

The exco members collectively endorsed Salihu and called on the general public to disregard the suspension as a rumour that will never see the light of day.

Also, our correspondent was reliably told by someone who has been an APC die-hard under the condition of anonymity, alleged that the suspension was mischievously masterminded by an ADC House of Assembly candidate for Yola North, Malam Sanusi Bakari.

He said Sanusi is a prime suspect that must face the full wrath of the law.

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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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- COPY DATE:** for all the Title Heads is two working days for the North and three working days for the South.
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- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

A Report Of Findings On N120m of Gov Wike's Donation To SOKAPU

By: AMOSTAUNA

A comprehensive report of the findings by some concerned Southern Kaduna journalists on the Governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Wike's N120 million assistance sent into the account of Southern Kaduna People's Union (SOKAPU) for distribution to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), victims of attacks in the area.

In February 2022, the Governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Wike, donated N200 million to communities that were ravaged by incessant attacks by marauding herdsmen in Kaduna State. Out of it, and for obvious reasons, Southern Kaduna IDPs got N120 million, while their Northern counterparts got N80m.

When the IDPs across Southern Kaduna received the news in February that they were to be given N120m out of the total of N200m, their joy knew no bounds. But the wild jubilation that accompanied Gov. Wike's N120m charity was short-lived, after the Jonathan Asake-led SOKAPU, against the wish of the IDPs, bought and shared them relief materials instead of what they opted for: building materials, farming inputs, and start-up grants for petty businesses.

Some concerned Journalists of Southern Kaduna extraction, having toured the 7 local governments that were severely affected by recurring attacks, interfaced and had interviews with some of the coordinators of some of the IDPs, it became evident that the items distributed by SOKAPU were not commensurate with the N60 Million expended by the previous management of SOKAPU. When the coordinators of the IDPs were quizzed about the N120M donation by Wike, they didn't hide their grievances while also condemning what they termed 'misappropriation' of the said funds.

As part of our findings and in the principle of balancing report, we interviewed Barr. Dio Maisamari, the Acting SOKAPU President. He said about half of the N120 million was expended by the outgoing president, Jonathan Asake. That is, about N60 million was purportedly expended on the purchase of Rice, Beans, Gari, Maize, Macaroni, Spaghetti, Sugar, Salt, Indomie noodles, Maggi, Soap, Vaseline, Vegetable Oil, Pampers, Sanitary Wares, and transportation. However, the puzzle lies in the number of IDPs, the total number of displaced persons in the camps, and the number of items distributed to these IDPs.

IDPs COORDINATORS' ACCOUNT

According to Mr. Raphael Joshua, National Publicity Secretary (P.R.O), Chawai Development Association (CDA), who is also the coordinator of all the communities affected by banditry in Kauru LG, the items delivered to IDPs in Kauru by SOKAPU were as follows:

Rice 25kg (69 bags), Beans 15 bags, Gari 15 bags, Maize 9 bags, Macaroni 15 Cartons, Spaghetti 15 cartons, Sugar 5 bags, Salt 6 bags, Indomie 24 cartons, Maggi 6 Cartons, Soap 9 Cartons, Vaseline 9 Cartons, Vegetable Oil 3 Cartons, Pampers 30 role and Sanitary

wares 15 rolls.

Pastor Gideon Mutum of the Governors' Assembly in Kafanchan, Coordinator of Nehemiah IDP Mobilization Camp in Kafanchan, Jema'a LG, said he has about 1560 persons in his IDP camp who are victims of attacks from Zango-Kataf, Kaura, and a few of them from Kauru LGAs. When asked if he received any item from SOKAPU as part of the Gov. Wike N120M assistance, he replied: "no." He went further to say that he was called that he should come to Kagoro and when in Kagoro, he realized that it was relief materials meant for Zango-kataf, Kauru, and Kaura LGAs respectively, while his own LG of Jema'a was excluded. He immediately asked why he was invited since IDP Camps from his LGA weren't captured among those to receive the items brought, and SOKAPU replied that they could include his IDP Camp, and they promised to include his IDP when they come next time. "This is over 3 months, and I have not received anything," he lamented.

Reverend Gambo Waziri, a Pastor with ECWA, and founder and also Coordinator of Mercy Camp, Zonkwa, Zango-Kataf LGA also narrated that his Mercy Camp had victims numbering about 20,000 IDPs from 24 communities in the LGA. When he was asked about the N120m donated by Wike, and what his camp got he said, "I don't want to be sarcastic. My response will be laughable somehow. I'm yet to receive a dime. Nobody even called me to say this is what is given to your IDP. The relief material that they gave Mercy IDP Camp looked as if they were compelled to do so."

According to him, he received a call from Pastor Gideon Mutum who told him that he was called to go to Kagoro for relief materials that were purchased with Gov. Wike's funds. He said that when Mutum arrived but he didn't see him, he asked if SOKAPU had called him and he replied that they didn't. He asked again, "have you received any text from them?", he said, "no." Then later, Zango-Kataf Council Secretary called him and told him they were in Kagoro and they didn't see him. He asked, "Where are you?" He replied that he was not coming because he was not invited.

Later on, the Z/Kataf Council Secretary called him again and pleaded that he should just turn up, then he sent his secretary to go to Kagoro where they were given the following items: beans 25kg (10 bags), Rice 25kg (40 bags), Sugar 2 and half bags, Spaghetti 10 Cartons, Sanitary Wares (Pampers 10), Vaseline 12 Cartons, Vegetable Oil 2 Cartons, Soap 6 Cartons, Maggi 4 Cartons and 16 Cartons of Indomie.

Mrs. Suzana Solomon, the Coordinator of Awon IDP in Kachia LG, which harbours about 300 IDPs, said she had never heard of the name of SOKAPU and she added that she didn't receive any item from SOKAPU.

In the same Kachia LG, Mr. Onomza John, the Youth Leader of Adara, Maido District Community, who doubles as the



Gov Wike

leader of the 23 communities that constitute the Maido IDPs in Kachia LG, which has more than 2000 IDPs, said about 4 months ago, SOKAPU brought food items and also gave them N300, 000 cash to complement their transportations to their respective destinations. SOKAPU told them that, the items delivered were part of the N120m donated to IDPs by Gov. Wike. According to John, the items donated to them by SOKAPU included 45 bags of Maize (50kg), 35 bags of Rice (50kg), Beans 50 bags (50kg), and Indomie, Spaghetti, Maggi, Soap, and Clothes, but that he couldn't recall their quantity. Kanaki Makai from Kuturmi narrated that the Kuturmi community in Kachia LG did not receive any item from SOKAPU.

Ango Sudah, Secretary General of Adara Development Association, Kajuru LG Branch, said, on 4th June 2022 SOKAPU came with relief materials to their communities, which included: 50 bags of Rice (50kg), 50 bags of beans (50kg), 30bags of Garri (50kg), but couldn't remember the quantity of Indomie, Spaghetti, Sugar, Salt, Sanitary Wares, Toilet and Washing Soap that was donated. Meanwhile, SOKAPU issued a press statement stating that they shared relief materials to IDPs in Kajuru worth N12.8M, which has been reproofed by many people in Kajuru.

LETTERS OF COMPLAINTS BY KAJURU AND CHIKUN CAN BRANCHES

Following the refusal of SOKAPU to form the Local Government Sharing Committees as recommended by PDP chairman and the total lack of transparency in handling the Wike N120M funds, two letters of complaint were written by the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Kajuru, and Chikun branches respectively. They were addressed and issued to the Chairman, People's Democratic Party, PDP, Hon. Hassan Felix Hyat. The Kajuru LG CAN branch expressed their concern and we quote: "It was announced that the total sum of 200 million Naira was donated to our IDPs. Out of the said amount, JNI was given the sum of 80 Million while 120

Million Naira was given to SOKAPU, and nothing was given to CAN. A letter from PDP Kaduna State Chapter was addressed to CAN Kaduna State giving their local government chapters the mandate to monitor and supervise the distribution of the money which in reality was never given to CAN."

A separate letter by the CAN Chikun branch, which was equally addressed to the Chairman, PDP, Kaduna State, stated: "The Executive Governor of Rivers State, Dr. Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, during his visit to Kaduna State, donated the sum of N200 Million Naira as an Intervention Fund to help reduce the suffering of IDPs and distressed communities in Kaduna State and later shared to stakeholders in the state for onward distribution to the affected people and communities for which you sent a letter to Kaduna State chapter of CAN confirming that N15 Million Naira has been given to Chikun Local Government Area also mandating the Local Government CAN to monitor the onward distribution to displaced persons in Chikun LGA and the member representing Chikun/Kajuru Constituency confirmed that the said money is with SOKAPU."

THE LG COUNCIL CHAIRMEN'S PERSPECTIVE

In the course of our findings and following the document issued to SOKAPU insisting on the body to form a fund-sharing committee in each of the LGAs that have been affected by the activities of bandits, which should include the council Chairmen of Kauru, Kaura, Zango-Kataf, Kajuru, Kachia and Chikun, The Concerned Journalists of Southern Kaduna extraction sought the views of the local government chairmen if they received any amount from the Wike donation based on the sharing formula given to them by the state PDP chairman.

The Chairman of Zango-Kataf LG, Francis A. Sani said he did not collect a dime from SOKAPU

THE KADUNA STATE PDP CHAIRMAN, HON. HASSAN HYAT'S VIEWPOINT

Concerned Journalists of Southern Kaduna extraction interviewed the

A Report Of Findings On N120m of Gov Wike's Donation To SOKAPU

Chairman of the Kaduna State PDP on the N120M Wike donation to hear his own view and he had this to say.

"I want to clarify a lot of things that I have heard, which are completely false. Governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Wike announced the donation of N200M to assist IDPs in the state. He made the public announcement when he visited the party in Kaduna. Wike did not come to Kaduna with N200M to give PDP for onward transmission to IDPs. Senator Ahmed Makarfi, Gov. Wike and I met in Makarfi's residence and we further discussed as to how we would get the money across to IDPs. He replied: 'when you finish the calculation on how the money will be shared, you should get back to me.'"

"After he left, we looked at the LGAs that have been devastated by banditry, we analyzed them based on the information available to us and it was based on the information that we did the allocation of the funds. In the Southern part of the state (Zone 3), it is only Jaba LG that we knew had no incident of attack, in that regard it was only Jaba LG that was not included." He further stated that, "In Zone 2 Senatorial District, Kajuru, Chikun, Birnin Gwari, Giwa, and Igabi LGs were attacked by militia herdsmen. That was why they were all captured. In order to ensure that the money went directly to the targeted beneficiaries we contacted SOKAPU to give us their bank account and we sent it to Gov. Wike and the money was remitted to their account directly. This is because SOKAPU is a socio-cultural group and it has been up and doing on the issue of IDPs. It has gone around soliciting assistance for people that have been displaced by attacks."

"But, when it came to distribution and the use of its account as a channel of transfer of money meant for the IDPs, I followed up with a letter to SOKAPU that the money should be distributed based on LGs, no penny was meant for SOKAPU. There was a breakdown for all the LGs and SOKAPU was directed to set up an implementation committee in each LG to comprise SOKAPU, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), traditional institutions, PDP (who will be my eye in monitoring), and elected representatives of the beneficiary communities. It is there in writing. Thus, SOKAPU was not given the sole responsibility of handling the sharing of that money."

He also expressed shock over Asake's refusal to work with the template and timelines given by the party as was the case with the JNI leadership up north. In his words, "while in Birnin Gwari, Giwa, and Igabi, JNI complied with the template that was given to them and went to work immediately, the same could not be said of SOKAPU. So when I saw the delay from SOKAPU, I called the president, Jonathan Asake, on two separate occasions to find out why nothing was happening as was the case in the other zone, and he said it was because he traveled out of town for meetings of the Middle-belt Forum and also said he would come and see me when he comes back, gave me dates twice, but never turned up or called until Chikun and Kajuru LGs CAN Branches sent me letters of complaint that they wanted their own money just as JNI shared to

respective LGAs in the northern part of the state. At this point, Asake claimed that the template given to SOKAPU was merely a suggestion and not a directive, but I quickly reprimanded him and reiterated that the money sent into SOKAPU's account was not meant for SOKAPU which was why there was a breakdown. Simply put, SOKAPU was merely a messenger or you may say the vehicle we wanted to use to get the monies across to the target population."

On the rumours that the PDP leadership in the state tampered with the funds before transmitting the balance to the aforesaid bodies, the PDP Chairman dismissed the allegation, claiming that the rumours are merely calculated attempts to tarnish the reputation of the PDP and perhaps, divert the attention of the public from the real issues which border on the lack of transparency and accountability on the part of Asake and his team. "Why we sent the account details of SOKAPU and JNI and insisted that Gov. Wike sends the monies directly to them or directed the CAN and JNI to get their LG chapters to get involved in the purchase and distribution of relief items was to ensure accountability and the judicious utilization of the funds. Therefore, let me clarify that the money did not come into the account of PDP, it did not come through the account of Hassan Hyat, it did not come through the account of Senator Ahmed Makarfi, it was directly sent to the account of SOKAPU for onward transfer to the identified LGAs based on the sharing formula we sent to Wike as also captured in the template given to SOKAPU. So, SOKAPU had no right to start expending money on behalf of the people in the IDPs without the knowledge of all the bodies and persons that were supposed to be part of the implementation committee as directed by the party.

The State Chairman also used the opportunity to explain how Gov. Wike even came about helping IDPs in Kaduna State contrary to claims from some quarters that SOKAPU had been in touch with the Rivers governor on the subject matter. According to him, "anybody who claimed that SOKAPU has been in touch with Gov. Wike is totally lying. As the Chairman of the PDP State Chairmen Forum in Nigeria, Wike approached me that he wanted to interface with the forum to sell his candidature. We (the forum and Gov. Wike) met in Rivers House in Asokoro, Abuja and after the meeting, I approached him, one-on-one, and I told him: "Your Excellency, I appreciate what you have been doing to IDPs in states where there are no PDP governors." I told him, "3 days ago there was an attack in

Kagoro, Kaura LGA of Kaduna State and the situation was bad. Please, we need your help."

He said, "I have been thinking of it; please discuss it with your counterpart from my state." That was what he told me and I called my counterpart, the PDP Chairman in Rivers State, the following day and he said he was going to take it up with him. After my discussion with Wike, when I came back, I called the SOKAPU president. He came with his P.R.O. and I told them about my discussion with Wike. The SOKAPU president expressed appreciation. As a matter of fact, he didn't tell me that they had earlier made such an effort. After meeting with SOKAPU, I called CAN Chairman and briefed him also and he was very happy.

SOKAPU ACTING PRESIDENT, AWEMI DIO MAISAMARI'S RESPONSE

Narrating his own side of the story on the subject matter on why SOKAPU jettisoned the template for the sharing formula given to it by the Kaduna State PDP leadership, SOKAPU President (then Acting) Mr. Awemi Dio Maisamari explained that the union viewed the letter from the PDP on the sharing formula as a suggestion or the view of the PDP Chairman on how the funds should be administered, and not necessarily a directive as claimed, adding that the said letter was not arrived at as a result of consultations with stakeholders on the matter. So, when the letter was received, the then President, Jonathan Asake, actually expressed the view that that was not the best way to administer the funds, and opted for the procurement of relief materials centrally and distributing to the various communities affected in the various LGAs. According to him, this view was made known to the PDP Chairman. He narrated thus:

"We felt in SOKAPU that this is the best way possible to attain the needs of the people in the IDPs and that is because we have a track record of experience on this. This is why when the funds came, SOKAPU was identified as the best group to handle it. If it is the distribution of cash, I don't think SOKAPU is in that business."

"In SOKAPU, we agreed that the first phase of distribution is going to be relief materials. When the funds were received the initial focus of SOKAPU was to provide food, which is a primary concern with the understanding that if we are through with that phase, when we are entering the subsequent phases, we will now look at the needs of IDPs in a holistic manner because to our understanding the needs include food, shelter and medical

needs and educational and sustainable livelihood. So, we know that we have to address these needs depending on the priorities of the communities concerned. Certainly, we are not going to use all the funds just to buy food. At the time that Jonathan Asake stepped down as SOKAPU President, he had already spent about half of the N120m and that half was used to address the issue of food in particular."

In conclusion, the worrying state of the displaced and traumatized people among us is the motivation behind this investigative work. As the conscience of society, every journalist has a duty to rise above board to unravel the truth about anything that is of great concern to society especially as it affects the well-being of the internally displaced among us. We have a duty to hold leaders to account for their actions and inactions while holding public trust. While our team made efforts to get Asake's own side of the story, he instead directed our team to speak with the acting President, Dio Maisamari, noting that he is no longer the president of SOKAPU.

It is our considered opinion, therefore, that given the facts from available records and oral sources, Mr. Asake and his team have questions to answer; their refusal to set up local government committees or involve CAN branches, other community leaders and other stakeholders in the management of the relief funds as directed by the State PDP Chairman; the failure to oblige to the requests by the IDPs themselves base on priority needs, such as building materials, farming inputs, and micro-capital for women and youths and; NOT food items, and most disappointingly, the inability of the union to justify the about half of the N120 million purportedly spent by the Asake leadership on food and sanitary pads, is, to say the least, an indictment on Mr. Asake and his team.

It is instructive to note, that the cost of the overall items distributed to each IDP Camp, records of which we obtained in the course of our investigation, going by their market value as at that time, cannot be up to 40% of the about N60 million Asake or SOKAPU claimed to have expended while he held sway as the union's president, hence, our resolve to write this report.

NOTE:

This investigative report was conducted between August and September, 2022 and as at the time of its release, the current SOKAPU President, Mr Awemi Dio Maisamari, had been suspended from office for sometimes as part of allegations concerning the misappropriation of the balanced N60 million handed over to his leadership by Asake. He was just recently recalled back to the office, while the SOKAPU leadership is yet to conclude investigation on the matter.

The report was conducted and compiled by:

Some Concerned Southern Kaduna Journalists.

1. Ango Bally - Invicta FM
2. Abayo Raymond Gandu - AIT/Ray Power FM
3. Sunday Isuwa - Leadership Newspapers
4. Israel Bulus - The Punch Newspapers
5. Bomba Dauda - Gurara Accord

"Reverend Gambo Waziri, a Pastor with ECWA, and founder and also Coordinator of Mercy Camp, Zongo-Kataf LGA also narrated that his Mercy Camp had victims numbering about 20,000 IDPs from 24 communities in the LGA. When he was asked about the N120m donated by Wike, and what his camp got he said, "I don't want to be sarcastic. My response will be laughable somehow. I'm yet to receive a dime. Nobody even called me to say this is what is given to your IDP. The relief material that they gave Mercy IDP Camp looked as if they were compelled to do so."

Campaign Rallies: ABG Receives Rousing Reception At Doka, Gabasawa

By: IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Tumultuous and excited crowd received over the weekend, the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) Kaduna North House of Reprs candidate in 2023 general elections, Hon. Shehu Bawa ABG in Doka and Gabasawa all in metropolitan area of the state capital.

ABG kicked off his ward to ward political rallies from the party's ward office at Kontagora Road amidst cheers from energized supporters who walked with the politician in tours of all seven wards in the heart of the City.

First place of call for ABG was Ungwar Gaji ward, being led by member representing Gabasawa/Doka in Kaduna

State House of Assembly Hon. Inuwa Haruna Mabo who is NNPP's candidate for same position he is currently occupying in the state legislature.

Mabo, who was hitherto a member of All Progressives Congress (APC) alluded to insensitivity, injustice, impunity and above all, lack of compassion for the masses as reasons he called it off with the ruling party in the state,

The campaign train moved from one street to the other on foot until the wards in metropolitan centre were all exhausted, including the commercial streets leading to Central Market.

The wards were; Kabala, Ungwar Liman, Shaba, Ungwar Gaji, Gabasawa, Ungwar Sarki and Ungwar Mai Burji.

In all wards visited, party executives ensured full mobilization of supporters and well wishers of NNPP to convergent points at each ward where short speeches were made.

At Shaba ward, traditionally known as the base for Nupe speaking residents of Kaduna, ABG assured women and youth of vibrant and effective representation where their welfare would be taken care of through empowerment anchored on skilled vocations so they could be self-reliant.

He referred to women as prudent managers of resources, capable of multiplying capital to becoming small-scale business ventures with the shortest period of times.

The politician with bias for

women and youth as his core political principle and policy promised to create and maintaining a hotline of communication with constituents where problems concerning education, health and general welfare would be tackled regularly.

Though, ABG was quick to sound a caveat, saying he can't be perfect in his dealings with people due to human fallibilities and limitations as only God Almighty is perfect.

He however affirmed to fullfil all promises made, assuring to visit all communities where pledges were made after election for appreciation and possible mapping out workable tools to hastily actualize plans made for growth and progress of the people.

Elder-statesmen who received the campaign train of ABG at various points visited testified to human developer strides of the house of reps hopeful whom they attested could be relied upon to deliver dividends of democracy in dire need by the masses.

Alhaji Ibrahim Umar, an elder in Ungwar Liman decried widespread poverty amongst majority of households whom he noted could hardly eat two decent square meals daily.

He criticised the ruling APC and her counterpart, the PDP for not living up to expectations and yearnings of electorate.

He urged voters to try a new party, the NNPP in 2023, saying the party could be trusted because it's peopled by men of integrity and conscience.



Empowerment: Zulum Releases N100m, Tools To 5,340 Tailors

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has released N100 million and working tools to over 5,340 tailors to enhance their businesses.

The tailors are operating under an Amalgamated Tailoring Association with members from different local government areas based in Maiduguri.

Of the combined 5,340 tailors, about 2,000 of them received N50,000 each, totalling N100m, another 2,000 received sewing machines each, 200 of them received industrial machines, 40 received embroidery machines while 100 others got electric generators.

The presentation was made during a brief ceremony, held at the multi-purpose hall of the government house, Maiduguri on Sunday.

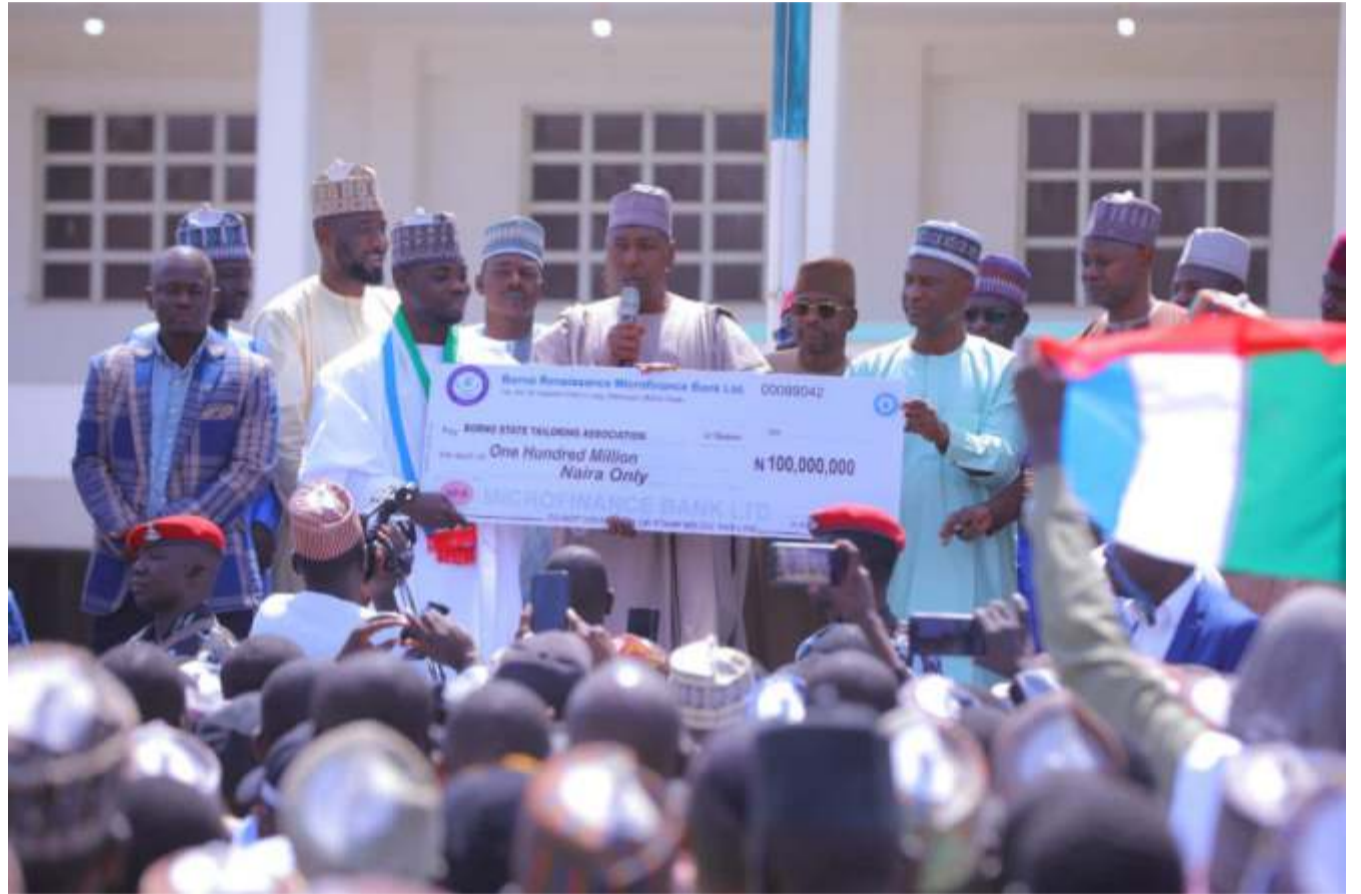
Zulum announced that Sunday's intervention was for a first batch as more associations of tailors from across the 27 local government areas will be

supported.

“We have distributed N100m through the Borno Renaissance Mico-Finance Bank to 2,000 tailors with another 3,340 receiving different types of working tools that include, industrial machines, butterfly sewing machines, designing machines and electrical generator sets.”

“We will want other tailoring associations to compile list of members from all the 27 local government areas that have not benefited from today's distribution, so that we support them our 2nd and 3rd distribution exercise,” Zulum said.

Managing Director of Borno Renaissance Micro-Finance Bank, Dr Bello Ibrahim, urged the beneficiaries to make productive use of the intervention.



The event was attended by Borno APC chairman, Ali Bukar Dalori, and the party's candidate

for Borno Central Senatorial Election, Barr. Kaka Shehu Lawan, both of whom supported

Governor Zulum during presentation to the 5,340 beneficiaries.



Egypt 2023: Flying Eagles Seek Redemption Against Young Pharaohs Today

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Flying Eagles will be gunning to get back on track in the ongoing Africa U-20 Cup of Nations as they trade tackles with host nation Egypt on Matchday Day 2 today at the Cairo International Stadium.

The Nigeria U-20 men's team lost narrowly to the Junior Teranga Lions of Senegal 0-1 in the opening

game on Sunday, but still stand a chance of qualifying for the quarter-final stage of the competition.

Coach Isah Ladan Bosso will likely be without midfielder Daniel Daga, who was substituted against Senegal due to injury he sustained during the encounter. The result of the scan examination expected later today will ascertain the extent of

injury.

Despite the loss in the opening game, the Flying Eagles are upbeat they can upset the host nation and put their campaign back on track, as a win will put the team in good stead to qualify for the last eight. A The Flying Eagles boast of a rich pedigree in the competition with seven titles to their name while the Egyptians have won it four times. A

The Young Pharaohs' game against Mozambique ended in stalemate on opening day and the host nation has only one point and will battle the Flying Eagles hard for the three points inside one of the biggest football arenas on the continent.

Nigeria and Egypt last met in semi-final stage of the Africa U20 Cup of Nations with the Egyptians taking the day by two goals to nothing.

Monyei Emerges Athletics Coaches Kaduna Chairman

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Coach Michael Monyei on Saturday emerged the Kaduna State chairman of Athletics Coaches Association of Nigeria (ACAN) after defeating Coach John Micah in a keenly contested election at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium Kaduna.

The election, which was observed by the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) Technical Director, Mr. Samuel Onikeku, Kaduna State Athletics Association (KAA) Vice Chairman, Malam AbdulRazak Usman and KAA PRO, Alhaji AbdulRaheem Aodu, saw Michael Monyei, a former national sprinter, garner 16 votes to beat fellow ex-international and ex-distance runner, Micah John's 12 votes to become first chairman of the association.

Mr Tokan Ishaya Maiyaki was elected vice chairman unopposed.

The maiden Kaduna State ACAN election conducted by Prof. Ezra Gunen of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Solomon Achi and veteran Coach, Charles Yayock,

saw Dele Abubakar score 17 votes to emerge victorious in the contest for the post of secretary, after beating Coach Felix Osiebe who scored 10 votes.

Mr Mark Orduen was elected assistant secretary without any opposition.

Coach Sani Mohammed was elected unopposed as the treasurer, while Coach Innocent Oma was elected financial secretary and Raphael Olorunfemi was returned unopposed as the public relations officer.

Coach Vincent Odey won the quest for welfare officer with 16 votes, beating state sports council coach, Laraba Sule, who scored 12 votes. Coach Edwin Ochonou was however, elected for the post of chief whip unopposed.

Addressing the coaches, in his acceptance speech after the election, the newly elected chairman, Coach Monyei said the emergence of the exco is a new dawn for the coaches that would usher in a new era for athletics in Kaduna State.

He however, sought the support of all members and other stakeholders in moving athletics in the state to reclaim its glory.



Female Customs players fielding questions from newsmen. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

President Beach Volleyball: Customs Teams Will Improve, Onikeku Assures

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Sports Secretary, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Mr Samuel Onikeku has assured that Nigerian Customs Service volleyball teams will improve their performances ahead of the Beach Volleyball Tour and upcoming tournaments.

Speaking on the performance of the male and female teams who placed second respectively at the just concluded 4th President's Beach Volleyball Cup 2023 at Ahmadu Bello Stadium Kaduna, Onikeku expressed delight that both teams

were able to make it to the final.

He lauded the male team's performance noting that the hard work the team put into their training is paying off. He however expressed hope that the female team, who failed to defend their trophy, would bounce back better.

"The Nigerian Custom Service ladies have been winning the President's Cup for three years, they wanted to win the fourth title but Kada Emeralds defeated them. The male team have been coming to the President's Cup but they always left empty handed. This year, they were able to win the silver medal which is an

improvement.

"We are the only team among the military and paramilitary agencies to have teams in the final. We are happy that our male team were able to win the silver medal. We would go back and work on our lapses. Last year our players were engaged and they could not perform well, but after the elections, we would intensify preparation for the Beach Volleyball Tour."

Onikeku, who is also the Technical Director of Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), said NCS teams will continue to give their best in the various sporting

competitions, while thanking the Comptroller General of Customs, Col. Hameed Ali (Rtd) and other NCS top officials for the support rendered to sports, noting that the athletes would never disappoint them.

Speaking after the finals, Captain of the Nigeria Customs Service female team, Francisca Ikhiede said, "we prepared hard to retain our trophy but it happened that we lost. We didn't underrate the opposition but somehow we lost, that is how the game is. We have more competition, we are going back to prepare better. Victory should be expected from our teams in the Beach Tour".



Newly elected exco members of Athletics Coaches Association of Nigeria (ACAN) Kaduna state chapter taking oath of office conducted by the AFN Technical Director, Samuel Onikeku (left).

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Egypt 2023:
Flying Eagles Seek
Redemption Against
Young Pharaohs Today

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Atiku Physically Fit, Ready For Nigerians - Dingyadi

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

As Nigerians decide who lead them for the next four years this Saturday, a member of the Media Advisory Committee of Atiku/Okowa Campaign Organization, Yusuf Abubakar Dingyadi is confident that the Presidential Candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar is able and ready to take on that responsibility.

In an interview, Dingyadi, who is also the Senior Special Assistant on Media & Communications to the National Chairman of PDP, Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, also boasted that "Atiku, who is politically sound, physically fit, and economically intelligent", is determined and focused to rescue Nigerians from their many woes if elected as president this Saturday.

To him, with the inclusion of competent Nigerians and other sound leaders of the party, Atiku will not lack good people to help him become successful President Nigerians need at this crossroad we have found ourselves under All Progressives Congress (APC).

He noted that young persons and women would form the majority of those who would willingly cast their votes for his party's candidates top-to-bottom because they are the worse hit by

what he described as "gross incompetent leadership" by the ruling APC.

"Atiku is politically sound, physically fit, and economically intelligent. He is determined and focused to do the job well and with other sound leaders of our great party, Atiku will not lack good people to help him become successful President Nigerians need at this crossroad we have found ourselves under gross incompetent party like APC.

"We are calling on all Nigerians to dust up their permanent voter's cards, keep them safe and go out and vote Atiku Abubakar this Saturday. "Nigerians should not get provoked by intimidation from anybody. Your vote is very important if you are truly tired of this hardship.

"As it stands, Atiku is ready for Nigerians and Nigerians are ready for Atiku. Atiku will have enough votes despite the current economic hardships the APC have subjected them to.

"Youth and women will give Atiku that bulk votes and the reason is simple. They are the ones that have suffered the most and still suffering because of the dangerous policies of APC.

"No sane person. No normal person in Nigeria will agree or support APC to come back to power", he said.

2023 Polls: Don't Sell Your Votes, Group Warns

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A Civic and Voter Education Forum Community Life Project on Tuesday, warned Nigerians against selling their voting right to anyone in this year's general elections

Speaking at a town hall meeting for religious organisations in collaboration with the Institute of Church and Society, Samonda, Ibadan, the Amirah of the Federation of Muslim

Women, Amirah B.B. Oloso said everyone has a right to cast their votes and refuse to sell their voting right to anyone.

She stressed that there is the need for religious bodies to encourage their followers to vote for credible candidates that will make the country better.

Representative of Women wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) Reverend Mrs Bola Ilesanmi emphasized the need for Nigerians to vote for candidates that

will bring good polices and desist from collecting money.

Reverend Mrs Ilesanmi also frowned at vote buying, adding that Nigerians should this time around stay away from selling the next 4years in the overall interest of the country.

The leader of Faith for Peace Initiative, Oyo State, Sheikh Tajudeen Alabede talked about voting for leaders that would bring about development and would vote for one that would

turn the situation of the country around.

In his remarks, Pastor Johnson Oluleye stressed that as religious leaders, there is the need for them to campaign for a candidate but enjoined everyone to vote for candidate that would

Other speakers also advised that no one should stay back home without going to exercise their franchise, vote for a qualified candidate, do not sell their PVCs, avoid any form of violence.



Participants at the Civic and Voters Education Forum

Development: Mashi LG Vows To Partner NGOs

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, KATSINA.

Mashi Local Government Council of Katsina State has reaffirmed commitment towards supporting Non-Governmental Organizations and associations that initiate human development project.

Chairman of the local council, Alhaji Salisu Kallah Dan-Kada gave the assurance while launching the Local Government

Branch Office of the Association of Mashi Indigenes Residing in Lagos and Ogun states.

He praised the foresight of the association for fighting and struggle for better living of indigenes of the Local Government residing in Southern states.

He assured to continue to give necessary support to the association to achieve its desired goals.

At the event, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Alhaji Ya'u Umar Gwajo-Gwajo

said that the present administration is committed at transformation of indigenes living in the state and other parts of the country.

He urged members of the association to be good ambassadors of the state where ever they found themselves.

Earlier, the Chairman of the association, Malam Antaru Hussaini Mashi said the association has sponsored the education and skills acquisition to families of its members.

According to him, this was

to make them more productive and guard them against victimization from Lagos Area boys.

In their separate remarks, the Chief Imam of Mashi Juma'at Mosque, Alhaji Nura Liman and the Galadiman Mashi who represented the District Head, commended the association for uplifting the standard living of indigene of the area.

They charged members of the association to continue to be law abiding and patriotic citizens of the Local Government and the state.