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- Sultan

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- Forms special committee to receive intelligence
- Establishes additional paramilitary unit

*Shuts down all petrol stations in affected areas

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following the increase in the activities of bandits in various parts of the state and the government's commitment to ensuring adequate security and protection of lives and property of the citizenry in the state, particularly during this rainy season, the Zamfara State Government has

resolved to take further measures to deal with the recent escalating attacks, kidnapping and the criminal levies being enforced on its innocent communities.

A statement signed by the Ibrahim Hon Commissioner for Information Zamfara State, Magaji Dosara, sighted by our correspondent on Sunday morning, said the measures

include directing individuals to purchase guns for self-defense.

"This act of terrorism has been a source of worry and concern to the people and government of the state. Therefore, in order to deal decisively with the situation in our respective communities, government has no option than to take the following measures:

A. Government has henceforth, directed individuals to prepare

and obtain guns to defend themselves against the bandits, as government has directed the state commissioner of police to issue license to all those who qualify and are wishing to obtain such guns to defend themselves. Government is ready to facilitate people, especially our farmers to secure basic weapons for defending themselves. Government has already

concluded arrangement to distribute 500 forms to each of the 19 Emirates in the state for those willing to obtain guns to defend themselves.

B. People must apply from the Commissioner of Police, license to own guns and such other basic weapons to be used in defending themselves.

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Demolition: FCT Minister Lauds Taskforce On City Sanitation

- Says I'm impressed with restoration, Sanity In Nation's Capital

By; PAUL ONWUDE, Abuja

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Mallam Muhammad Musa Bello has expressed satisfaction with the ongoing revitalized enforcement activities by the FCT Taskforce on City Sanitation.

Saying, the enforcement

exercise are aimed at ensuring the restoration and maintenance of sanity in Abuja, the nation's capital city.

Bello, who made this assertion during an interface with heads of enforcement related departments in FCTA, affiliate operational commander, and field commanders from various

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L-R: Senate President, Ahmed Lawan and APC, Chairman, Senator, Abdullah Adamu during the APC Caucus meeting at NASS on June 22, 2022. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

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60th Birthday: Continue To serve Nigeria, Buhari Tells Gbajabiamila

By; AMOS MATHEW & SOFIYAH OMOBOLANLE ABDULAZEEZ, Kaduna

President Muhammadu Buhari has urged the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Femi Gbajabiamila to remain patriotic to Nigeria like he has always been.

While urging him to continue to serve the country in every way possible, President Buhari noted that Gbajabiamila as Speaker of the House, has positively changed the public perception of the relationship between the legislature and the executive.

Buhari spoke at a special prayer session organized in honour of the Speaker to mark his 60th birthday at the Ansar-Ud-Deen central Mosque, Wuse 2, Abuja on Saturday.

Represented by his Chief of Staff, Prof Ibrahim Gambari, who said the president had directed him to wish the Speaker a happy 60th birthday, he also noted that President Buhari has always stood for free and fair process, which was why he was happy when Tinubu emerged as the presidential flag-bearer of APC in such a process.

"The message from Mr. President is to congratulate you on your 60th birthday. He also wants to urge you to continue to serve the country well."

He said the House of Representatives under Gbajabiamila has ensured a good working relationship with the Executive arm against the notion in some quarters that the National Assembly should "be antagonistic to the

Executive."

He also said President Buhari wanted to assure Nigerians that he did not have any intention to subvert the constitution to extend his tenure in office.

President Buhari also wanted to reiterate his belief in the aspiration for a peaceful and a united Nigeria, Prof Gambari said.

On his part, the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu also described the Speaker of the House of Representatives Rep. Femi Gbajabiamila as a patriotic Nigerian, who uses his position to enhance good governance.

Tinubu, who is also the National Leader of APC, said God has made it possible for Gbajabiamila to impact positively on the lives of Nigerians through the Legislature.

The APC presidential candidate prayed for God to continue to bless and grant the Speaker long life and wisdom to serve Nigeria better.

"May God continue to give you good health. May He also answer your prayers. Only God will put us on the right path and continue to guide us through life to overcome the problem of leadership.

"May God give you good health to work for Nigeria. It is a complex country that you have to navigate through. May Allah in His infinite mercy give us the stability, the peace to govern; the love that we share for one another, the patriotism that will make us proud of our country," he said.

The Chief Imam of the Ansar-Ud-Deen Mosque, Dr. Musa Olaofe, who led the



prayers for Gbajabiamila, prayed Allah to protect and guide the Speaker.

In a short lecture on leadership, good governance and tolerance, Dr. Olaofe said Nigeria is difficult to govern due to its nature.

However, he said, with good leadership, there will be good governance, urging Nigerians to be tolerant with one another for meaningful progress.

He noted that Gbajabiamila is a unifier as he brought people from different parts of the country together to work with him.

Imam Olaofe stressed that the Qur'an admonishes Muslims to be good and lenient to all human beings, saying the Speaker represents both.

In his votes of thanks, Gbajabiamila expressed gratitude to the president for his kind words and for delegating his Chief of Staff to attend the prayer session.

The Speaker also said that he owed his political journey to God through Tinubu, whom he said the Almighty Allah used to uplift him and many others politically and otherwise.

Gbajabiamila equally

thanked his mother, Hajiya Lateefat Olufunke Gbajabiamila, who raised him in a good manner as well as his wife, Salamatu, who organized the prayer session.

"Let me first of all start by appreciating the president though the COS. Let me also appreciate my benefactor. Many believe that wherever you find yourself, all power belongs to Allah.

"But Allah doesn't come down to give you power. He guides and directs you. In doing so, He directed me to Asiwaju. He did it to me, and not just me, he did it to others too. May the Almighty Allah continue to give you that very uncommon capacity."

He expressed appreciation to his colleagues in the House who have been supporting and cooperating with him to discharge his responsibilities as first among equals.

Many dignitaries, including the Governor of Osun State, Gboyega Oyetola, the Special Adviser to President, Alh. Yau Darazo, many members of the House, Senator Gbenga Ashafa, Dele Belgore (SAN), among others attended the prayer session.

Tinubu, Obi, Others Can't Substitute Running Mates Under New Electoral Act - Advocacy group

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, the Center for Reforms and Public Advocacy (CRPA) has said that under the new Electoral Act 2022, running mates nominated by Presidential, Governorship candidates of various political parties are not Subject to withdrawal, substitution.

Both presidential candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Labour Party (LP) Peter Obi, submitted placeholder with the hope to substitute their running mate late.

But in a statement released Saturday in Abuja by the Executive Director of the centre, Ifeanyi Okechukwu, said the Constitution and the Electoral Act 2022 make clear provisions on the yardstick for withdrawal and substitution of candidates, adding that provision, as contained Sections 28 and 84 of the amended Electoral Act 2022, relate to only the candidate – presidential and gubernatorial – and not their running mates.

According to the statement, substitution of candidates by political parties becomes possible in cases of withdrawal or death of candidates and these are president, gubernatorial, Senate, House of Representatives and State Assemblies who were nominated by political parties through valid primaries in accordance with Section 29 and 84.

"Section 33 of the Electoral Act says "A political party shall not be allowed to change or substitute its candidate whose name has been submitted under section 29 of this Act, except in the case of death or withdrawal by the candidate: 'Provided that in the case of such withdrawal or death of a candidate, the political party affected shall, within 14 days of the occurrence of the event, hold a fresh primary election to produce and submit a fresh candidate to the Commission for the election concerned'; and to conform with section 33, section 29 must be adhered to, to ascertain categories of candidates captured.

"Section 29 in subsection (1) says 'every political party shall, not later than 180 days before the date appointed for a general election under this Act, submit to the Commission, in the prescribed Forms, the list of the candidates the party proposes to sponsor at the elections, who must have emerged from valid primaries conducted by the political party.'

"So, it is no more business as usual, the current electoral law is very stringent in many areas especially methods of political parties' primaries, who are delegates, how withdrawal is done, how substitution is done and transmission of results, among others.

"The current and subsisting electoral law does not capture a scenario that makes possible a substitution of associate candidates or running mates either by account of voluntary withdrawal or death. Subsequently, any substitution of running mates nominated by presidential and gubernatorial candidates comes flat in the face of the law.

"While this might not have been a deliberate oversight, it must be accepted that the law is sacrosanct and nothing can be added or removed from it unless through amendment of sections 31 and 33 to make provision for that in the future.

"Until then, in accordance with section 31 which says "A candidate may withdraw his or her candidature by notice in writing signed by him and delivered personally by the candidate to the political party that nominated him for the election and the political party shall convey such withdrawal to the Commission not later than 90 days to the election" and section 33, only candidates who were nominated through valid primaries by political parties and whose names were submitted in accordance with section 29 can withdraw and be substituted under the law, not running mates that were not nominated through any primaries but by presidential and gubernatorial candidates."

While commending the electoral umpire for the latest of the activity by the commission in ensuring that the 2023 elections meet with the requirements of the law as established by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Electoral Act 2022, as amended, the group, however expressed "concern about the likelihood of infractions that are already being cooked by some political parties as it relates to the issue of replacement of their associate candidates or running mates in the presidential election.

"Many lawyers, legislative experts and even INEC have made it clear that what we are having are presidential running mates, which the Constitution and Electoral Act refer to as "associate candidate" and "running mate" and not placeholders."

The statement urged cautioned the INEC on "the catch-word of placeholders as being banded by some political parties is not known to the law and that the law does not give a room for a substitution of running mates in the 2023 election guidelines. "We also wish to impress upon political parties that they must familiarize themselves with the relevant aspects of the new electoral law and avoid actions that are capable of causing infractions."

Oyo Govt To Recruit Additional 500 Amotekun Corps

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde has disclosed that the insecurity situation in Nigeria deserves that all hands must be on deck to curtail it

Speaking at the weekend during a monthly security meeting with local government Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, heads of security agencies, traditional rulers and stakeholders held at House of Chiefs, Secretariat, in Ibadan, the governor said government cannot handle the insecurity alone.

Governor Makinde pointed out that already in Oyo State, he has approved the recruitment of additional 500 men for the Oyo State's Western Nigeria Security Network (WNSN),

codenamed Amotekun to enhance security of lives and properties in the State

"Security is everyone's business and if we all play our parts well, we will have a safer and more secured environment, although security of lives and properties is paramount responsibility of government, but government cannot do it alone except with cooperation of the entire citizenry and as we can see from the report gotten all over the country," he said.

Governor Makinde added, "Oyo State is relatively peaceful, this was not achieved by the effort of government alone but with the efforts of the all stakeholders, most especially the security commanders."

"This meeting is aimed at getting the situation report

from various quarters on security as well as to dialogue on what to do as stakeholders and fine tune necessary steps, this will help government to put necessary machinery in place for people in the state to sleep with their two eyes closed and as the operation of the Amotekun corps is concerned, we have perfected the process of employing 500 more hands to enhance their performance and further deepen the security architecture of our State."

Commenting on whether to incorporate local vigilante members into the existing security team for the enhancement of security in the state, Governor Makinde charged that the time has come for all stakeholders and the general public to join

hands with his administration in the effort in ensuring peaceful environment.

Appreciating security agencies in the state for their unrelenting support towards making peaceful co-existence among the people of the State possible, the governor charged the people of Oyo state to keep the pace up in order to allow for more influx of investments and commercial growth.

The Otun Olubadan and former Governor of Oyo State, High Chief Rashidi Ladoja while speaking during the meeting lauded Gov Makinde for being proactive in the area of security which has greatly helped the State, when compared to neighboring States, especially in the media reports of cases of insurgency.



Dogara

2023: Northern Group Pushes For Former Speaker Dogara As Tinubu's Running Mate

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By; IBRAHIM ADAMU & EUNICE TOKULA, Kaduna

As the 2023 General Election inches closer, a pro - Northern group has thrown its weight behind former Speaker House of Representatives, Rt. Honourable Yakubu Dogara, saying the federal legislator should be running mate to presidential flag bearer of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu. While addressing a press conference in Kaduna, National Coordinator of the sociopolitical group known as Coalition For Peace and Progress, Muhammad Chindo eulogized virtues and leadership qualities of Dogara, stressing the imperative to pick the former head of the Federal Lower Legislative Chamber as vice presidential candidate to Tinubu to be sensitive to religious dichotomy of Nigerians.

Chindo hinged reasons for supporting Dogara as APC vice presidential candidate on five factors which he noted were scarce commodities among the country's

contemporary politicians. According to him, "Dogara has a vast experience in legislative matters which are added advantage to the executive arms in ensuring good laws are made for the benefits of the masses and country.

"Dogara is a grassroot politician whose popularity amongst his people can be attested to by being elected for four consecutive times as a member, House of Reps.

"He is a bridge builder whose love for peaceful coexistence between the two major religions cannot be overemphasized.

"His compassion for the people of North East, particularly the IDPs to whom he moved a motion for the establishment of North East Development Commission.

"The office of the vice president requires coolheaded, loyal, committed and reliable individual whose patriotism to nation and trustworthiness to his principal are tested and trusted.

"We believe with Dogara as vice president, Tinubu and APC will have no trouble fulfilling Campaign pledges to the electorates," he assured.

“Dogara is a grassroot politician whose popularity amongst his people can be attested to by being elected for four consecutive times as a member, House of Reps.”

NUJ Condemns Attack On Lagos Journalists

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

The reported attack on journalists by some hoodlums and criminal elements in Lagos State on Sunday has been condemned by Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos State Council.

It was widely reported that journalists covering the Lagos State Governor's

Office were attacked on their way from the Palace of Oba of Lagos, Oba Rilwanu Akiolu who received Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential flag bearer at his palace in Lagos Island on Sunday. The Union frowned at such act and described it as dastard, barbaric, wicked and the height of lawlessness.

"We, therefore, call on the

security operatives in the state to fish out the perpetrators of the attack and bring them to book in order to serve as deterrent to others.

"Journalists in Lagos State will continue to discharge their constitutional duties as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, unhindered in whatever way.

"We, therefore, urge our

distinguished colleagues to be calm, law abiding and go about the discharge of their duties professionally, without any fear, as the NUJ will continue to engage all relevant stakeholders to prevent a recurrence, Chairman, Mr. Adeleye Ajayi and Secretary, Mr. Tunde Olalere, said in a news statement titled, "Lagos NUJ Condemns Hoodlums Attack on Journalists" which was issued on 20th June 2022.

Kidnapped Ekiti Retiree Set Free

By; OLADELE ADEDAYO, Ado-Ekiti

The kidnapped retired Chief Pharmacist with the Ekiti State Ministry of Health, Chief Israel Bamisaye who was reportedly kidnapped by suspected abductors on Thursday has regained freedom.

A family source in Orin-Ekiti, Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State, where Bamisaye was abducted, confirmed to journalists on Saturday, that the victim paid a sum of N4.5 million ransom to regain freedom.

Bamisaye was said to have been

kidnapped by seven gun wielding men along his farm located between Ero Dam and the Ekiti State farm settlement located at Orin- Ekiti, Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State

The retiree was said to have been kidnapped around 4 pm while working on his farm.

The source said: "The Pharmacist paid N4.5m ransom. The initial amount was a sum N10m, but it was negotiated to that level".

Meanwhile, the Police Public Relations Officer, Ekiti Command, DSP Sunday Abutu, who confirmed his release, said the man was let off the hook around 10pm Friday's

evening.

Abutu said the abductee was released at Obbo Ayegunle, a border town in Kwara State.

"He was freed at Obbo Ayegunle in Kwara State. Our men and the local hunters as well as Amotekun operatives were inside the bush searching for him for over 27 hours before he was located.

"Our people would have to be security conscious. That is the first thing to do to get rid of criminals.

"They should also give the police and other security agencies good information that we can work with, we can't do it alone", Abutu stated.

Families Of Deceased NSCDC Personnel Receive Over N200M Backlog Of Insurance Benefit

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

At least, a total sum of over N200m was at the weekend, paid to families of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) personnel who died in the course of active service to the nation.

The payment, according to a release by the Director Public Relations Department of the Agency, DCC Olusola Odumosu is in fulfillment of the Commandant General's promise to prioritize the welfare of the personnel.

It quoted the Commandant General Dr. Ahmed Abubakar Audi saying that the recognized operatives were just a few amongst the backlogs recorded by the Corps.

"In fulfilment of the Commandant General's promise to prioritize the welfare of the personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), over N200m was paid to families of personnel who died in the course of active service to

the nation.

"The NSCDC Boss, in a brief ceremony at the Corps National headquarters, Abuja, said research has shown that in order to achieve results on set goals, the workforce must be cared for adequately. This is to enable them to put in their best", it reads in part.

According to the CG, the operatives recognized were just a few amongst the backlogs recorded by the Corps.

"Chief among the priorities of my administration is to improve welfare of personnel and one of such efforts is geared towards remembering our colleagues who served meritoriously and paid the supreme sacrifice in the process, leaving their families behind"

"We will continue to make serious efforts to encourage staff to put in their best while still in active service, we will work alongside the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to ensure the payment of others on the waiting list".

"If you didn't hear the

names of your persons, don't feel left out because we have a huge backlog and we are trying to see how it could be sorted out in due time," Dr Audi said. He thanked President Muhammadu Buhari and the Head of Service for attending to the needs of the Corps by ensuring that the pain and suffering of dependants left behind by deceased personnel are alleviated.

The representative of the Head of Service, Abubakar Mai jam'ah assured the Corps of their continuous support and partnership, stating that all outstanding allowances would be paid as soon as funds are made available by the Ministry of Finance.

On the remaining backlog, he charged the Head of Insurance Unit of the Corps to rise to the challenge of pushing for insurance of dead officers as at when due, to avoid delay.

The CG congratulated the beneficiaries and charged them as next of kin to make judicious use of the money received to better the lives of the deceased

immediate family, so that, the death of their loved ones would not be in vain.

He explained that those who have not been able to get theirs now should be patient, adding that he inherited a backlog of arrears of death benefits when appointed as the CG and that, what he tried to do was to pay in batches as funds are released by the Federal Government through the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation.

He also called on all the officers to always ensure they put in their best in the service, that, under his watch as the CG, he will ensure that personnel are less exposed to unnecessary risks and dangers but that, even in case of death, they would also be surely remembered.

Speaking on behalf of the recipients Okeji Olusegun Ojo, thanked the Commandant General and his management team for recognizing their sufferings since the demise of their loved ones and ensuring they get their benefits after such a long time.

He said it is a laudable achievement and would remain fresh and indelible in their memories for a long time.

Increasing Banditry: Zamfara Govt Orders Citizens To Purchase Guns, Announces Other Measures

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C. A secretariat or centre will be established for the collection of intelligence on the activities of informants.

D. people are strictly warned and advised to make sure that any information or intelligence about an informant must be true and nothing but the truth, as all information on such informants must carry correct data on the suspects, including their pictures, correct names, address, occupation and witness to testify the genuity of the information given, as government is taking punitive measures against any one found as informant. Any person who give wrong information against anybody, will be served the same punishment with an informant and will be treated as such.

E. Government has requested the state House of Assembly to pass, as matter of urgency, the informants bill before it, to enable government take the drastic measures on informants as contained in the bill.

F. Government has ordered for the recruitment of 200 additional Community Protection Guards in each of the 19 emirates of the state, making it 500 per emirate, to increase their manpower and strengthen its force and capacity to deal with the bandits," it said.

According to the statement, to further ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of these measures, as well the proper implementation of these measures, government has also decided as follows:

1. Formation of a special committee to receive intelligence on the activities of informants. This committee has the following composition:
 1. Alhaji Kabiru Balarabe Sardau - (Lamidon Kaura)SSG as Chairman
 2. Alh Ibrahim Sulaiman - Chief of Staff to the Governor-Member
 3. DIG Mamman Ibrahim Tsafe - Commissioner Security-Member
 4. Ibrahim Magaji Dosara - Commissioner Information-Member
 5. Hon Nasiru Masama - Commissioner Youth -



Member

6. Sani Abdullahi Wamban Shinkafi - Honorary Adviser to the Gov-Member
7. Hon Abubakar Mohammed Dauran - Specie Adviser Security-Member
8. Hon Sanusi Wanzammai - Commissioner, State INEC-Member
9. Captain Mai Riga T/Mafara-Memner
10. Sani Gwamna Mayanchi-Memner
11. Bello Bakyasuwa Soja to serve as the secretary to the committee and their terms of reference will be given to them by the office of the SSG on Monday.
2. Formation of additional paramilitary unit to support control and command to properly and effectively reinforce the operations of our community protection guards CPG. This newly established unit has the following structures and appointments:
 1. Retired Commissioner of Police Mamman Anka as Commandant-General
 2. Capt Aminu Mada rtd - Deputy Commandant General Operations
 3. Sulaiman Lawali Zurmi - Commandant Operations
 4. Bashir Nafiu Gusau - Commandant Mobilization.
 5. Alh Aliyu Na'ibi Karakkai - Commandant Surveillance and Intelligence.
 Other members of the control and command

centre of the Community Protection Guards are.

6. Shi'itu Makera T/Mafara
7. Bello Dankurmi
8. Dogo Na Bukkuyum
3. Re - constituting the state committee on prosecution of banditry related offences.

Government has also reconstituted the state committee on prosecution of bandits related offences as follows:

1. Dr Sani Abdullahi Wamban Shinkafi as Chairman
 2. Ibrahim Sulaiman - Chief of Staff to the Governor-Member
 3. Rtd Justice Nasiru Umar Gummi - Member
 4. CP Mamman Anka rtd - Member
 5. Engr Mamuda Aliyu Maradun - Member
 6. Rep of the Nigerian Army - Member
 7. Rep of the Nigeria Police - Member
 8. Rep of the DSS - Member
 9. Rep of the Civil Defence Corps - Member
 10. Rep of Hunters - Member, while
 11. Barr Aminu Junaidu Kaura Hon Attorney General and Commissioner for justice - Secretary to the committee.
- Furthermore, in view of the deteriorating security situation in Mada, Wonaka, and Ruwan Bore Districts of Gusau local government, as well as Yansoto emirate in Tsafe local government, His Excellency, Governor Mohammed Matawalle

MON, Barden Hausa and Shatiman Sokoto, has approved the immediate closure of all markets and Kara in these districts and Yandoto emirate indefinitely. In addition this, government has equally banned riding of motorbikes and selling of petroleum products in Mada, Wonaka and Ruwan Bore districts, as well as Yandoto emirate. Henceforth, all filling stations on the affected areas are hereby closed with immediate effect.

Anybody found riding motorbike within the areas is considered as bandits and security agencies are thereby directed to shoot such persons at sight. Security agencies are by this announcement directed to ensure strict compliance. Anybody found violating this order should be dealt with according to the rule of law. Government would not condone any act where innocent people are being killed.

Government is also using this medium to thank all those who honoured and respect the peace dialogue in whatever form. In the same vein, those who refused to honour and respect the peace dialogue are hereby warned to allow peace within our respective communities. Government is hereby directing the military, police, civil defence and other security agencies to mobilise their operatives and take fight to the enclaves of the criminals with immediate effect.

Demolition: FCT Minister Lauds Taskforce On City Sanitation

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security agencies involved in enforcement activities in the FCT, said without enforcement is not possible to attain sanity in the city.

He, however, noted that all the demolitions and other enforcement activities especially those affecting high profile persons that the Taskforce have done, he had no reason to intervene, and stop such actions.

According to him: "Honestly, I appreciate you all for what you are doing. All the demolitions; all the arrests that you have done, no big man could call me to stop you, because they know I don't do so (I won't), that's why they don't talk about it. So, just go and do your work.

"What I'm telling you is exactly the feeling of the Commander in chief also, because we have to enforce.

"Without enforcement, is not possible, the difference between us and animals is enforcement simply, and we in the Administration have to try our best to help you".

Similarly, the FCT Permanent Secretary, Mr. Olusade Adesola, said the authorities are really feeling the impact of the taskforce, as their work is very palpable and appealing to the stakeholders.

This, he noted couldn't have been possible without the political will and support of the Hon. FCT Minister, who always wants the right thing to be done.

According to him: "I have always been seeing the face of Ikharo Attah as the face of all of you, so it is good we are seeing you all today. We are really feeling you, because we are seeing the work that you are doing.

"On the service delivery platform, I'm always there, and the feedback we received from you is worth encouraging and appealing. This is how it should be. All these couldn't have been possible without the political will and support of the Hon. Minister, who always wants the right thing to be done.

"What we are telling people now is that we have to obey and comply with the law. I thank the Hon. Minister for receiving you personally, this is to tell you that you have all the moral support, political support and what is left is for you to do more, and make sure you deal according to the law, and don't do anything out of vengeance. Pls we assure you of our total support, financial support or otherwise".

Also speaking, the FCT Commissioner Police, Sunday Babaji, reassured that the Police and other security agencies involved in the enforcement drive would not relent on working towards maintaining the sanctity of the nation's capital city.

He however appealed to the FCT Administration to continue to support them to keep the tempo.

On his part, DCP Operations, FCT Command, Bennett Igweh, reiterated the readiness of the security personnel to do their work professionally, without fear or favour as they are always ready to move into any place for enforcement.

Igweh adds: "I as DC ops has always told the field officers to do what is right and lawful assuring them that I will take full responsibility of whatever the outcome is"

Earlier, Comrade Senior Special Assistant to the FCT Minister on Monitoring, Inspection and Enforcement, Ikharo Attah, said for the Minister to receive them shows that they have not disappointed those who chose them from their various security agencies and FCTA departments to do the enforcement work.

Attah noted that looking at the job they do in the field, most times if not for FCT Minister's strong political will and desire to stand and be very firm on what is right, they won't do much in their assignment.

He said: "Doing our job, one thing we have discovered is that there are strong beneficiaries of all illegalities and criminalities in the FCT.

"Anywhere we go, to even chase criminals, somebody is benefitting, you chase hawkers, somebody is benefitting; to remove illegal structure somebody is benefitting; to remove roadside traders, somebody is benefitting; and to arrest Okada, somebody is benefitting. And when we step on those big toes, our source of comfort is that our bosses are always there to defend us".

He continued: "Hon. Minister, we want to thank you for the stiff support with strong political will we have received to carry out our job. We thank you for the will power to stand by us in difficult times, because when we look at the job we do in the field, most times we discovered that if not for your strong political will and desire to stand and be very firm on what is right, I don't think that we will go far at all.

"I want to appeal very strongly that our bosses should sustain the support going forward, and I'm very sure we will not disappoint you, because our commitment to do what is right certainly knows no bounds".

FIRS Has Become A Work Place For VIPs, Not Nigerian Masses, Applicant Raises Alarm

**Alleges chairman doing secret employment of hundreds of people from Niger State
*Says principles of federal character not being followed for the employment
Calls for the sanction of FIRS Boss

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A Nigerian first-class graduate of Economics, Mr. Gabriel Adudu has raised an alarm over what he said is currently going on in the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) under the leadership of Muhammad Mamman Nami as the Executive Chairman.

Adudu said the place has become only for the bourgeois and the high-class citizens for their children and wards to work there not for the overall interest of the Nigerian masses.

He expressed worries on how his certificate in economics is becoming a waste after many attempts to secure a job with the FIRS.

According to him, he attended many interviews with the financial agency but his understanding of what is going on in the organization is whose son or daughter are the applicants.

"I understand that if you are not a son or a daughter of a governor, minister, Senator, SGF, or even a high-ranking member of the National Assembly, that place is not meant for you.

"If you're not coming from the office of Mr. President or vice president, then be ready to pay close to ten million for you to secure a job there as a graduate.

"I'm so sorry for what has become of the nation that we the younger generation are not proud of," Adudu said.

Mr. Gabriel also alleged that the Executive Chairman has in recent times, under his watch, employed

hundreds of people who are most from Niger State.

He observed that the employment principles of federal character were not duly followed, which has undermined the unity and cohesion of Nigeria the country's leadership is fighting tooth and nail to protect.

"Today we have found ourselves in a country where there are only two citizens, the rich and the poor, the bourgeois and the masses, first-class citizens and second class, the high class, and the low class, the powerful and the powerless.

"Few others are above the law, while the rest are victims of the manipulative justice, the commoners are the so-called Nigerians while the elites and their families are the real Nigerians who ought to work in places like FIRS, CBN, NNPC, NIDC,

"I reliably gathered that recently, 500 people were employed secretly through an interview conducted in South West Nigeria, where only candidates from 'who is who' in the country were appointed to work with the FIRS, same place they will tell you there is no vacant post. I'm tired of what is happening in my country," he cried out.

Adudu urged the government of President Muhammadu Buhari to stop the employment and expose those racketeering employment in the country, especially in those agencies considered juicy places.

He said investigating what is happening with FIRS through the Directorate of Employment will give President Buhari a good perspective of what is happening in

the country.

"I'm sure President Buhari is not aware of all these abnormalities going on in many sectors of our country. If he knows, he will not allow this.

"Let the FIRS Chairman and the Federal Character Commission be sanctioned over commercializing employment at the expense of unemployed Nigerians who are from less privileged backgrounds.

"Mr. President Sir, Nigerians believed you when you said you are for all, and you are for nobody. Why taking the exercise to Lagos and the world is accusing Chief Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the APC Presidential flag bearer as the one adding salt to the nation's injury of unemployment?"

"We are anxiously waiting for the President's intervention to stop and cancel the employment that only favored some specific class of individuals. Our parents are also taxpayers and as such, we are bonafide Nigerians that deserve to work anywhere without knowing anybody." Adudu stated.

He accused Nami of selfish treatment to none Niger indigenes and those from a less privileged background.

Gabriel appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to intervene on his behalf and many Nigerians from other states that were interviewed and being kept in view for many months while secret employment is going on.

Efforts to reach the FIRS chairman to hear his side of the story as at time of filing this report proved abortive as his phone contact provided was not connecting.

Again, Police Kills Bandit In Kaduna, Recovers Arm, Ammunition

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The ongoing offensive against criminal elements by Police operatives under the untiring Commissioner of Police Kaduna Command CPY.A Ayoku psc(+), mni has once again yielded positive result with one bandit neutralised, an AK49 assault rifle, locally fabricated long range revolver with its twelve (12) polymer cased cartridges and one operational motorcycle, recovered.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Muhammed Jalige, dated Thursday June 22, 2022.

The tactical operation came via a distress call received in the early hours of 23rd June, 2022 at about 0730hrs that some armed bandits were sighted along Galadimawa Kidandan road in Giwa LGA of Kaduna State.

Their movement was strongly suspected to be for their usual heinous mission. In a bid to truncate such a mission, the CP immediately ordered for deployment of

strong nearby force to the location for a possible engagement and restoration of safety.

The Operatives engaged the hoodlums with clinical precision and succeeded in countering the bandits' mission as they were compelled to retreat into the forest with some sustaining bullet injuries while one other was gunned down, his AK49 assault rifle and operational motorcycle recovered.

Equally, a locally fabricated long range revolver with its 12 polymer cased cartridges was recovered when search of the area was conducted.

Meanwhile efforts are geared towards restoring public confidence with rigorous patrol and surveillance of the area in order to prevent any further attack on communities or commuters.

The Commissioner of police Kaduna Command applauded the character and commitment of the Officers aimed at the safety and security of the State. He further tasked them to sustain the recent gains since victory is near where criminality will be a thing of the past.

Robbery Suspect Killed As Police Apprehends 2 Others, Recovers Firearm, 104 Live Ammunition In Delta

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

An armed robbery suspect has met his Waterloo in a gun duel with police operatives, with two others arrested.

The breakthrough occurred during two different operations, in which one locally made gun, 104 live cartridges and four expended cartridges were recovered.

One of the robbery attack was said to have happened along Jesus Avenue in Umusadege quarters in Kwale, Ndokwa West LGA, where a team of from Kwale Division led by the DPO CSP Godwin Igochie engaged some armed robbers in a shoot out.

According to report, one of the hoodlums sustained fatal gun shot injury during the melee, while others escaped. He was said to have died later in the hospital while receiving treatment,

It was gathered that one locally made gun, four live cartridges, and four expended cartridges were recovered from them.

The second incident was said to have involved the Anti Crime Patrol team attached to 'C' Division Asaba while on stop and search duty at the head-bridge Asaba and four suspected robbers on a motorbike.

Our correspondent gathered that two out of the suspects were arrested with a black polythene bag in which 100 rounds of 7.62MM AK 47 live ammunition were hidden.

The duo of Michael Reuben, 29yrs and Odemba Onochie, 30yrs, both of Okoanala Oko in Oshimili South LGA of Delta State were arrested in connection to the incident.

The police public relations officer DSP Edefe Bright who confirmed both incidents in a release, said the

command has launched manhunt for the other fleeing suspects, while Investigation is ongoing.

It reads, "On 21/6/2022, the DPO Kwale Division received a distress call that an armed robbery operation was taking place along Jesus Avenue in Umusadege quarters in Kwale, Ndokwa West LGA, the DPO Kwale Division CSP Godwin Igochie Mobilized and led the Divisional Anti-Crime Patrol team to the scene, the suspects on sighting the police, engaged them in a gun duel, during which, one of the hoodlums sustained bullet injuries while others escaped.

"One locally made gun, four live cartridges, and four expended cartridges were recovered. The injured suspect was taken to the Hospital where he died while receiving treatment. Manhunt for the fleeing members of the gang is

ongoing.

"On the 20/06/2022 at about 0830hrs, the Divisional Anti Crime Patrol team attached to 'C' Division Asaba while on stop and search duty at the head-bridge Asaba, Delta State intercepted an unregistered KC Sanya motorcycle conveying four men including the rider, one of them holding a black polythene bag.

"Upon sighting the Police, they abandoned the bike and took to their heels, the Officers gave them a hot chase culminating in the arrest of two of the four suspects namely; Michael Reuben 'm' 29yrs and Odemba Onochie 'm' 30yrs, both of Okoanala Oko in Oshimili South LGA of Delta State. In the black polythene bag in possession of one of the suspects, Michael Reuben, one hundred (100) rounds of 7.62MM AK 47 live ammunition were recovered hidden inside the bag. Manhunt for the other fleeing suspects is ongoing".



Pic of the arrested suspects and the live ammunition

Imagwe Expresses Fears Over PDP's Future

By; ISAAC ODEH,
Kaduna

An Edo PDP Chieftain and former aide to president Goodluck Jonathan, Comrade Jude Imagwe, MON has expressed reservations about the fortunes of the party under a dispensation of what he calls the silence of the party's voice, and its vanishing image.

In an open letter to the Chairman, Board of trustees of the party titled, "When Yesterday is better than today, I worry about Tomorrow", Imagwe said the PDP appears to have lost its voice on national issues, people-oriented concerns, while its opposition vibrancy appears to have gone into mandatory isolation.

The letter Read:

The Chairman and Members of Board of Trustee (BoT)

People's Democratic Party (PDP)

When Yesterday is better than today, I worry about Tomorrow

My respected trustee leaders. My BoT chairman sir and other distinguished members of the party trustee. My Concern has compelled me to write this letter and communicate through this medium. Since 1999, I have been a member of the Peoples Democratic Party, an

allegiance I still hold sacred.

Recent events in the party have necessitated the writing of these letters. When the former is now considered as better than the present one with genuine intension needs to fear tomorrow a case of the former NWC and the Present NWC.

Until today, the party has maintained a steady increase in terms of public acceptance and visual presence, even in states where it is in opposition. I can't say it loudly enough since the New NWC began. I won't say it's a problem for the entire NWC; rather, it appears to me a leadership issue.

The party's voice has been silenced, and the image that should be prominent has vanished. Fourteen (14) years ago PDP ruled 31 states. The party began 2019 with 14 states, but after the Zamfara state supreme court decision, we increased to 15, and in 2020, when the Governor of Edo state joined the party, the PDP gained control of 16 states. However, the case is not same today, the party is back to 13 that is not yet guaranteed with so many uncertainties hanging in the balance.

Today, we can clearly map the states of the party that are not engulfed in one form or another of crisis. The party's attitude toward

resolving this issue is concerning.

We may have elected a prominent candidate for the party and a combination of a vice, but when you have a good product with bad marketers, the product struggles to find its way into the market for acceptance.

You better have a bad product and good marketers so that the marketers can sell the product to citizens, who will then buy based on the market's narratives, as in the case of APC and General Buhari in 2014/2015.

I have yet to receive an explanation from our current National Working Committee as to why the PDP did not campaign in Ekiti in the recently concluded Ekiti elections. I also have yet to understand why the party's leadership has not visited Owo in Ondo state to sympathize with the community following the heinous attack on the church on Pentecost Sunday during the church service.

My concern is not limited to our state governors but has now been extended to our National Assembly members. In the last two weeks, our numbers in the National Assembly have decreased. Sir, I am concerned.

Since the conduct of our

primaries, which now appears to be the current NWC's highest responsibility and to which they now appear to have carried out one of the most difficult tasks and as such to them they have achieved the highest goal, the party has been struggling to find its place in society. The Party's Leadership appears to have abandoned the visibility of the party in the hands of our Candidates.

This is when the party's voice and image are most needed; we have zero voice on national issues, zero on driving people-oriented concerns, and our opposition vibrancy appears to have been attacked by COVID, which has placed us in mandatory isolation.

Our candidates should be driving the processes of governance delivery through strategic policy conversation as is presently what the candidates are doing, while the party should drive and market our flag bearers at all levels. However, the situation is different right now as relate to the National Leadership of the party.

Sir, my BoT Chairman, I am concerned about tomorrow. I hope we can address this fear positively as soon as possible. When yesterday now seems better than today, my fear is tomorrow.



APC Chieftain Commends Buhari Over Revised Estimate For Rehabilitation Of Yola-Hong -Mubi In Adamawa

By; JACOB
ONJEWU DICKSON

The outcome of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, where he approved the rehabilitation of the Yola-Hong-Mubi Road in Adamawa State has attracted commendation by the All Progressives Congress (APC), in the state.

Malam Hamisu Idris Medugu has commended the president for the worthy consideration of Adamawa state in his policy implementation. He appreciated President Buhari for being a true father to Nigerians, especially to the people of Adamawa State.

He extolled Buhari's administration to be of great value to humanity, as illustrated in the capital and human development projects he succeeded in achieving which will stand the test of time.

Medugu, an Adamawa State APC bigwig also commended Barrister Boss Mustapha, the Secretary to Government of the Federation (SGF) for being a loyal officer to his Principal, President Muhammadu Buhari.

He said the loyalty of Mustapha to President Buhari is paramount in what is attracting good things to the people of Adamawa State.

"Sir Boss, thank you for being a faithful Public servant to the core. We are proud of you, a loyal party man who sticks to Buhari's principles of leadership," said Hamisu.

It would be recalled that the council during the Wednesday meeting approved the revised estimated total cost for N29,826,449,000.00 thereby revising the initial

contract from the original N21,841,578,000.00 to N51,668,027,000.00, and an additional period of Twenty four (24) months for completion of the Yola - Hong - Mubi road in Adamawa State.

The Yola-Hong-Mubi road connects Yola, the capital and administrative center of Adamawa State to Mubi town, enabling the movement of people and goods. Similarly, the roads constructed in Yobe state will go a long way to better the lives of the affected communities.

The public may wish to know that on Wednesday June 15, 2022, the Federal Executive council had approved the award of the contract for the rehabilitation of Kashimbila - Takum - Chanchanji road in Taraba State. These approvals are all aimed at facilitating the reconstruction of infrastructure in the North East areas of the country that were impacted by the Boko haram insurgency and giving Nigerians a better lease of life.

FEC also approved the reimbursement of funds expended for the construction of Federal roads by the Yobe State Government.

About these developments, Medugu from thanked the president on behalf of the entire people of Adamawa State.

"President Muhammadu Buhari has no doubt, proven his love to Nigerians, especially the people of Adamawa State in yet another milestone achievement.

"You are indeed a father to us in Adamawa, what you have done Sir, is a generational blessing that will transcend generations to come. Thank you so much, sir," Medugu said..

2023: Why I Opted For Parallel Governorship Primary In Akwa Ibom - Mike Enyong

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The member representing Uyo federal constituency in the House of Representatives, Mr. Mike Enyong has said that his opting for a parallel governorship primaries in Akwa Ibom state which he emerged with over 2000 votes cast by 2744 statutory delegates was based on his deep understanding of the current Electoral Act and the Constitution of the Country, Nigeria.

Enyong, a two term member of the National Assembly in reaction to several attacks on him on social media, explained that his detractors should rather than attack, roll out drums in celebrating his patriotism and love for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as his action is the only reason the Party will be on the ballot papers.

Recall the Lawmaker, who was one of the governorship aspirants of the Party in the State had boycotted the recent PDP primary held at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo for a paralleled primary at another venue using statutory delegates, where he emerged winner and candidate of the Party.

According to him, "My adversaries looking for every opportunity to blackmail and tarnish my hard earned reputation are doing so because they Comrade Jude Imagwe MON

know I have beaten them to their game. I am waiting for July 15th for the people to understand that I am the rightful candidate for the Peoples Democratic Party in Akwa Ibom state. The Court had asked for status quo ante bellum in the case brought before it over the fraudulent selection of some people as Adhoc delegates but they went ahead and used them to pick their preferred aspirant but I understood the implication of being part of the sham and opted for the primaries with statutory delegates with the INEC as observers and officials from the national secretariat of our dear party". Enyong, who highlighted that his singular action is the only reason the ruling party in the state will be on the ballot papers for the 2023 governorship contest, urged those working against him to desist and rather pull their energies into his drive to ensure that Akwa Ibom state remains in the grip of PDP beyond 2023.

Speaking further the lawmaker said he took advantage of his deep understanding of the Electoral Act and should be celebrated stressing that the May 18th Abuja High Court order on adhoc delegates with status quo ante bellum automatically left the party with no adhoc delegates to conduct governorship primaries for the party.

"That order still subsists as we speak

today, I am the rightful candidate of the party and the next governor of Akwa Ibom state," he maintained.

Speaking on his recent empowerment being distorted by detractors with people being paraded on social media as disappointed beneficiaries, the lawmaker explained that every genuine beneficiary captured in his list has been empowered with promised N1Million each.

"I am already looking forward to having another round of empowerment to spread more democratic dividends to greater number of our people, anybody claiming not to have received my empowerment after the last outing is either not part of the original list or failed to meet the guidelines streamlined for the beneficiaries to follow up and cash out the money. I am owing nobody".

Enyong further described as laughable the trending video of a youth alleging that he got a paltry N1000 after voting as a delegate in the primaries that produced him as a candidate, saying that, he can't even give beggars on the street N1000 talk less of a politician.

"I don't know him, they are using him to blackmail me, he is not part of the exercise, go and ask all statutory delegates that participated to get clearer picture".

Kaduna PDP Blessed With Hardworking, Resourceful Youth – Bobai Mathew

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Kaduna State, Bobai Victor Mathew, has said that the youth in the state have the potentials to help ensure the success of the 2023 gubernatorial and presidential elections for the party.

Speaking on Monday in an emergency meeting with members of Save Kaduna Group (SKG), Bobai Victor Mathew said that the state is blessed with youth that are hardworking and resourceful.

He noted, "Kaduna enjoyed good governance when it was managed by PDP, we can't compare the relatively peace we had in the past years, with what we are having now. I want to reaffirm my confidence in the PDP and boldly announce to you that the PDP will balance power from North and South of Kaduna for the sake of equity and justice.

"I have discussed with the elders of our party most especially our political hero, Senator Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, our state party chairman, Felix Hassan Hyat, our amiable and governor in waiting, Alhaji Isa Ashiru Kudan that they will give our youths priority by ensuring a bridge builder between the youths and the elders as a running mate to the PDP gubernatorial candidate.

"Our state is blessed with hardworking young men and women and therefore should be included in the buildup for good governance which PDP is known with over times. We are certain as a party that we can manage complexities, build bridges of hope and also ensure sense of fairness to all the citizens in the state.

"We are going to win the 2023 gubernatorial election with Muslim Christian ticket because PDP stands for fairness, equity and responsive governance. Anybody telling you Ashiru Kudan didn't win election in 2019 then he is a stranger, our election was stolen and we

have learned our lesson."

He assured that this time around with Kaduna youths, religious leaders, market women, civil servants, professional bodies and stakeholders in Kaduna shall form one formidable front to ensure that Ashiru Kudan is voted massively and also build mechanism of protecting their votes.

Bobai, however, called on the youths to team up with the PDP in a bid to vote out the All Progressives Congress (APC) government in 2023 out of office.

The PDP chieftain accused the APC of refusing to show interest in the well-being and development of the Nigerian youths as well as allegedly holding them in the "highest form of disdain".

In his remark, the leader of the team, Barrister Musa Zaria said, "I've always like this quote from former Vice President Atiku Abubakar who said oil is not Nigeria's greatest asset; our greatest asset is our youths who created Nollywood out of nothing and an entertainment industry that is second to none in Africa.

"Kaduna youths under the umbrella of Save Kaduna Group should know that the only way out is to rally round the PDP and take over power from APC who are very insensitive and abandoned her youths without adequate job opportunity and unending strike actions in their tertiary institutions."

Barrister Sambo added, "The backbone of our successes is in the youth and unless they are in the forefront of our administration nothing meaningful will be achieved."

The leader of the Women wing of the SAVE KADUNA GROUP, Pastor Mrs Deborah Collins Joshua said, "APC is a party that plays irresponsible politics with everything unlike the PDP that ensure that she balance power to accommodate sensitivity, therefore Kaduna women will vote PDP."

Fuel Scarcity: Arewa Youth Want Silver, Kyari, Farouk Sacked, Investigated

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Amalgamation of Arewa Youths Groups (AAYG), has decried the continuous fuel scarcity that has since its inception, subjected Nigerians to untold hardship in all spheres of life without any concrete steps taken to bring the situation to an end.

The group in a statement jointly signed by its Secretary and spokesman, Comrade Abubakar Musa Ardo and Comrade Victor Duniya respectively, noted that during the previous scarcity in the early part of this year, NNPC and Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) accused some major importers of importing high Methanolic contaminated Premium Motor Spirits, with the promised of bringing the said companies to justice, lamenting that till date, nobody has been punished for inflicting pains on

Nigerians.

The group, therefore, called on President Muhammadu Buhari to immediately sack Chief Timipre Silver, the Minister for Petroleum, Mr Mele Kyari, the Group Managing Director of NNPC Limited and Mr Farouk Ahmed, the Managing Director of Nigeria Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority as saboteurs that have betrayed the trust of Mr President and quest to leave a legacy of easy access to petroleum products without queues. The youth noted, "While Mr Farouk and his boys are sleeping or inactive, Independent Petroleum marketers are selling PMS in most Northern states as high as N250. This is against the National benchmark and highly subsidized rate of N165.

"One of the consequences of inadequate supply of the Petroleum products in our region is the renewed killings by terrorists as security agencies are equally struggling to

access the product in most rural communities that are soft target for criminal elements, therefore they are largely immobilize to respond to distress calls." The youths stated, "As critical stakeholders in the Nigeria building project, we can't continue to fold our hands and allow things degenerate to point of no return. There is no justification for this scarcity amidst abundant blessings of crude oil in most parts of Country, that are both tapped and untapped."

The group called on Mr President to wild the big stick on the trior of Mr Timipre Silver, State Minister of Petroleum; Mele Kyari GMD, NNPC limited and Farouk Ahmed, MD NMDPRA for clear act of sabotage and an attempt to pitch Nigerians against him.

It also called on the National Assembly to urgently probe the subsidy regime and compare notes with previous years to dictate the rigged figure by both the NNPC and NMDPRA, and ensure

that all those concerns are punished.

The group, therefore, called all on antigraft agencies to probe the activities of the staff of NMDPRA for possible collusion with Independent Petroleum Marketers to financially rape the Federal Government and Nigerians, as PMS now sell far above the National benchmark.

The youths recognized that both Mele Kyari and Mr Farouk Ahmed are all from the northern region, stressing that they have failed woefully in their responsibilities, and strongly supported change in guards in their offices as they appeared to have run out of ideas on how to end the lingering energy crisis in the country.

The youth stated that if their demands are not met in the next five working days, they shall organize their members from town villages to occupy all NNPC zonal offices and its subsidiaries across the region and the FCT until they see changes.



NCAA Inspects Gombe International Airport, Says Landing Field Fit For This Year's Hajj Airlift

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Officials of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) were in Gombe State on Monday, where they inspected facilities at the Gombe International Airport preparatory to the airlift of Muslim pilgrims

in the state to the holy land of Saudi Arabia.

The four-member team, led by Air Traffic Controller, Ango Shehu who doubles as the Regional Manager Kaduna office of the NCAA, expressed satisfaction with the standard of facilities at the Airport and commended the Gombe State

Government under the leadership of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for improving the airport.

He said based on their assessment, the Gombe International Airport is fit for airlift of Pilgrims for this year's Hajj.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi

who received the team on behalf of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya appreciated the NCAA for carrying out the follow up inspection visit within the shortest possible time and assured of Government continued maintenance of the Airport, noting that safety is of the essence.

6 Div NA Competition 2022: 2 Brigade Emerges Overall Winner

By; **PATRICK TITUS, Uyo**

The 2 Brigade Nigerian Army (NA) has emerged overall Champion in the just concluded Inter-Brigade Warrant Officers (WOs) and Senior Non Commissioned Officers (SNCOs) Competition 2022 organised by the 6 Division NA.

The Assistant Director Army Public Relations, 2 Brigade Nigerian Army, Capt. Samuel Akari, mentioned this in a statement made available to the newsmen in Uyo on Sunday.

Akari in the statement said the 5-day event which took place from June 13 to

17 was held at Willington Bassey Barracks, Ibagwa Abak in Akwa Ibom.

According to him, the event saw competitors competing in various events such as Map Reading, Weapon Handling, Drill, Physical Fitness/Obstacle Crossing and Combat Swimming.

He said the 2 Brigade scored a total point of 466 to emerge the overall winner, after taken first position in all the event competed upon.

Akari added that 63 Brigade NA came second with a total point of 411.5 while 16 Brigade NA came third with a total point of 333 and 6 Division Garrison came

fourth with a total point of 300.5.

The Assistant Director Army Public Relations said the closing ceremony was witnessed by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 6 Division NA, Maj.-Gen. Olufemi Oluyede.

He said Oluyede was represented by the Commander 46 Engineer Brigade, Brig.-Gen. Bayode Adetoro, who congratulated the winner, as well as other competitors for their performances.

The GOC in his remarks, quoted the words of a Chinese General and military Strategist, Sun Tzu, "War is a matter of

vital importance to the State. It is a matter of life and death. A path to safety or to win. The Army that trains the most is most likely to win the war."

He stated that they were here to train and that they had put before combat proficiency and were now looking at leadership skills, team work, team spirit, among other things. Other notable dignitaries present at the occasion included, the Special Adviser to the Governor of Akwa Ibom on Security Matters, the Commander 2 Brigade Nigerian Army, Brig-Gen. Abubakar Wase, among others.



Attack On Journalists In Lagos, Ekiti: IPC Demands Strong Action

By; **AMOS MATHEW and EUNICE TUKOLA, Kaduna**

The International Press Centre (IPC) has stated that it is extremely concerned about the attack on journalists in the convoy of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Sunday June 19, 2022 in Lagos.

According to widely publicised reports, the ugly and bloody incident occurred in the aftermath of a visit to the Palace of Oba Rilwan Akiolu by the APC Presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu who was accompanied by the Lagos State Governor.

The affected journalists, Adeola Ogunrinde and Omatseye Atsenuwa of Smooth 98.1fm, were severely injured, while Adedoja Salam of TVC was left in a state of shock.

Executive Director of IPC, Mr. Lanre Arogundade, said in a statement, that the worst could have happened to the journalists and therefore, charged both the Police and the Lagos State Government to bring the perpetrators to justice to serve as deterrent to those who may be planning similar attacks on journalists in the count down to the 2023 elections.

On Jeremiah Omoniyi, IPC also decried the arrest and detention of the campus journalist who was deployed by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) to cover the Ekiti governorship poll.

"Omoniyi was arrested and taken away by the DSS during the polls on Saturday June 18, 2022 for allegedly recording a

video of a brawl involving party agents at a polling unit in Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government area in the state," the statement said.

Mr. Arogundade said the conduct of the DSS operatives amounted to undue harassment and obstruction of a professional journalist on legitimate election duty.

According to him, the leadership of the DSS and other security agencies should sensitize their officers on election duty that there is no law preventing journalists from covering, recording and reporting incidents on Election Day.

"It is also worth reminding all security agencies that the role of the media during electoral processes and elections is recognised by the constitution and the Electoral Act and any assault on any journalist or other media professional on electoral duty therefore means that the laws of the country are being undermined,

"The fact that the weekend attacks bring to more than 40 the number of dangerous and life threatening incidents involving journalists and other media professionals as documented by IPC's Safety Alert Desk in the year 2022 alone underscores the need for such protection for journalists in Nigeria", Mr. Arogundade said.

IPC said further that the Lagos and Ekiti incidents have again made it imperative for media owners, the political parties and the government to put in place mechanisms for the protection of journalists during campaigns and elections.



Action captured from the 6 Div NA Competition 2022

ITN: We Will Overcome Challenges During Distribution In Kaduna - FG

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The federal government has assured that challenges of insecurity will not hinder the planned distribution of over 5.4 million Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) in Kaduna State. Member Malaria Elimination Programme, Federal Ministry of Health, Omo-eboh Momodu gave the

assurance, during a one-day media parley on Wednesday, June 21, 2022, at Al-Ihsan Metro Hotel, Mogadishu, Kaduna.

"For instance in a place with security challenges, we can find a way to get around it, our nets will get there," he assured.

He further assured that said some challenges identified in course of carrying out campaigns are being worked around.

Momodu explained said

that it is expected that one net covers two persons.

"We have estimated the number of nets needed based on the census figures.

"If during micro planning we have gaps, it may affect ration of number of people in a house hold, with number of nets they will give. We can hardly go beyond four nets to each household. It is not equal that every household however, will get four

nets," he explained.

According to him, the ITNs should serve for three to four years.

"It can kill the mosquito if it perches on it and other mosquitoes in the area where the net is located," he said.

The one-day media parley was organised by the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Society for Family Health.

It attracted media practitioners from online, broadcast and print.



Police Arrest Two Contract Staff, Four Others, Shortly Before Attack On Ibadan Bank

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Members of the Oyo State Police Command have arrested six suspected members of a gang specialized in carrying out robbery attacks on banks. The six suspects according to a statement by the Oyo State Police Command Public Relations (PPRO), SP Adewale Osifeso for the state Commissioner of Police, CPNgozi Onadeko included two contract staff/marketer with a new generation bank.

According to the statement, the suspects were arrested at their Agara Odo-Ona hideout along Akala Expressway, in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital last Monday at about 2100hrs after concluding plans to execute a bloody bank robbery attack on another

new generation bank within the metropolis at the early hours of the following Tuesday June 14, 2022.

The arrested suspects were identified as, " Abass Azeez 'm' 42yrs, Mayowa Kehinde 'm' 29yrs contract staff/marketer with a new generation bank, Rildwan Eniola 'm' 33yrs, Mistura Akinade 'f' 33yrs, Abass Aderoju 'm' 41yrs and Akeem Adeniyi 'm' 37yrs. "In a conscious effort to rid Oyo State of unscrupulous and sinister minded elements, the Oyo State Police Command in an intelligence led and purposeful driven operation has identified, tracked and apprehended members of a criminal gang specialized in carrying out well-coordinated robbery attacks on Banks", it said. Oyo Police command added, " Preliminary Investigation reveals that

the criminal gang comprising of Abass Azeez 'm' 42yrs, Mayowa Kehinde 'm' 29yrs contract staff/marketer with a new generation bank, Rildwan Eniola 'm' 33yrs, Mistura Akinade 'f' 33yrs, Abass Aderoju 'm' 41yrs and Akeem Adeniyi 'm' 37yrs were all nabbed at their Agara Odo-Ona hideout along Akala Expressway, Ibadan on Monday 13/06/2022 at about 2100hrs after concluding plans to execute a bloody bank robbery attack on another new generation bank within the metropolis at the early hours of Tuesday 14/06/2022".

The statement stressed further that " the suspects have all confessed their various involvements in the criminal operations which includes arms procurement and clandestine intelligence gathering ahead of the

proposes date of perpetrating the dastardly act".

"While comprehensive investigations are in progress to crackdown the criminal network and other accomplices, the Oyo State Police Command enjoins the good people of the State to continue partnering with the Police in terms of providing timely and credible information valuable in curbing criminality and maintaining the relative tranquility enjoyed in the State.

"In cases of emergency, the Command can always be reached through these emergency control room numbers: 615 (toll free) (OYO STATE SECURITY TRUST FUND), and Oyo State Police Command emergency lines 07055495413 and 08081768614."

Ebonyi PDP Guber Candidate Nominates Running Mate

By; **MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki**

Ahead of 2023 general election, the Governorship flag bearer of the People's Democratic Party PDP in Ebonyi State, Senator Obinna Ogba on Thursday, nominated Dr. Oliver Osi as his Deputy Governorship candidate for the 2023 general election.

In a letter dated 22 June 2022 addressed to the National Chairman of the PDP National working committee and received

by the National Organising Secretary on 23 June 2022, Senator Ogba, noted that the nomination was in compliance with section 187, (1) and (2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. According to Ogba, the nomination of serving Lawmaker at the State House of Assembly as his running mate will add strong electoral value to their ticket in the state.

Dr Oliver Osi, a health experts is the lawmaker representing Ivo Constituency in Ebonyi

State House of Assembly since 2015 till date.

The letter reads "in compliance with section 187(1) and (2) of the 1999 Constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, the Electoral Guildline and the People's Democratic Party PDP Guildline, I write to convey my nomination of Hon. Dr. Oliver O. Osi as the deputy Governorship Candidate of our great party in the forthcoming 2023 general election.

"His nomination is the outcome of detailed and wide-ranging consultations with party

Stakeholders in the State. I have no doubt that his inclusion will add strong electoral value to our ticket.

"Hon. Dr. Oliver O. Osi is an astute party loyalist who was born on the 21st March 1970.

He was elected Councilor representing ihie ward (Amagu) from 2011-2013, and subsequently elected member representing Ivo constituency in the Ebonyi State House of Assembly from 2015 till date.

"He is currently the chairman House Committee on capital territory and deputy chairman of house Committee on health"

Incessant Pirates Attack Unsettles Akwa Ibom Fishermen

By; **PATRICK TITUS, Uyo**

Fishermen in Akwa Ibom State have expressed worries over what they described as incessant attacks by pirates operating within the riverine areas, saying, it has become a hindrance to sustainable income generation and poverty alleviation activities.

They said they have lost their fishing boats, outboard engines and nets worth millions of Naira, a development they said has affected the income of multipurpose cooperative society members in the area.

Bassey Etim, President of Nation Feeders Multipurpose Cooperative Society in Uruan Local Government Area, a coastline community with people engaged in fishing stated this during a one-day national agri-preneur training scheme organised by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) held in Uyo.

Etim said the attacks apart from adversely affecting the income of their members, has led to loss of some lives while fishing.

According to him, the absence of modern drying machines is also hampering the growth of the cooperative society in the fight against poverty and wealth creation, saying that their income is also affected by the activities of large scale fishing businessmen whom he claimed, are stifling small scale fishing entrepreneurs.

"That is why we formed the cooperative to enable us embark on large scale fishing activities of the large scale fishermen who buy off all fish products before we hit the sea, is frustrating and hindering a thriving cooperative movement in the area," he explained.

Etim, who was giving an account of how the grants by SMEDAN have been utilised in creating wealth and promoting small business, said they have been limited to subsistence fishing contrary to expectations as they have been unable to go to the high sea as a result of their inability to

compete with the large scale fishermen and businessmen.

Also speaking, the President of Ukeme Otobong Multipurpose Cooperative Society in Esit Urua, Eket Local Government Area, Mfonobong Abasiokong said the grants given to cooperatives have helped them to grow their businesses but appealed for assistance to enable them acquire either tricycles or a mini trucks for the evacuation of oil palm fruits after they have been harvested.

She also solicited for assistance in acquiring a modern oil palm processing facility to help them generate more income for members.

In her remarks, Lucy Ekpeyong, Coordinator of SMEDAN in Akwa Ibom State described cooperative societies as the powerhouse of the rural economy, saying that they should acquire skills in business development of a common product or service, saying it would ensure sustainable poverty alleviation programme.

She stressed the importance of record keeping, being transparent in financial transactions and urged people to raise funds for their projects through shares allotment and investment savings as well as thrift services.

Presenting Wale Fasanya's address, the Director-General of the agency, reiterated its continued support to agri-preneurs through various schemes such as one local government one product, women self-employment, national business skills development initiative among others and restated the commitment of President Muhammadu Buhari to tackling unemployment through the development of agriculture and its value chain.

She lauded the Akwa Ibom State Government for "unflinching support towards the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state."

Benefitting cooperative societies were drawn from Ibeno, Eket, Esit Eket, Uruan and Uyo local government areas.



Mr. Jamu after he was decorated with Asiwaju title

Nasarawa Indigene Decorated 'Asiwaju Of Yoruba Youth'

By; **SAMSON YAKI, Lafia**

An officer of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Mr Lyon Emmanuel Jamu has been honoured with the prestigious title of 'Asiwaju of Yoruba Youth'.

The national body of Yoruba Youth Council conferred the title at an event on Sunday in Abuja. This, according to them, is in recognition of his "impeccable, noteworthy and outstanding humanitarian services, consistent contributions to national security, high

level of humanity and open-door policy, philanthropic, unequal love to mankind and particularly youth-friendly gestures".

In his acceptance speech, Jamu thanked the members and leadership of the pan-Yoruba group for finding him worthy of the prestigious title.

He assured that the title would spur him to give more in service to Nigeria and humanity at large.

Jamu who also holds the traditional title of Ajijyan Buh is from Wamba Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

New CP Durosinmi Assumes Duty In Akwa Ibom

By; **PATRICK TITUS, Uyo**

The newly posted Commissioner of Police to Akwa Ibom State, CP Olatoye Durosinmi has assumed duty in the state.

The command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Odiko MacDon stated in a statement in Uyo on Thursday.

CP Durosinmi, who assumed duty as the 31st Commissioner of Police in the state, takes over from CP Andrew Amiengheme who has been promoted to the new rank of Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG).

According to the statement, the new CP holds a B.Sc (Hons) degree in Sociology from the University of Ife, an LLB from the Delta State University, Abraka. He was called to Bar in 2001 and has a Master's degree in Law (LLM) from the Lagos State University.

His PHD in Law from Imo State University is in view. Appointed into the Nigeria Police Force as a Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police on the 3rd of March 1990, served in various capacities and attended Courses both locally and internationally.

Before his present appointment, he has served as Assistant Commissioner of Police, Department of Operations, Imo State Police Command, Assistant Commissioner of Police, State Criminal Investigation Department, Akwa Ibom Police Command among other positions.

The CP enjoined the People of Akwa Ibom State to remain law abiding and accord him the needed co-operation to fight crime and criminality and continue to make the state one of the most peaceful in the country.

Kaduna Central PDP Primary: Mr. LA Evading Court Summons, Says Sardaunan Badarawa's Lawyer

By; **IBRAHIM ADAMU and EUNICE TOKULA; Kaduna**

Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) Samuel Atung and Counsel to People's Democratic Party (PDP) Kaduna Central Senatorial aspirant in the just concluded primaries for 2023 general election, Hon. Usman Ibrahim, popularly called Sardaunan Badarawa has accused the declared winner of the exercise, Lawal Adamu known as

Mr. LA of evading Court Summons.

Samuel Atung made this known after first hearing of a case filed by his client at Federal High Court, Kaduna challenging the outcome of the primary election announced to have been won by Mr. LA on the ground of over-voting and other irregularities.

The legal luminary decried the evasive behavior of the first respondent to receive personal Court service despite several attempts made to serve him.

"We have been granted accelerated hearing on the matter but unfortunately personal services have not been effected on the first respondent despite several attempts made without success.

"What we have done this morning was to move the court experte again to serve the first defendant and it was granted in the Spirit of the earlier accelerated hearing on the matter and was adjourned to Monday 27 of June 2022.

"I must stress here that the decision of this

honourable court will prevail at the end of the day because I'm very optimistic about the substance of our case.

"Justice will be served as We have approached the temple of justice to serve as good precedence in litigations of this nature.

"We strongly believe the court will uphold the decision of the party's National Working Committee to Kaduna state PDP to conduct a fresh primary as communicated to INEC, Nigeria Police, DSS and other relevant stakeholders," he said.

2023 Polls: I Fear No Political Opponent, Governor Bala Boasts

By; **MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi**

As the electioneering campaigns for the 2023 polls gathers momentum, Governor Bala Mohammed has asserted that he fears no political opponent, group or individuals except God the Almighty Allah, in facing the general elections.

"Let's the opposition political parties, particularly their gubernatorial candidates know that theirs are not for fear, what I reasonably fear is my creator, the Almighty God as far as the 2023 elections are concerned", the governor said.

He was speaking while distributing 60 brand new cars to PDP coordinators, members of zonal working committees and party chairmen across the twenty local government areas of the state in Bauchi Sunday, where he cautioned gubernatorial candidates of other political parties to beware of their utterances to the electorates.

"We are not afraid of government's power or ability, we are accustomed to it, what we are afraid is our creator the Almighty Allah, but not a fellow human being. It is the fear of Allah that can apply break to our mission, these cars beneficiary commanders are equal to the tasks", he frowned Senator Bala, apparently

referring to APC gubernatorial candidate candidate of the major opposition party in the state goes about the grassroots distributing FG's forms to be fill by the electorates in the pretext of giving them COVID-19 palliatives.

The Governor queried, "Why is it now when electioneering campaigns period for the 2023 polls is fast approaching that such programme of the federal government flagged-off in 2020 could be implemented in the state. This is a blatant lie for the cronies to use this campaign method".

He alleged that after siphoning Social Investment Programme (SIP) funds and other federal government's palliatives meant to tailor the needs of people in Bauchi state, it is now that these political gladiators are using part of the loots to deceive the electorates. Mohammed therefore drew the attention of the people generally to beware of these haloing politicians who are all out to feed fat on them, saying "Those are the hijackers, the exaggerators, swindlers, charlatans who think they would have a field-day in Bauchi, they are jokers".

"I'm very grateful with the unbridled support the People's Democratic Party, the PDP is giving me especially the return ticket for a second term

tenure in office ahead of the 2023 polls, it is really a gesture unprecedented in the annals of party politics. I'm also grateful to the

entire of Bauchi state for their unrelenting support in the course of my stewardship".

"We are giving out these brand news cars to show our gratitude to the beneficiaries for their commitments to the promotion of the party's ideals, and their loyalty, support and cooperation, as well as motivation ahead of the forthcoming general elections", he said. "I also thank the entire citizens especially our traditional rulers, the Ulamas, Mallams and Ustazs, community leaders and other leaders of thought, our vibrant youths and women. We would peacefully and harmoniously play our partisan cards in an atmosphere devoid of rancour, and by God's grace victory will be on our side comes 2023 polls", the governor said.

"Nobody could deceive our traditional rulers, our youths and women, and the politicians. To hell with their political



Gov Bala Mohammed

machinations for it would not hold water. See how hundreds of their members are defecting to our party after the primaries, they are ineffective and would simply soon pass unnoticed".

Senator Bala Mohammed then called on PDP disciples, especially those participated in the just concluded party primaries to come together under a unified umbrella as one formidable entity ahead of the commencement of electioneering campaigns for the party to sweep the polls at all levels of governance.

He explained that a reconciliation committee is already in place to reconcile aggrieved party members with a view to forge ahead and ensure victory in the forthcoming general elections, saying it is only with the rise of PDP members to elective offices that the country could be salvage from economic doldrums, social strangulation and political muddles.

We Need Religious Dialogue For Peaceful Coexistence In Nigeria - Sultan

By: **BAYO AKAMO,**
Ibadan

Sultan of Sokoto and Chairman Nigeria Inter-religious Council (NIREC), His Eminence, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, on Thursday in Ibadan, advocated religious dialogue for peaceful coexistence in Nigeria.

The Sultan made the call when he led NIREC members together with the President, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), His Eminence, Rev. Dr. Supo Ayokunle, to Governor Seyi Makinde on a courtesy visit at the Executive Council Chambers, Governor's Office, Secretariat, Ibadan. He stressed that the time has come for Nigerians to continue to live as one big family by showing understanding and tolerate one another, which is a better way to live as one big family.

"We keep on telling our people to understand and tolerate one another, which is a better way to live as one big family. That is why the theme of this quarterly meeting is apt and widely chosen", he said.

Sultan Sa'ad added, "We want to thank the governor for his magnanimity and wish him all the best in his tenure as the governor of Oyo State. I thank him for hosting us and I pray that peace will continue to reign supreme in Oyo State and Nigeria at large."

"I am very proud of Ibadan, the largest city in

West Africa, and I think people should really come in and see the difference in what it used to be in those days of our nationhood and the new Ibadan and Oyo State, and the peace you are enjoying here now. I believe this is simply based on understanding".

Lauding Governor Makinde for uplifting Oyo state by taking it to greater heights, the Sultan stressed, "we want to thank the governor for his magnanimity and wish him all the best in his tenure as the governor of Oyo State. I thank him for hosting us and I pray that peace will continue to reign supreme in Oyo State and Nigeria at large."

In his remarks during the courtesy visit, President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Reverend Dr. Supo Ayokunle disclosed that there has been religious harmony in Oyo State and that the people have been living together in the atmosphere of peace and tranquility, saying, "there has not been religious crisis in Oyo State and there will never be by the grace of God because all of us from different homes have the two religions".

"We have been existing together in the atmosphere of peace and tranquility, and that is why we are a Pacesetter state. We make progress because of mutual existence in this state", he said.

The CAN President added, "we have been discussing so many issues that would have led to crisis across the



Governor Seyi Makinde, Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar Sa'ad and the CAN President, Reverend Ayokunle in Ibadan on Thursday

nation and thrash them in our meeting, which has contributed to the peace we are currently enjoying in the nation. We have always advocated dialogue and it is yielding the expected results".

According to Reverend Ayokunle, "the more we have inter-religious education, the better we are. Yes, there are some misgivings about each religion, which some bad elements amidst us capitalised upon to miseducate others to make the people think the two Abrahamic religions are opposed to each other. So, those are the kind of issues we always rise against in our meetings."

Governor Seyi Makinde

while receiving the NIREC leaders emphasized the importance of the roles of the body in sustaining religious peace in Nigeria, adding that the quarterly meeting was coming at the right time, particularly as the general election is knocking on the door.

"What you stand for is what Nigeria needs especially at this time that election is approaching. I know that conversation will take both ethnic and religious colorations. That is why we have been hearing of Muslim-Christian ticket, Muslim-Muslim ticket and all of that.", he said.

The governor added, "before we did the

national convention (of the PDP), we were looking at where the presidential candidate would emerge from – maybe from the South, East, West or North or somewhere in the middle. And even after the emergence of the candidates, discussions have been around the support for either the candidate from Yorubaland or whether the Northerners will support their own candidate".

"So, we need people like you to speak out in order to douse tension and nudge the nation in a direction of progress. Well, so far, we are not evaluating the candidates on what they can offer Nigeria. It is also gratifying that you moved

your quarterly meeting to Oyo State to honour the outgoing CAN President and I want to thank you for that and pray that as you honour one of our own, God will honour you individually and collectively.

"Oyo State, just like the CAN President said, is diversified. Hardly will you see a family in which you would not find the two faiths, and for me as a person, the Makinde you see in my name is my grandfather's name. He lived and died a Muslim. This is what you see in Oyo State and we live together in peace. So, that is the spirit we have seen around here. Despite our diversity, Oyo has

Gumi Spearheads Formation Of Nomadic Rights Organization, Vows To Fight Suppression Of Herders

By: **IBRAHIM ADAMU & EUNICE TOKULA;** Kaduna

A firebrand Islamic scholar has announced the formation of Nomadic Rights Organization (NORIC) with the sole mandate to protect the interests of herders across Nigeria by the use of legal means. Shaikh Gumi while

reeling out objectives of the organization known as Nomadic Rights Concern in Kaduna lamented what he described as unjust persecution and stereotyping of herders in the country, insisting that Nomadic Fulanis had been victims of banditry.

He explained reasons for registering NORIC with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), in

June 2021, to include; bridging gap between herdsmen and the larger society, addressing issue of banditry, developing modern scientific methods of livestock breeding, overall development of livestock rearing sector among others.

The cleric added that most frictions, particularly between pastoralists and others

could be traced to injustice melted on either of parties involved.

He pointed out that the newly formed group would not only stand for the oppressed Fulani herders, adding that all individuals who may have been affected by any form of injustice or the other would as well be the primary concern of NORIC.

"The issue that stands out

glaringly is pastoralists are both victims and villains largely because their voices are muffled by an unimaginable level of illiteracy and lack of know-how.

"Often their rights are trampled upon or denied, leading to in many cases avoidable violence in the Nigerian society.

"Thus, the necessity to establish a nongovernmental and

apolitical organization dedicated to peace and harmonious coexistence between various groups and ethnicities, especially amongst herders and farmers," he said.

He stressed the need for interface between herders and host communities for lasting peace, saying bullet approach alone cannot end violence and banditry in Nigeria.

Inuwa Yahaya: A Shining Light In The Midst Of Nigeria's Educational Darkness

By: ISMAILA UBA MISILLI

While lamentations ring loudly on the academic decay and debilitating state of Nigeria's education sector, one man is holding tenaciously the light of hope with his educational policies and projects. This man is Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State and tripple award winning Governor of the Year.

Governor Inuwa has demonstrated consistently in his three years in office via his policies, programmes and projects, that education of the citizens of Gombe is the number one priority of his administration. As a hallmark of a principled administrator, on assumption of office as the 4th democratically elected Governor of Gombe State, Inuwa Yahaya immediately declared a state of emergency in the education sector and moved on swiftly with the agility of a cheetah to match his promises with actions. The records speak volumes of the huge turnaround in the academic history of Gombe State.

What has never been done before in the history of education in Gombe was done with ease by Inuwa Yahaya in just three years.

He sounded it out and clear that he wants all children who are out of school to be returned to school. Whatever was responsible for that he promised to support the parents. He did just that.

He went on a public awareness campaign to educate parents on the huge benefits of enrolling children in schools. He made sure that the information is well mainstreamed. Many parents happily complied. Today, thousands of out of school children have been mopped up and returned to the classrooms.

On the occasion of democracy day celebration, Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya with a great joy and delight, commissioned the Alabura Model Primary and Junior Secondary Schools, Kumbiya- Kumbiya in the state capital. The Model School project is an initiative conceived and executed by his administration in the state to raise the bars of academic excellence above the near average status he met it.

During the inauguration of the magnificent twin complex, named after a famous educationist, Malam Alabura S. Kudi, Inuwa Yahaya stated that with the school being commissioned in that part of the State, he has brought to an end the unpleasant history of the Kumbiya-Kumbiya Community as the only ward without Government learning facility in the entire state.

The Alabura Model School is an edifice of 2 blocks of 18 classrooms each, totalling 36 classrooms, two offices, 2 staff rooms and 2 Computer rooms (e-Library) fully furnished and well equipped with modern facilities. In addition, the School has sporting facilities, water supply and good access roads to enhance total learning for the



pupils and students.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya described the commissioning of the school, on the day of the 2022 edition of democracy day celebration as part of the dividends of democracy to the people and his determination to bring vitality to the educational life of Gombe State.

It will be recalled that the foundation of the school was laid on 12th June 2021 and it was commissioned in exactly a year to commemorate the 3rd year of his administration. This significantly paints Governor Inuwa's administration as a promise keeping one.

Before Governor Inuwa Yahaya came into office, Gombe State was confronted with the problems of high number of out of school children, dilapidated structures and facilities in primary and secondary schools.

Hence, his administration wasted no time in declaring a state of emergency in the education sector which has since led to the total overhauling of the system.

In one of his speeches, he said "If we don't put our children in school and we continue to say children are the leaders of tomorrow, then what kind of leaders are we going to give to the future? If it takes emergency approach to bring them back to school, then know that we MUST get them back to school by all means possible". If this is not what leadership with compassion entails, then I wonder how else to reflect leadership.

From inception of the present administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in 2019 to date, significant achievements have been made in the Education sector of the state.

The administration's priority is the holistic approach in the development of Education following the declaration of State of Emergency in the sector which has today resulted into remarkable Turn-

around of the inherited deplorable and decayed condition of public schools.

After careful study of the situation on ground in the sector, Governor Inuwa embarked on massive constructions and renovation in addition to provision of instructional facilities in all the public schools across the state.

These projects include, but not limited to the following: Establishment of Teachers Resource Centre; Establishment of 45 new schools at Basic level, Renovation of 857 classrooms in 484 schools. Construction of 160 units of storey buildings of 8 classrooms. Construction of 446 units of storey buildings of 4 classrooms, Provision of 30,166 of 2 seater student's furniture, Employment of 1000 Teachers under the FTS programme, Supply of instructional materials to 247 schools, Supply of sports materials to 163 schools, Provision of Agricultural facilities to 95 schools, Provision of VIP toilet facilities in 135 schools, Provision of motorized boreholes in 159 schools, Distribution of staff furniture, Distribution of over 50 motorcycles, Training of Education Secretaries, JSS principals/teachers and Approval granted to Teachers Service Commission (TSC) for recruitment of 1000 teachers and 288 LGEA Graduate teachers upgrading.

The administration also ensures constant payment of External Examination fees such as WAEC, NABTEB, NBAIS and Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) in addition to MOCK examination conducted every year.

Governor Yahaya's administration is currently constructing 5 Mega Senior Secondary Schools as well as improving the standard of other Junior Model Schools in the State.

Inuwa sees the development of education as a potent tool in national development.

He believes that if each state of Nigeria pays urgent and dedicated attention to educational development, Nigeria will develop at a faster rate than it is presently doing.

The academic ambience of the schools in Gombe State is a complete departure from what it used to be and Inuwa Yahaya says there is still more to come.

Looking at the overall performance of Gombe State in the last three years, education has indeed enjoyed a phenomenal attention.

There is now a remarkable progress in the general performance of the final year students in public schools across the state.

The most recent one is as captured in the summary of results analysis on candidates in respect of Gombe State Public Schools who sat for 2021 WAEC in which a total of 15,277 candidates in the State sat for SSCE Examination out of which 11,986 candidates, which translates to 79.5% of those who sat for the Exam qualified to gain admission into tertiary institutions.

A comparative analysis of WASSCE results from 2015 to 2021 indicates tremendous improvement in performance of candidates. The percentage rises from 12.7% in 2015 to 79.5% in 2021.

The recent outstanding performance of students in the Examinations is not unconnected with the state of emergency declared by the purposeful Governor and his total commitment and effort towards turning around the education sector for good.

A glance at the Third-year Scorecard and Progress Report of the present administration indicates that the Governor has recorded over 90% overall achievement in fulfilling the promises he made to the people of Gombe State.



Hon. Ochor, commissioning Obiaruku Sickle Cell clinic

Ochor, Wife Commend Dame Okowa As 05 Initiatives Inaugurates Sickle Cell Clinic In Ukwuani LGA

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The wife of the Delta State Governor, Dame Edith Okowa has been commended for her efforts to fight and stop the spread of new Sickle Cell cases in the state, through her 05 Initiatives as the organisation inaugurates its Obiaruku Sickle Cell Clinic.

The commendations came from the member representing the Ukwuani State Constituency, and Deputy Speaker of the State House of Assembly Rt. Hon Ochor Ochor and his wife, Mrs Anna Ochor on Monday June 20, 2022, in Obiaruku.

The two spoke on the sidelines of the inauguration exercise, amidst celebration with those with Sickle Cell disorder, who are referred to as warriors.

The duo thanked the wife of the governor and

founder 05 initiative for the establishment of the clinic, which they said, will ameliorate the hardship they face in accessing good healthcare.

The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Ochor Ochor, while commending the first lady, said that the newly commissioned Obiaruku Sickle Cell clinic by the wife of the State Governor, is a mark of fulfilment.

He said that Ukwuani belongs to the council areas where the Sickle Cell clinics have been established, as survival warriors of sickle cell traits would no longer be going through the stress of traveling to Warri or Asaba to get treatment.

On her part, Anna Ochor said the inauguration ended in praise as survivors will now access the treatment close to their homes, while encouraging parents and guardians to

ensure children, family members and friends know about the clinic in the area.

"We call on health workers, caregivers and stakeholders to continuously carry out sensitization programmes to educate the public and encourage sickle cell warriors to stay healthy and live normal lives". She said.

Speaking further, she said citing and equipping the hospital has brought light and hope to the people as it was formerly a children's hospital, abandoned for 22 years.

The couple praised the founder of the 05' initiative, saying commissioning of the Obiaruku Sickle Cell clinic, and her commitment to leaving a legacy that will endure for all time, has to be encouraged by all.

Earlier, the wife of the governor and founder,

Dame Edith Okowa said the 05 initiatives is passionately committed to putting a stop to new births with Sickle Cells cases, hence the message, "know your genotype and compatible level".

She said the theme for the 2022 World Sickle Cell Day, "Shinning the light on sickle cell" is apt as the surviving warriors need all the love, care and attention they can get.

Flanked by some women from Ndokwa Nation who were on ground to welcome her, the wife of the governor who had earlier commissioned the well equipped sickle cell clinic, said it is the 23rd of such being established in the state and thanked Ukwuani people for their unity, peaceful disposition and warm reception.

The event was later wrapped up with a photo shot and dance time by Dame Edith Okowa, Mrs Ann Ochor-Ochor and other women present.

Conflict, Drought, Threatens Lives Of 20 Million

Hunger is tightening its grip on more than 20 million Ethiopians who are facing conflict in the north, drought in the south and dwindling food and nutrition support beginning next month, the UN food relief agency warned on Thursday.

"The combination of conflict and drought have caused inflation to soar," the World Food Programme (WFP) added, noting that as of April, the Food Price Index in Ethiopia was up by 43 per cent compared to the same month last year.

Meanwhile, the prices for vegetable oil and cereals are up by over 89 per cent and 37 per cent year-on-year.

War and hunger

According to WFP, 19 months of war have left more than 13 million people in the north requiring humanitarian food assistance, mainly in conflict-affected zones in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.

Over the past two months, since the Government announced a humanitarian truce, food and humanitarian supplies have been flowing into the Tigray region.

And while WFP has delivered over 100,000 tonnes of food since 1 April – enough to feed 5.9 million people for a month – fuel deliveries have not kept pace.

Less than half of the two million litres of fuel needed has entered the region in recent weeks.

WFP has finally been able to meet the food needs of over 800,000 people in Tigray and has just completed its most recent deliveries of emergency food rations to 1.3 million people in Afar and Amhara.

In Tigray, over 20 per cent of under-age-five children, and half of pregnant and breastfeeding women, are malnourished, according to WFP.

Meanwhile, 32 per cent of parents in Afar zone 4 – one of five administrative zones in the region – and 16 per cent in Amhara reported

that over the previous three months, malnutrition drove their children under five to health centre.

A recent WFP assessment of conflict-affected zones in both regions cited this as well.

And in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, an estimated 7.4 million people wake up hungry every day as the country grapples with the fourth failed consecutive rainy season.

Ukraine aggravates food crisis

At the same time, the ripple effect of the war in Ukraine is set to exacerbate Ethiopia's food security crisis.

With over three-quarters of WFP and government wheat – a country staple – coming from Ukraine or Russia, the precarious situation there is threatening to push its cost, as well as that of fertilizer, beyond the means of millions of Ethiopian farmers.

Humanitarian operations risk shutdown

Moreover, a severe WFP funding shortage has prompted the UN food relief agency to caution against of a looming malnutrition crisis.

Its financing to treat more than 1.4 million acutely malnourished women and children in Northern Ethiopia is fast running out.

So far, the severe lack of funding has enabled WFP operations to provide nutrition treatments to only 40 per cent of the mothers and children affected in northern Ethiopia between January and April. That means just 560,000 out of the targeted 1.4 million. See also Stop Bringing Nigerians To Our Country, United Arab Emirates Tells Foreign Airlines

And the gap has forced ration cuts for more than 700,000 refugees there, who now receive a mere 50 per cent of their minimum nutritional requirements.

WFP is aiming to reach more than 11 million of the most vulnerable over the next six months but is grappling with a staggering \$470 million funding gap.



A displaced family living in a settlement in the Asgede district of Tigray receive WFP food assistance.

Who Wins Osun Governorship Election?

By: **ABIODUN KOMOLAFE**

In 2018, I wrote a piece on the then governorship candidates of the leading political parties in Osun State. In the article, entitled 'Osun: Picturing into the future' (ref: The Nation, September 18, 2018), I tried to showcase each candidate's quality as well as what his candidature meant for the peace and progress of the 'State of the Virtuous.' The election took place on September 22, 2018.

Evidently, a lot has happened within the last four years: one of the candidates eventually became the state governor and he is almost completing his first term in office while another has gone to 'acquire' a university degree somewhere. Some have gone a-shopping for greener pastures elsewhere while others have simply returned to the mundane routine things of life – politics of the belly! In all, while some hold the notion that politics globally is a by-product of permanent interests, not permanent friends, to others, vying for governorship office in this part of the world is akin to a ceremonial ritual. Whichever option, life continues! .

As another round of governorship election draws nearer, a section of Nigerians is already of the view that, since Governor Gboyega Oyetola has been at the helm of affairs in the state, his governance profile makes him a sellable candidate; that, mutatis mutandis, the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate has the experience of four years as the state governor; plus eight years as Chief of Staff under the immediate past government.

To them, if anything, the next four years could only offer him an opportunity to improve on the extant enviable delivery records of the goods of democracy, because it won't be his lot to start learning the ropes again.

Frankly, it is easier for somebody to propose that he'll pay salary arrears, if elected as governor. It is however a different ballgame when he is confronted with, say, the state's monthly Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), placed, side-by-side, the overheads of one or two ministries.

These are some of the things to be considered by the electorate before they mortgage their votes, because it will take another four harrowing years before it can be changed.

Also on the ballot is Ademola Adeleke of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Words on the street refer to him as a compulsive giver. But, to the larger majority, the administration of a state is beyond being a nice man. Having won his party's renomination, the 'Dancing Senator' was recently quoted as boasting that he would be going into the election to spend 'not only Naira, but dollars, pounds and euro'; and that, "this time around", it would be "fire-for-fire."

Well, while the unwritten implications of Adeleke's outburst are frighteningly nauseating, what remains unclear is what he is hoping to reap when he gives those hard currencies. More than that, Nigerians are interested in knowing what the candidate is investing in, sources of the funds and the rate of returns.

They are also wondering who subsequently owns the state treasury; and



Gov Dapo Abiodun

with what will the state be run? In a word, Adeleke's statement suggests that politics and elections in Osun State are run by money; that victories in elections are secured with big bucks; and that the prize goes to the highest bidder.

Next is Akin Ogunbiyi of the Accord Party (AP). A businessman and an Insurance magnate, the 59-year-old Agricultural Economist-turned-politician is the Group Chairman of Mutual Benefits Assurance Plc., which commenced operation in 1995. Among other things, Ogunbiyi has promised to "ensure full industrialization" of the State, if elected as governor.

Again, it is not in doubt that the AP candidate will be going into the contest with a rich experience. He also has the international clout, which is an added advantage to governance matters any day. Nevertheless, the touching truth is that governance goes beyond fantasizing. For example, to industrialize a state like Osun, the people must buy into the vision, which feelers from the State reveal he hasn't done much about. Will it not be suicidal if, at the expiration of, say, 3 months in office, there are no tangible things to show to the electorate as the industrialization of the State?

On good authority, the Labour Party (LP) candidate, Yusuf Lasun is an acknowledged mobilizer who understands the essentials of street politics. Jokes apart, the Ilobu, Osun State-born politician and the immediate

past Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives is one of Nigeria's nouveaux riches with the resources to actualize the dream of a governorship status. Even so, the stain on his ambition is a function of the solidness of his influence. Needless therefore to repeat that Lasun is living in old glory! He is banking on his past popularity profile. Yes, he was asked to negotiate his way out in the 2018 Osun APC governorship primary election; but the former Federal lawmaker insisted on going for the exercise. At the end of the day, it only revealed his popularity a dismal fourth or so on the ballot tray. Now that he is contesting again, he will need to work hard to swing any surprise.

Goke Omigbodun of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) is an architect and a priest of the Anglican hue which, as God would have it, is also my denomination. In fairness to posterity, the former chairman of the Osun State Property Development Corporation has a nice pedigree and appears a gentleman. He is brilliant and a church person. But, much as these qualities may help tame some of the known excesses of the average politician, managing a state as complex as Osun is not something that can be achieved from a wishful thinking. It goes beyond merely enriching one's personal career profile.

Without being a prisoner to sentiments, Omigbodun is well-known in Osogbo, the state capital. But then, that there is not

much about his legacy in the public domain is a statement of fact. Whether he will also perform in office or not is presently unknowable, empirically.

In the merits of the above, one can only wish the gladiators in the forthcoming election, slated for July 16, 2022, the best of luck. It is hoped that they would shy away from acts that are inimical to the creeds of democracy and good governance

On the whole, the central rule of democracy is the voter turnout, neither the wads of cash nor wattages of lies with which covetous politicians are always tempted. Besides, leadership structure in civilized democracies is pre-planned: you cannot just go and pick an imbecile from the street and ask him to lead a country or state. Yes, such a 'candidate' may be popular and ... have deep pockets. He may well extemporaneously speak and arouse the mass of the people easily. To the uninformed, those are sufficient qualities of leadership. However, they would have forgotten that diplomats would one day decide to pay courtesy visits to the national or state government. Regrettably therefore, it is the classlessness of the society in this part of the world that has damaged the reputation of leadership. It is the reason the system has found it difficult to breathe. The unrivalled artificiality and unmistakable lack of creative vitality among the handlers of Nigeria's affairs are the reasons we are like children who squandered hope. The truth of the matter is that only God can save us from our pretentious ways!

May the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant the governorship flag-bearers the wisdom to uphold the 'Omoluabi' ethos for which Osun State is renowned!

The very fabrics of Governor Inuwa Yahaya's several reforms in the education sector are embedded in Brad Henry's quote (A one-time Governor of Oklahoma, USA) that "No other investment yields as great a return as the investment in education. An educated workforce is the foundation of every community and the future of every economy." With these efforts towards revamping the sector, there is no doubt that we have in Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, a good investor who is concerned about the foundation of every community in Gombe as well as the future of the economy of the state.

Misilli is the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe

Frankly, it is easier for somebody to propose that he'll pay salary arrears, if elected as governor. It is however a different ballgame when he is confronted with, say, the state's monthly Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), placed, side-by-side, the overheads of one or two ministries.

Kazaure Monarch Raises Alarm Over Fallen Standards Of Education In North

By; DAHIRU SULEIMAN, Dutse

Disturbed by the estimated over 60 per cent of 13 million out of school children from the North, the Emir of Kazaure in Jigawa State, Dr. Najib Hussein Adamu has called for concerted efforts amongst government, stakeholders and donors to arrest the situation.

"Honestly, the figure of 60 per cent of 13 million population of out of school children's, and that

7.93 of such ratio are girls, is horrible, and disturbing" he said.

Speaking while receiving members of Jigawa Education Partners on a courtesy visit to his palace in Kazaure, he further explained that the present state of education in Northern Nigeria is the result of out of school children, resulting to poverty, insecurity, and other societal problems in the region and the country. "People are hesitant to taking their children to

school because our education system is in a state of coma," he said.

The Emir contended that, "over 95 per cent of teachers are not qualified to teach, our learning environment is in shambles, and majority of our schools lack teaching aids."

He urged government, stakeholders and donors to intensify efforts in addressing the problems. Earlier the Chairman of Jigawa Education Partners, Malam Tasi'u

Abubakar said despite the billions of Naira budgeted for education and the free Girl-Child Education Policy in Jigawa State, there are certain socio-cultural barrier's hindering girls enrollment in Jigawa State.

In a related development, a Kazaure based cleric, Ustaz Shehu Kazaure has identified poverty and illiteracy among rural parents as contributing factors retarding the development of education especially that of the girl-child.

Foreign Bandits Attacking Oke Ogun Farmers, - Former LG Chairman Raises Alarm

**Says 30 people attacked last Saturday*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Former Chairman of Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State, Alhaji Saheed Alaran on Wednesday, raised alarm of the incessant attack on Oke-Ogun citizens, especially the farmers in the area by persons suspected to be foreign herders.

Alhaji Alaran while raising the alarm, said that no fewer than 30 members of a group, 'Yoruba Ronu' were on Saturday attacked by the suspected foreign herders at Alaga, Itesiwaju Local Government Area, while on their way to Atisbo Local Government Area for awareness on the situation farmers and their families have found themselves as they could no longer access their farms as a result of attacks by cattle herders.

According to the former Iseyin Local Government Area chairman, there is an urgent need for the federal government and Oyo State Governor and the security agencies to stem the tide of attack on Oke-Ogun citizens by responding to the call for a stoppage on attacks on the people by the herders.

"This recent attack where thirty members of this group were critically injured to the point that people are still fearing that they might die calls for a serious attention from the Nigerian President and

Governor Seyi Makinde", he said.

Alhaji Alaran added, "people have talked so much about the fact that these herders have invited their people from foreign countries and their number is today very alarming that they outnumber our people in many communities in Oke-Ogun".

"These people are still in critical conditions, we are not happy about this and we will not fold our hands while our people are daily killed and maimed by these bandits."

Alhaji Alaran maintained that the time has come for the government at the federal and State levels to take the security of lives and properties of Oke-Ogun very important.

"There have been calls by concerned individuals like traditional rulers and the Chairman, Western Nigerian Security Network (WNSN), code named Amotekun in Oyo State, General Kunle Togun, that the forests in the Oke-Ogun region have been surrounded by foreign Fulani bandits and there have been several successful efforts to dislodge the bandits in the last two years".

The former Chairman of Iseyin Local Government Area, appreciated the Amotekun personnel that immediately went to the point of attack at Alaga to rescue the members of the group for their gallant action.

Igboho: Court Of Appeal Adjourns Judgment On FG's N20.5bn Damages Awarded By Oyo High Court

**Bars journalists from entering court*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

There was mild drama at the resumed hearing of the appeal filed by the Federal Government against an Oyo State High Court judgement awarding N20.5 billion damages to Sunday Adeyemo Igboho.

Already, the Court of Appeal has adjourned for judgement on the appeal at a date to be communicated to the counsel

The drama reared its head when DSS operatives together with the private security men at the court locked

journalists out of the Court premises.

All efforts by the journalists at making the security operatives see the reasons for them to be allowed into the court premises failed as the security operatives were claiming to be acting on the order from above.

However, the situation took another dimension when loyalists of the Yoruba Rights activist, stormed the main entrance into the court with a vow not to allow anyone into the premises until they were allowed in.

Having waited for over an hour, the supporters

and loyalists of Sunday Adeyemo Igboho resolved into chanting anti Federal Government songs as well as preventing movement of vehicles on the road leading to the court.

The loyalists were for over an hour, chanting "What do we want, Igboho freedom". "Do not kill Sunday Igboho. Do not kill Sunday Adeyemo, do not kill Sunday Adeyemo the way you killed Abiola." "Yoruba nation, no going back", "Sunday Igboho is coming back to Nigeria"

After about 30 minutes break, the protesting

Igboho supporters were seen chanting "How many people DSS go kill ooo, how many people DSS go kill, then go kill us tire, then go kill us tire, how many people DSS go kill. Yoruba nation, no going back".

After the court proceedings which lasted for about three hours, the lead Counsel to Chief Sunday Adeyemo, Chief Yomi Alliyu (SAN) while speaking with journalists, said after the briefings by counsel in the case, the court has adjourned judgement on the matter and that it would communicate the date to the counsel.

Group Rejects August End Voters Registration Deadline

By; VICTORIA ELEOJO FRANCIS, Kaduna

The leadership of unified Nigerian Youth forum (UNYF), has rejected the extension of the Continuous Voters Registration and validation for additional 60 days.

Expectedly, the UNYF opined that the Continuous Voters Registration and validation should go the way of international standards and best practices by stopping the registration a week or few days to general elections.

Abdulsalam Moh'd Kazeem, President, Unified Nigerian Youth Forum, in a statement said, "As one of the developing Nations, expectedly we should go the way of international standards and best practices, there's nothing wrong for the registration to stop a week or few days to general elections, but we are aware that we are not ready for such due to some certain factors associated with electoral

processes in our nation, the budgetary allocation of INEC is enough reasons for all stakeholders to demand for the best in the above regards."

The statement explained that if the registration should stop on August 29 as proposed by the Independent National Electoral Commission, over 7.7 millions of their members who would attain the age of 18 by September 3rd and September 25th 2022 will be automatically disenfranchised due to INEC proposed new deadline.

The youths noted that going by the independent National electoral commission (INEC) proposal, the registration would stop by August ending, saying that to them, it shows that many eligible Nigerians will be deplorably disenfranchised and their members inclusive.

It observed that it is unconstitutional, shameful, unacceptable, illegal and outdated for INEC to proposed closing

her portal five (5) months to the general elections in this 21st century, where technology is the new order of the day.

It stated that the Independent National electoral commission attempt closing the Continuous Voters Registration and Validation exercise by August ending calls for serious concern, stressing that the amount allotted for elections periodically and the support they enjoyed has further expose the commission lack of determination to give our nation the best, for instance, over 150 billions is budgeted for 2023 general elections.

The statement said exercise is part of the budget approved for INEC, suggesting that the commission should rather urgently embarked on the expansion of its voters Registration and validation infrastructure to serve the teeming numbers of Nigerians who are patriotic and willing to exercise their civil duties in 2023 than trying to deplorably disenfranchised them by man made

factors.

"We as a Forum sincerely hope that independent National electoral commission (INEC) would reconsider extending the Voters Registration and Validation exercise to cover significant numbers of those who are willing but unable to get their PVC'S till date, due to long queues, corrupt process, lack of availability of enough centres, favourism and late report to duty post by most INEC officials saddles with the tasks," the statement explained.

The statement added, "History will be fair to only those who stand by the majority, we salute the courage of the Zamfara State Governor for declaring a work free week in this regards and the leadership of the House of representatives who seek for extension of the said exercise for 60 days and was approved today. We equally condemned in totality the silent of all those who refuses to speak; because they felt the era of ghost voters will affect their victory as usual."

2023: Peter Obi's Euphoria, Flash In Pan, Will Disappear - APC Chieftain, Olaosebikan

*Says Nigerian youth will vote massively for Tinubu

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Founder of an Oyo State based youth group, Ojo Ola Oyo, Alhaji Kehinde Olaosebikan on Thursday, declared that the social media generated euphoria surrounding the ambition of the Presidential candidate of Labour Party Mr. Peter Obi will disappear in no time.

The APC Chieftain stated this in Ibadan while speaking with journalists on the sidelines of the extraordinary meeting of the group held at Mount Pleasant Hotel, Podo.

According to the Founder of Ojo Ola Oyo, such flashes were not new to the political, social and economic environments of Nigeria and that they usually disappeared as they came, "because they were never based on anything concrete but on mere fantasy, illusion and grandstanding".

"This is not the first time we are witnessing such fleeting euphoria.

We had seen pastor politicians who gained temporary traction because of declaration that God asked them to contest for president; in business", he said.

Alhaji Olaosebikan added, "we had seen flashes in form of finance houses promising incredible



Peter Obi

interests; in real estate, we had seen flashes of mortgage firms making impossible offers during the time of 'everybody come inside'; in medicine, we had witnessed passing euphoria too, where marketers promoted a drug for the cure of all ailments that eventually cured nothing; all hurtled because they were based on fantasies".

On his now popular projection that Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu would be the next President of Nigeria considering the seeming popularity of Peter Obi, Alhaji Olaosebikan said from his experience with the Nigerian youths they would rather act now based on realities and proven records of achievements having suffered so much in the hands of politicians who had promised them heaven

on earth but eventually made life more hellish for them

"From my experience with the youths today including those you are seeing here now, they can be said to be wiser now and more realistic. They are not ready to take promises. They want to see what you have done concretely in the past and assess you mainly on such accomplishments and feats.

"So, I can tell you they are ready and more inclined to voting for the candidate that is known to have 'developed boys to men' as the former governor of Akwa Ibom State, Chief Godswill Akpabio described the Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Party, APC, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu; the candidate that has developed and mentored both young and



Alhaji Kehinde Olaosebikan at the meeting

old Nigerians to become governors, ministers, vice presidents and president.

Speaking further, he stressed, "a leader and candidate that has brought prosperity to his state by raising IGR from less than a billion Naira to N15b within 8 years; a candidate that has brought marked growth and stability to the political and social being of his state, making Lagos the model for development in all aspects in Nigeria today. This is someone the youth can look up to, in whom they see hope and greater Nigeria ahead."

Alhaji Olaosebikan pointed out that the candidate of the All Progressives Congress, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu has demonstrated to be the best so far amongst all the former governors and leaders in Nigeria, particularly those

contesting the presidential race with him in all aspects of life, adding, "Asiwaju Bola Tinubu has established himself as the most functional politician, leader, administrator, nation builder in the country today."

"For me, Nigerians, both youths and the old, we should be practical in the choice of our next president and consider capacity, competence, experience and antecedents and not any primordial sentiments or promises based on misapprehension."

The APC Chieftain then tasked the youths to use the cyber space more positively for their businesses and towards the growth and unity of Nigeria as well as for the promotion of the person with the best track records of making life better for the masses of this country.

In his welcome address, the President of Ojo Ola Oyo, Mr. Wale Adesope pledged the total commitment of the group to the APC presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu disclosing that it would when campaign proper starts, embark on "house to house, cell to cell, media to media, platform to form" campaign to fully mobilize the youths for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, because, "We are very sure that he will do well for the youths as the President of our dear country", said Adesope.

He was full of praise for the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Chief Sunday Dare for the numerous life changing innovative programs being implemented by the ministry adding that the National Youth Investment Fund (NYIF) was the best thing to have happened to Nigerian youth in terms of real empowerment economically, socially and politically.

Mr Adesope urged the beneficiaries of the loan scheme being given to youths between the ages of 18 and 35 to make good use of the fund for the improvement of their lives and the society as a whole.

Medical Outreach: Lagos Govt Launches Floating Clinic Boat

By: **MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos**

Lagos State Government has launched a Floating Clinic Boat,

Fiber Glass, Mono Hull Boat 200HP x 2 capacity, for inland waterways medical emergency and riverine communities medical outreach services.

The initiative is part of efforts to increase access to prompt, qualitative and efficient healthcare services on the waterways and riverine communities across Lagos.

Director of Public Affairs in the state's Ministry of Health, Tunbosun Ogunbanwo, said this on Wednesday.

"The Floating Clinic Boat; a brain child of the Lagos State Ministry of Health and the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) is equipped with four medical observation beds, medium sterilization unit, o2 bottle, gauge, infusion stand, foldable stretcher and fully kitted first aid box, Ogunbanwo said.

According to him, the clinic boat is compartmentalized into four sections including the Wheel house (for captain and crew), observation room (for patients),

Doctor's office and Nurses station and reception.

The floating boat clinic, he pointed out, has marine safety equipment including life jackets, fire bucket, life buoy, life rat fire extinguisher and navigational lights, as well as navigational equipment like garmin ecomap, compass, VHF radio accessories and siren.

Speaking at the unveiling and inspection of the boat clinic, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye explained that the idea behind the Floating Clinic was to help provide first aid, medical emergency care and basic healthcare services at accident scenes on the inland waterways and riverine communities in Lagos State.

He said: "The Floating Clinic is mainly to deal with emergencies on the waterways and provide outreach services to riverine communities. This is part of the initiative by the Ministry of Health to ensure that we extend our medical and ambulance service to the waterways, remote riverine communities and areas that can only be accessed by water. This is also an example of partnership

between different agencies of government; the boat actually belongs to LASWA but will be operated by the Ministry of Health"

Ogboye disclosed that the Floating Clinic will be deployed for the ongoing integrated measles and COVID vaccination campaign in riverine communities and water ways across Lagos State adding that it is part of a plan initiated by the present administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to ensure that emergency services in Lagos are ramped up to the point where response time are reduced.

In his words: "This is a strong partnership between LASWA and the Ministry of Health. LASWA has provided the boat, the crew and gas to run the boat, and the Ministry of Health will provide the human resources and medical consumables for health care provision. It is part of a plan that has is initiated by Mr. Governor to ensure that emergency services in Lagos are ramped up and we can respond very quickly to emergencies.

"This is the beginning of the initiative. There is definitely an intention to expand, scale up and integrate our ambulance services; our ambulance boats, mobile intensive care units and transport ambulances. It is something that

we have planned that is certainly why we are starting with one boat and we are going to expand. It is a sustainable idea, we already run ambulance services, we are only expanding to include the waterways and we have the human resources to run it".

The Permanent Secretary noted that there will be a minimum of two medical personnel on board the Floating Clinic at any one time who will run shifts adding that citizens in riverine communities can have access to the Floating clinic by dialing the Lagos State Emergency numbers.

"Once you contact the emergency numbers the clinic will be deployed. LASWA can also deploy the clinic during emergency response on the water ways. If there is a call about an emergency on the waterways, remote and riverine areas, the emergency process will be activated", he said.

Speaking in the same vein, the General Manager, LASWA, Mr. Damilola Emmanuel noted that the initiative will further add to the integrated emergency and rescue system being put in place by LASWA to ensure safety of commuters and wellbeing of citizens of riverine communities.

E4A-MamaYe Partners KADMAM To Accelerate Reduction of Maternal Mortality In Kaduna

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

As part of efforts to reduce maternal mortality in Kaduna State, Evidence for Action (E4A) on Wednesday, unveiled a new intervention programme in Kaduna state known as "MamaYe".

The program being implemented by 'Options' a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) supported organization, aims to support accountability mechanism working around health sector in accelerating the reduction of maternal deaths in the state was unveiled during an inception meeting with Kaduna Maternal Accountability Mechanism (KADMAM). Elkana Aliyu, State Advisor, E4A, in his presentation, said the project is geared towards ensuring the best available health system data is used by the right people at the right time in the state. He added that the project will also facilitates establishment and collaboration with multi-stakeholder accountability mechanism and equally support accountability mechanisms to transform data into easy-to-understand information. The goal according to him is to achieve quality Reproductive, Maternal,

Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) services for women and children in the state and Nigeria at large and other parts of Africa through a sustained accountability model that delivers prioritized Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) and Family Planning (FP) policy and financing.

Mr. Elkana, said the purpose of the meeting is to communicate E4A's new investment approach, strategies, and anticipated outcomes to KADMAM and to also understand where KADMAM is in terms of its operations and sustainability of its interventions.

"E4A has strengthened accountability through a catalytic approach that supports advocates to forge stronger relationships with decision-makers, use and package evidence, and navigate political interests to enter and work within decision making spaces.

"This fosters active and inclusive participation of citizens in governance, with those most affected by poor public services influencing policy decisions. Where advocates are equipped with the right evidence at the right time, this contributes to increased resourcing for high-quality primary health care services, specifically maternal and newborn health (MNH) and family planning (FP).

"Our Impact and Learning Study, case studies and advocates' stories, show that the E4A's accountability model delivers vital improvements in RMNCH services. Under this reinvestment E4A will support coalitions to take on full ownership for this model, transitioning away from E4A's support and expanding their ability to adapt to changes in context." He noted.

He said through the MamaYe project, it is expected that a resilient State Level Accountability Mechanisms (SLAMs) actioning unique transition plans and advocating in support of priority issues (FP, MNCH, PHC) in

target geographies, will be built.

"Increased salience of gender-responsive approaches to RMNCH included in policy agendas and budgets of governments and health services in target geographies. E4A is a sustainable, African-led project, providing demand driven technical assistance to local partners.

"SLAMs access 'seed funding' through our flexible funding model, advocate peer support, and SLAMs transition plans. Training SLAMs to advocate for actions that are responsive to gender-based root causes of poor access and RMNCAH

service provision. SLAMs diversify their governance and membership structures and integration of gender transformative approaches in Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) tools."

Citizen Co-chair of KADMAM, Alhaji Mustapha Jumare, noted that the mechanism is fully ready and committed to work with the MamaYe project.

According to him, "we are quite privilege to have MamaYe engaged with us, we have noted some of our areas of weaknesses. We are so glad that it will strengthen the structural position of KADMAM in

the midst of coalitions generally.

"I believe that we will work hard to meet up with their own terms so that we reduce the maternal mortality in Kaduna state because the entire concept is trying to reduce the maternal mortality in the 23 LGAs in Kaduna state, off cause KADMAM have been working on that.

"And now that we have an organization that's here to support Kaduna state and is willing to work with KADMAM, we will ensure that membership of KADMAM works hard to see that maternal mortality is reduced in Kaduna state."



How Enugu Gas Fire Went Off Miraculously - Caritas Varsity

By; VICTOR DAZANG, Kaduna

Authorities of Caritas University in Amorji-Nike, Enugu State on Thursday, expressed delight over what is now referred to as a miraculous outage of the gas fire incidence that occurred within its premises between May 22 and June 14 this year.

The management of the university specifically expressed appreciation to God for his divine intervention in seeing off the rampaging fire that ranged for 21 days.

The fire incident defied all conventional and technical measures by government and non-state fire services for the period but went off on its own on the 14th of this month. The efforts were fully funded by the university.

The incident was caused by the activities of some contractors who were drilling a water borehole on the university premises.

Surprisingly, there was no single fatality throughout the period the fire raged.

About 24 companies and government

agencies got involved in the curtailing of the fire. They could not stop the fire.

Addressing a news conference, the university management led by its Pro-Chancellor, Dr Martin Anagbaoso, and the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof Michael Uchenna Orji said they were filled with joy that the fire eventually went off on its own.

"The light went off itself miraculously. On our own we know it's Jesus that did the miracle and made it possible for the light to go off," Orji said yesterday while conducting journalists round the site of the fire incidence.

The deputy vice chancellor appreciated the federal and state governments and other stakeholders for their prompt response to curtailing the fire.

He told reporters that the university will go on with the drilling of the water borehole in the school, but would employ more technical measures in doing so. "We still have the intention of going on with water exploration. In terms of getting water, we will go on but we will be guided

technically," Prof Orji stated.

He said the school incurred loses, including spending much money trying to curtail the fire. Asked how much was spent as part of efforts to get solution to the situation, Orji simply said "it's huge amount of money," saying that it cannot be immediately quantified.

Meanwhile, Oweri zonal coordinator of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Engr Enorens Amadasu has disclose that his commission is currently investigating the actual and remote cause of the gas fire and emission incident.

Engr Amadasu said the NURPC has deployed a manager to be in charge of the area with a mandate to ensure the well is properly secured. "We recognised that we needed to quickly put off the fire because of the challenges inherent in the incidence," Amdasu said while providing incite into the commission's effort to put out the fire.

Government had said it would carry out specific detailed study on the environment.

Engr Amadasu said NURPC will do various investigative studies in the area. He failed to say when the report of the proposed study would be completed. The zonal coordinator also ruled out the possibility of the suspected gas substance coming out from existential pipeline in the area. He said government would do general survey on gas deposit in the region.

Dr Anagboso who was there when the fire and gas emissions went off said there was no issue of death in the incident as was reported by some an online newspaper. He said the university quickly created an over zone round the fire point to ensure that the fire didn't extend to other facilities of the university.

Managing Director of Welltest Solutions Ltd, a technically advanced software products developer for the analysis of pressure transient tests in oil and gas wells said the place has been safely sealed and secured for human habitation.

In Defence of Democracy

By Issa Aremu

IN 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari, courageously redressed the historic injustice of the criminal annulment of June 12, 1993. The president again put it better (and I agree with him!) in the 2022 Democracy Day address he delivered penultimate Sunday that: “On June 12th 1993, Nigerians saw the best in our citizens as we all went out to vote peacefully. By June 24th 1993, we also saw the worst of our leadership as the elections were annulled”.

According to him; “We must never forget the sacrifices of the heroes of Nigeria's democracy during 1993. Their patriotism and peaceful struggle should guide our actions especially when it comes to electing our leaders and holding them accountable, now and in future”. He also rightly conferred posthumous honours on Chief MKO Abiola and others.

Next year marks the 23rd anniversary of uninterrupted democratic process defined here as a system of regular free and fair elections at federal, state and local government levels. That was after 30 years of brutal military dictatorships that included 3 years of civil war of mass deaths.

Nigerians in the last two decades have made the point that votes and votes-count are the desirable ways for ensuring good governance. Next year, Nigeria is set for the seventh presidential election cycle. There have been scores of states elections and bye-elections.

Of course there are hundreds of federal and state legislative elections and thousands of local government elections since 1999. I commend INEC which despite the imperfect political environment is improving on the electoral process to make elections increasingly credible. Nigeria as democracy destination

On Sunday, INEC's website polled 84,004,084 registered voters. That comes to 176,846 polling units! Eighteen registered political parties. In quantitative terms, Nigeria is the largest democracy destination in Africa! That 84 million registered voters, equals the population of Turkey. The point cannot be overstated: Nigeria has rich democratic heritage beyond the last two decades. Communal accountability openness and representation were the hallmarks of pre-colonial Nigeria. Democratic political parties and civilian leaders fought for Nigeria's independence. It was a federal



parliament that passed the first motion in 1962 that created the first state, Mid-West state (present Edo). Today is a continuation of the same democratic legacy.

In 2015 a sitting President Goodluck Jonathan lost the election. He commendably and graciously accepted the result thus facilitating historic smooth transition of power. He did not lead an insurrection against National Assembly as President Donald Trump attempted after losing election to the Democratic Party in 2020. Jonathan was a product of a doctrine of necessity and consensus-building following the death of the late President Musa Yar'Adua in 2009. Certainly, Nigeria has come of age in democratic renewal. It is self-evident therefore that constitutionalism and democracy had guaranteed political stability and predictability in governance than military rule which once led to avoidable civil war and underdevelopment of Nigeria.

Democracy; forward ever Nigeria and indeed Africa should never return to the dark days of military dictatorship with all its gross violations of workers', trade unions' and human rights. We are in interesting times of democracy renaissance in Africa. Ghana has commendably democratic elections in 1992 after long years of military dictatorship with good turnout of voters. Opposition party, NDC, won

2008 election just as APC won in Nigeria to defeat PDP in 2015. President John Atta Mills unfortunately died on July 24, 2012 just as we lost a sitting president, Umaru Yar'Adua. All these point to consolidation of democracy in Africa. Same with South Africa where, since liberation of Nelson Mandela from 27 years' imprisonment, six democratic free and fair elections had held.

No lessons from Mali

However, there are disturbing developments in West Africa. Mali in particular has become a new word for whimsical additive senseless coups. Today all civil societies, political parties in Africa must join ECOWAS to condemn the unhelpful military coups in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso. Military class in West Africa should follow the examples of Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa and subordinate themselves to elected civil authorities.

The military should NOT opportunistically “weaponise” the shortcomings of democracy to usurp power which belongs to the people in the first instance. ECOWAS should toughen the sanctions against military juntas and make sure they return to barracks. Africa needs more democracy to deepen democracy not military intervention.

MINILS and democracy

Why is the Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS) concerned

about democracy and democratic process? The point cannot be overstated: MINILS is an institutional democracy dividend. The late President Shehu Shagari who was democratically elected formally commissioned the foundation of MINILS on May 4, 1983. MINILS was conceived in the third National Development Plan (1975-1980). Next year, the institute is set for its 40th anniversary.

The mandate of MINILS is in itself democratic: to build the capacity of workers, employers and government officials in labour and industrial relations through participatory training, research, education and inter-institutional linkages. The goal is to promote labour management relations best practices and industrial harmony for sustainable democratic development.

Democracy implies dialogue and tri-partism is a prerequisite for dialogue in industrial relations. When the ILO was first set up in 1919, its founders decided that it should be tripartite because they were convinced that social justice in the field of labour could only be achieved with the involvement of the social partners at all stages. The ILO advocates dialogue and negotiation at all levels, and it therefore seeks to develop the capacities of representative organisations and protect such basic human rights as freedom of association, equality of opportunity and

treatment and freedom from forced or compulsory labour. This tripartite approach is also evident in the process of consultation between the representatives of governments, employers and workers leading to the adoption of international labour standards, which are central to the ILO's efforts to protect workers and combat poverty”.

One modest achievement in the last one year is formulation of first strategic four-year plan founded on the democratic values of openness, transparency, inclusivity, women and gender/ youth involvement. The institute is set to deepen the academic curriculum of our implant, regular programs to include social dialogue, social justice as well as civic education to ensure workplace democracy. So for MINILS, democracy is a total, NOT partial, commitment. The four National Minimum Wage Acts from 1981 to 2018 had taken place under democratic dispensations. Indeed, the military violently curtailed freedom of association, dissolved NECs of NLC in 1986/87 and 1994. Today, unions and civil societies operate unfettered under the rule of law.

It is against this backdrop that MINILS organised this sensitisation programme on the importance of PVCs in the electoral process with the paper by the INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner, Kwara State, Mal. Garba Attahiru Madami.

MINILS promises to partner with INEC to promote electoral literacy among organised labour, employers, government officials and citizens as a whole.

I join President Buhari to express optimism that 2023 elections will be free and fair judging by the democracy now at play in all the primaries of the political parties. I also join the president to demand that elections should be issue-based. I will like to suggest that all the parties should draw manifesto issues from chapter II of 1999 constitution dealing with fundamental principles and directive of states with respect to welfare and security of the citizens. Secondly, the new National Development Plan (2021- 2025) should inform the debates in the coming elections.

Comrade Aremu, mni, Director General Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies, Ilorin, Kwara State, delivered this paper at the Institute's sensitisation programme on “The importance of PVCs in the electoral process.”

Culled from National Record.

“In 2015 a sitting President Goodluck Jonathan lost the election. He commendably and graciously accepted the result thus facilitating historic smooth transition of power.”

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
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TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Heroes of a Blighted Nation

By Owei Lakemfa

FEMI Soyinka, Professor of Medicine may not be known much outside the medical field or outside the university system where he taught for thirty years. Certainly, he was known in the world of HIV/AIDS where he worked tirelessly to bring succour to the victims. He is of course far less known than his famous elder brother and Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka. But like his brother, he was a humanist and advocate of social justice.

Many of us who were in the University of Ife, UNIFE, now Obafemi Awolowo University in the 1980s knew Femi Soyinka quite well because he was a dependable ally of students and workers on campus who stood by the truth.

I recall an incident. On May 31, 1981, a 23-year old Part II History student, Bukola Arogundade, of Room 200, Awolowo Hall was abducted in Ile-Ife town and his head severed.

On June 7, 1981, the students populace decided to organise a procession to participate in his funeral. But the police led by Chief Superintendent of Police, Francis Osenweneiwe Ogbechie, who had ruled the procession illegal, laid ambush for the students at the intersection of the town and Ondo Road, near the Mayfair Hotel. They attacked the peaceful procession and in the process, four students, Miss Wemimo Akinbolu, Part III, Arts, Miss Fatimo Adebimpe, Part II, Education, Miss Dorcas Olubukola Ojewole, Part I, Arts, and Mr. Paul Adetunji Alonge, Associate Student, Education, were killed.

Government immediately announced that they did not die from the police attack, but through electrocution. It produced a Police Constable No 63591, Peter Ighotegha Ofrukama, who claimed that when his team got to the dead students, he touched the head of Miss Ojewole and received an "electric shock."

The student populace and the university community would not buy this, arguing that if the four students were electrocuted when they touched each other, why was Ofrukama who pursued the students and claimed to have also received the electric shock alive and well?

They felt the government would seek to work to the given answer; that the students were electrocuted.

The Police turned to Dr. William Olufemi Odesanmi, a pathologist in the university who also worked for the police, to perform post mortem on the four students. His verdict was electrocution. Professor Femi Soyinka, who was the University's Medical Director and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences decided

to bring all possible evidence to light. This was in accordance with the Vice Chancellor's appeal that the Government Tribunal of Inquiry into the deaths, should be assisted in all ways.

One of the steps he took was to get the Senior Mortuary Attendant, Mr. Lamidi Adediwura available to give evidence. But Dr. Odesanmi became panicky. He petitioned the Vice Chancellor alleging that Soyinka was trying to get the tribunal to obtain: "medical evidence from an illiterate attendant."

He claimed that Soyinka's action in sending the Mortuary Attendant to the Tribunal amounted to: "depriving a citizen of his right to liberty and right to earn a living." He said the action also amounted to a threat on his life adding that: "Prof Femi Soyinka, my Dean, will have a case to answer should anything happen to me."

But Soyinka was not deterred and insisted that all witnesses must be brought to the tribunal even if their evidence contradicted claims by other witnesses. Later, there were questions on the forensic report, but the clearly partisan Tribunal Chairman, Justice Salihu Moddibo Alfa Belgore rejected the appeal to recall Dr Odesanmi.

With the advent of HIV/AIDS, Soyinka turned to fighting the pandemic, mitigating its impact in the country, vigorously researching into it, fighting stigmatisation, participating in prevention of mother-to-child transmission and encouraging Voluntary Counselling and Testing, VCT. On Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at his residence in Kukumada Village, Ibadan, Prof Femi Soyinka left.

That same day he departed, a conscientious journalist, social mobiliser, gender activist and Head of Human Security and Civil Society at the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, Raheemat Momodu, attended a meeting. We had worked as journalists and championed a brand of journalism under a radical group, the New Trend Movement. She went on to become the Chairperson of the National Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ in Lagos State.

Then I moved to the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC to become a full time



Professor Femi Soyinka,

trade unionist and she moved to the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, FES, as it Gender Equity Programme Officer.

Both organisations moved to Abuja, but FES, a socially conscious German organisation did not then have an office in the city. So it was accommodated in the Labour House headquarters of the NLC. So we ended up working in the same premises and became closer.

She had a colleague, Juliana Anosike with whom she struck a close relationship, and I teased them as 'Siamese Twins.'

Then I moved on to become the Secretary General of African Workers which made me the workers' representative in the African Union, AU. In 2013, I was surprised to find Raheemat at the AU African Heads of State Summit in Addis Ababa. It was a happy reunion. She was at the AU as the ECOWAS Liaison Officer. Then I returned to Nigeria and she was also moved back to the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja.

I sent her messages promising to visit. Then this Tuesday, June 14, 2022 there were messages that she might have passed on. I called her 'twin' Ms Anosike who said they spoke the previous day but had slumped while attending a meeting and was brought

in to the hospital dead.

So, a country in dire need of heroes, lost two in one day. But Nigeria is blessed because we throw up heroes, sometimes from unexpected sources.

That was the case of Ejiro Otarigho a fuel tanker driver. He was driving his fuel-laden tanker in a crowded part of the East-West Road, Agbarho, Ughelli, Delta State when his assistant alerted him the truck was on fire.

He glanced back and saw "a scary ball of fire." The instinct of most would be to jump off a burning fuel tanker. But he was in a crowded area with residential houses and knew the flame would engulf the area burning people and property. He did the unthinkable. He asked his assistant to jump down while he drove the burning tanker for four kilometres out of the town towards the river.

He could not make it to the river, but when he got to an open space, he dived out before the entire vehicle became a huge fireball. Fortunately, he was unhurt. His selfless example, taught Nigerians that although our leaders cannot secure lives and property and many would try rationalise criminality in ethno-religious garbs, we will never lack heroes.

"That same day he departed, a conscientious journalist, social mobiliser, gender activist and Head of Human Security and Civil Society at the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, Raheemat Momodu, attended a meeting. We had worked as journalists and championed a brand of journalism under a radical group, the New Trend Movement. She went on to become the Chairperson of the National Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ in Lagos State."



Mrs. Ngozi Onwuegbu

Onwuegbu Relishes Birthday Golfing Expedition To Turkey's Titanic Golf Club

By ; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The lady Captain of Dolphin Golf Club, Navy Town Ojoo, Lagos, Mrs. Onwuegbu Bose Ngozi has relished her golfing experience tour to Türkiye which is reputable as a quality golfing destination with outstanding golf courses, hotels and facilities, where she had regular rounds of 18 holes play during her birthday.

Onwuegbu said the expedition to some top golf courses in Nairobi, Mauritius and Europe, especially Antalya in Turkey was part of her moves to promote the game called golf during her 2022 birthday where had opportunity to share the golf course of Titanic Golf Club with top professionals like Tiger Woods and all the international pros.

"Where I visited were key destinations for golf tourism, from teeing off on the Mediterranean coast to an inner-city swing of the short iron, and mingling with professional golfers

that share new skills with you during golfing break.

"Part of my intention is to gather and compile my experience from such exposure into replicating such here by creating good golf tourism destinations that other golfers from outside the country will be eager to visit for adventurous golfing excursions," she noted.

The zonal representative, South/West of the Nigeria Golf Federation (NGF) while relishing her experience during the tour also revealed that: "like faith, golf requires us to lose our old nature. We first must learn the proper grip. Our old nature tells us to grip the club tightly, so we have total control. But in golf, though, a tight grip keeps us from meeting the ball squarely and it sails off in a wayward direction".

"Human nature tells us the harder we swing, the farther the ball will fly. But this doesn't work in golf. Using our strength to muscle the ball will only advance it a short distance. Golf requires a light touch and an easy swing".

My Administration Committed To Grassroots Sports Development - Kaduna North LG Boss

**Holds clinic for football coaches*

By ; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Head of the Kaduna North Local Government Chairman Soccer Cup, a one-day seminar for coaches of participating clubs, held at the Asaa Pyramid Hotel on Tuesday June 21, 2022.

Declaring the workshop open, Executive Chairman, Kaduna North Local Government Area, Honourable Mukhtar Baloni said that his administration is committed to grassroots sports development.

He said Kaduna North LGA has its focus on

human capital development. "We have done it largely without corporate sponsorship.

"There are three parts to this competition, this is first, there will be the draws before the competition," he said.

According to him, each team participating will have two sets of jerseys.

"We want to use it to showcase talents in our LGA. There will be scouts to discover players both locally and hopefully internationally.

"We want to ensure at the end of the day, only the best teams will emerge victorious.

"We intend it to be a

biannual competition, so we can have it every six months. We hope when we get sponsors, we might increase the teams to 32 and hopefully start a league," he said.

Speaking further, he said that they hope to rehabilitate football facilities at LEAKawo and others.

Worried by lack of Kaduna State team at the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL), he said that they are working on getting other LGAs in the state but into sponsoring a team for the state at the national league.

On how they will recruit players for Kaduna United

FC, he said they will only go for the best.

"Once you attach sentiments, you might likely fail, so we hope to get the best players," he stressed.

He said the LG Council is not just focusing on football, but they are also planning to develop basketball, athletics, hockey and others.

"I welcome you to this training and I really hope it will lead to improved development of sports not just on the LGA, but the entire state," he said.

No fewer than 16 football coaches attended the workshop.

WAFU B U-17: Ugbade Hails Eaglets' Spirit Ahead Final Against Etalons

By ; AYO OJEDOKUN Lagos

Head Coach Nduka Ugbade has told his Nigeria U--17 boys they still have grounds to conquer despite securing a ticket to the Africa U--17 Cup of Nations taking place in Algeria next year.

"We are going into the final match, and we are up against Burkina Faso, a team that has won all its four matches in this competition. We have also won our three matches here but we must win the fourth and final one to clinch the trophy. Let us not allow Burkina Faso to play five matches and win all five matches. We must work assiduously to win all our four matches here to be the only undefeated team of the tournament," Ugbade told the Golden Eaglets at a training session in Cape Coast on Wednesday.

Ugbade and the Eaglets have drawn rave reviews so far at the WAFU B U--17 Championship, after scoring 10 goals in their three matches, while conceding only four, as left back Emmanuel Michael picked up the Man-of-the-Match award

in each of the three games.

While Nigeria did the business in a three-team Group A that also included hosts Ghana and Togo, Burkina Faso were in the four-team Group that included Niger Republic, Cote d'Ivoire and Benin Republic. The Young Etalons dominated them all, and then pipped three-time world champions Ghana 1-0 in the second semi final on Tuesday to set up a potentially explosive Final with the Golden Eaglets.

Deadball revelation Emmanuel Michael will be the cynosure of eyes at the Cape Coast Stadium on Friday evening, having scored thrice from free-kicks for Nigeria in this tournament. The match begins at 6.30pm Ghana



Emmanuel Michael with his MOTM award against Cote d'Ivoire after Tuesday's semi final.

time (7.30pm Nigeria time).

Nigeria and Burkina Faso are already qualified to the Africa U17 Championship which Algeria will host next year, and from which Africa's flagbearers to next year's FIFA U17 World Cup in Peru will emerge.

Victory on Friday evening will mean Nigeria have swept the stakes in youth football in the seven-nation WAFU B within one month, with the U20 Boys (Flying Eagles) having won the WAFU B U20 Championship in Niger Republic just last month.

Nigeria In Intensive Preparation Ahead 25th Africa Men Handball Championship

**Pitched alongside Tunisia, Cape Verde In Group C*

By ; AYO OJEDOKUN Lagos

The Nigeria Senior National Handball Male team, The Golden Arrows are presently undergoing intensive training camp in Abuja ahead of the 25th Africa Men Handball Championship.

The 25th edition of the African Men's Handball Championship, which will hold in Egypt from July 9 to 19, 2022, will also serve as the the African qualifying tournament for the 2023 World Men's Handball Championship in Poland and Sweden.

It was originally billed to hold in January 2022, but was postponed after the Confederation of Africa Handball (CAHB) received series of protests from some countries after the initial draw grouping.

To this end, the Handball Federation of Nigeria (HFN) invited 26 players made up of players of top teams in the Prudent Energy Handball Premier League and some foreign professionals who are sweating out in a close camping at the Agunyi Ironsi Cantonment in Abuja under the tutelage of Coach Solomon Yola who is holding fort for France based Coach Rafiu Salami.

Coach Solomon Yola said the players are

responding to training and will do everything humanly possible to ensure they represent Nigeria with flying colours at the championship.

"The boys have been putting in the hardwork in camp and hopefully when the gaffer Coach Rafiu arrives, it will get better.

One thing is for sure, we will ensure we do well in the Nations Cup because our goal is to qualify for the World

Championship" Coach Solomon Yola said.

Nigeria is drawn in Group C alongside Tunisia and Cape Verde. and will play their first match against Tunisia in their first match against on July 11 and Cape Verde on July 12.

Nigeria has participated in eleven editions of the Africa Men Handball Nations with their best outing recorded in the 1998 edition held in South Africa wherein they finished 4th after losing to Egypt 35-26.

PROVISIONAL LIST OF 25 PLAYERS FOR SENIOR NIGERIA NATIONAL CAMP:

(Gk)

1: Oladunoye Adamoulugbe (Police Machine), 2: Micheal Solomon Agbaji (3: Okwor Obinna (Confluence Stars), 4: Abbas Mohammed, (Niger United 5: Bature Sanni (Kano Pillars)

Nigeria Customs Crowned Kings, As 2022 Mark D Ball Men's Championship Ends In Abuja

By; AMOS MATHEW and MUIZAT SANI, Kaduna

Nigeria Customs were on Sunday night, crowned Champions of the 2022 Mark D Ball Men's Basketball Tournament, after inflicting a 61-55 defeat, on new Abuja franchise Mo Heat, in the final of the Elite 8 tournament, played at the Indoor Sports Hall, located in Package B, of the MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

D'Tigers player, Ibe Agu who captained Customs, contributed 17 points, two less than team mate, Michael Daramola, whose 19 points were matched by Mo Heat's top scorer, Bright Akhuetie, while Owen Michael could only manage 13 points, for the Mo Heat, who literally lost their way in the last

quarter.

Going into the finalé watched by a capacity crowd and graced by eminent personalities, including a representative of the minister of youth and Sports Development, Abba Yola, a former Senator representing Kogi West Senatorial district, Dino Melaye and Directors of Sports from the FCT, Plateau, Niger and Benue.

Mo Heats were unbeaten, and favourites to take the title, having already beaten the Customs side, in the build of to the final. The first quarter being nervous one, ended 15-15, with both teams fighting hard in the second quarter and even at the end of the 3rd quarter, it was still a tight game at 47 baskets, apiece.

Nigeria Customs started the last quarter with more zeal and purpose, pulled

away, and eventually were able to hold off a late challenge mounted by Mo Heats to win the final by 6 clear points.

Victory ensured that they emulated their ladies folks, who also won the women's tournament, played towards the end of 2021.

On the other hand, defeat for Mo Heat, was their very first and only defeat in the 32-team tournament.

Kanyinsola Odufuwa top scored with 25, while Wisdom Anyaoha had 17 dunks as Gombe Bulls won the 3rd Place game that preceded the final, by again beating Kano Pillars, 67-62 to take the bronze medal, and N1 million, as prize money.

The Bulls had also prevailed 63-57 against the Sai Masu Gida, when both sides met earlier, in the final 8; and their

undoing was over relying on veteran captain, Abubakar Usman, whose 14 points and 2 assists, fell short of unsettling the Bulls from Gombe, who triumphed despite not having their Head Coach, on the bench.

The Winners, Nigeria Customs got a N2 million cheque, as Prize Money, while the losing finalist, Mo Heat took home N1.5 million.

Meanwhile, Senator Dino Melaye donated N300,000 for the winners and N200,000 for the beaten finalists of Mark D Ball, rated the championships as "top notch", and the best basketball competition, in Sub Sahara Africa.

The other four teams that contested for honours in the final-8 are HotCoal Ballers of Abuja, FCT HardRockers, Kwara Falcons of Ilorin and Delta Force of Asaba.



Nigeria Customs Crowned Kings celebrating.

Mark D Ball: Igoche Thanks Stakeholders For Support

By ; AMOS MATHEW & PECULIAR JOHN, Kaduna

The Initiator, and Chief Executive Officer of Mark D Ball Basketball Championship, Mr. Igoche Mark has thanked all those who contributed in different ways towards

a hugely successful 10th edition of the championship and the first one to be held in Abuja, the nation's capital.

Mark, who personally issued the thank you message, in a statement he signed on behalf of the organisers of the 2022 Mark D Ball Basketball Championship, said the

success achieved in this year's championships which saw a total of twenty four (24) elite men's teams and sixteen (16) women's teams compete for honours, testifies to the irreversible fact that the new era of the nation's domestic basketball, as enunciated by his pet project, the new face of Nigeria's

Basketball is well underway and fully on course to achieving greatness.

Mark who is also a factional President of the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF), also reserved praise for the Ministry of Youth and Sports; Officials of the federation (NBBF), Referees, Technical

Officials, Club Owners, Security Operatives, Coaches, Players, and the Media for their unflinching, unwavering, and professional support throughout the period of the championships.

Mark ended the statement by pledging his absolute loyalty to all facets of the slam and dunk game, in Nigeria; with the promise

to invest more resources and time, with a view to engendering a rancour free NBBF, promoting unity amongst all stakeholders, sponsors and lovers of the Nigerian game, and doing more to give raw talents identified in the championships, and anywhere in the country, the lift they desire to attain stardom.

Kaduna 2022 Sports Festival: Commissioner Approves June 30 Deadline For LGAs Submission Of Reg Forms

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Commissioner of Sports Development Kaduna State, has handed down a June 30 Deadline for the submission of forms for participation from the 23 local government areas in the state, ahead of its 2022 Kada Sports Festival.

This is aimed at making the state prepare adequately ahead of the 2022 National Sports Festival (NSF), billed for Asaba, Delta State later in the year.

Sports Writers in Kaduna gathered this from a circular issued on Monday June 20, which reminded the LGAs.

The circular which emanated from the office of the Director of Sports (DoS), said the instruction was from the

commissioner.

"I write to inform all LGCs that the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Sports Development has approved 30th June, 2022 to be the final day for the submission of all Registration forms for the forthcoming Kaduna State Sports Festival 2022," it said.

It warned that the Ministry will consider any LGC that did not submit its entries on or before this date as not participating.

It further informed that the preliminaries for the sports festival will start early in July.

"The preliminaries will start on the 4th July, 2022 at all centres in all the team sports. Pls treat with despatch. Director of Sports Development, for Commissioner," the circular said.

Meanwhile, another document

sighted by Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Kaduna State Chapter, dated May 12, 2022, had hinted the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Local Government Affairs about the sports festival.

According to that document signed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sports Development, Mahmoud N. Yamusa, it was a reminder on the sports festival

"The Commissioner may kindly wish to be reminded that the 7th Edition of the Kaduna State 'Sports Festival will be Co-hosted between the 23 Local Government Councils and the Ministry of Sports Development at a Ratio of 60% -40% financing.

"You may further wish to note that only N24,674,243.44 out of N51,591,600.00 was received

leaving a balance of N26,917,356.56 outstanding. It is important to also note that preparation has started with a meeting with all the Directors of ESD yesterday," it said.

The document explained that the funds would be used for accommodation, feeding, medication, local transport and security.

It is also to serve in provision of basic sporting equipment to all teams, payment of officiating officials and purchase of prizes for winners as well as other deserving athletes.

The letter also informed local government councils that they will be responsible for the following:

- i) DTA for the LGA Staff that will accompany the Athletes
- ii) Players allowances at the discretion of each LGC

iii) Transportation of Athletes from various Local Government Areas to venue where preliminaries are to be played and to Kaduna and from venues of preliminaries and Kaduna back to their various Local Government areas after each program.

iv) Sports Dress and Equipment

v) Contingency"

The letter further said, "Commissioner requested to consider paying the outstanding and communicate to the Chairmen of the 23 LGAs, their responsibilities as in para 2 to enable us proceed with the programme

"In view of the above, I wish to further inform the Commissioner that, this arrangement is applicable to all Sporting programs that is to be co-hosted between the Ministry and the 23 Local Government Councils in the State."



WAFU B U17: Eaglets go for broke against Junior Elephants in semi final clash

Head Coach Nduka Ugbade has assured that Nigeria's Golden Eaglets will go all out against their Ivorian counterparts in Tuesday's first semi final match of the ongoing WAFU B U17 Championship in Cape Coast, Ghana. Both teams take to the pitch of the 15,000 –capacity facility at 3pm Ghana time (4pm Nigeria time) before the second semi final between hosts Ghana and Burkina Faso at the same venue.

"The match against Cote d'Ivoire is of high importance to us. In fact, I have reminded the players that this one is the biggest match of their lives. They must win to secure a ticket to the U17 Africa Cup of Nations, and from there to the U17 World Cup, and from there to several opportunities and possibilities.

"Whatever we have done here (beating Ghana and Togo) will not mean much if we don't go all out and grab our ticket to the AFCON and to the Final. We will throw everything into the fray."

The Eaglets, five-time world champions, decimated Ghana's Black Starlets 4-2 in the tournament opener and then eased past Togo's Young Sparrowhawks 3-1 to finish as Group A winners. The Ivorians finished as runners-up of Group B, dominated by Burkina Faso's Young Etalons.

Victory in Tuesday's encounter will send the Eaglets into the Final and with an opportunity to reclaim the WAFU B U17 title they won in Niamey, Niger Republic four years ago. It also provides the Nigerian youngsters a revenge platform against the Ivorians, who defeated them in the Final of the same competition in Lome early last year. Both Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire qualified for the Africa U17 Cup of Nations from that tournament but the event was cancelled as hosts Morocco developed cold feet with the covid-19 pandemic still biting in some countries.

Meanwhile, President of the Ghana Football Association, Simeon Kurt-Okraku on Sunday visited the camp of the Golden Eaglets in his capacity as President of WAFU B region. He reminded the lads that Nigeria belongs to the top echelon of football –playing nations on the African continent, and has produced so many world –class players. He charged the boys to always adhere to the instructions of their coaches in order to grow, advance and excel in the beautiful game.

International Friendly: Super Falcons To Face Japan's Senior Women Team In Kobe

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nine-time African champions and FIFA World Cup ever-present Nigeria will take on the Senior Women National Team of Japan in a prestige international friendly match at the Noevir Stadium, Kobe on Thursday, 6th October this year. The date falls within one of the FIFA Women International Windows for this year.

Nadeshiko Japan, which is the alias of the Women National Team of Japan, are rated 13th in the world, while the Super Falcons are 39th.

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Nadeshiko Japan, which is the alias of the Women National Team of Japan, are rated 13th in the world, while the Super Falcons are 39th.

Both teams have clashed only once at competitive level – at the 2004 Olympic Women's

Football Tournament. Nadeshiko pipped the Falcons 1-0 at the Karaiskakis Stadium in Piraeus on 14th August 2004.

Two back-to-back friendlies in 2013 were won 2-0 each by Nadeshiko.

Japan's entertaining girls won the FIFA World Cup in Germany in 2011, beating Team USA in a

pulsating penalty shootout after regulation time ended 2-2. Nadeshiko thus became the first team from Asia to win a senior FIFA World Cup trophy.

The Super Falcons are perennial champions of the African continent and have participated at every FIFA Women's World Cup since the competition began in 1991, reaching the quarter finals in 1999.

Deputy Governor Presents Awards To Winners Of Kaduna Innovation Challenge

By; **FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Monday, presented awards to the winners of the 2022 Kaduna Innovation Challenge.

The winners emerged from the STEM & Creativity Festival that held during the commemoration of Kaduna State at 55 on May 27, 2022.

Dr. Hadiza said, "I am pleased and delighted to present this awards to the winners at the recently concluded of creative festival as part of commemoration of the creation of Kaduna State 55 years ago."

She said, "today's presentation is significant. This is because Kaduna State innovations challenge was rigorous, experience filled.

"It was a two days event, as it stimulated the minds of everyone of you, so that you develop ideas that will derive problem solving using science technology

engineering and mathematics especially." She noted that about 500 students participated.

"Therefore, you are exposed to working in groups, to solve real world problems bothering on the sustainable development goals.

"Consequently, you are supposed to create solutions that will be implementable. You've gained experience from exposure in business, product design, mentoring and entrepreneur.

"However, we have awarded prizes to those of you that excelled, to those that participated also, I want to say a very big congratulations.

"It is not everybody that wins goals, but it is just a call and a plea for all students who participated to also step up their their game so that next time, they will also win some prizes.

"You should try as much as possible for those of you who have won, to better your game so that they don't beat you".

She said, Kaduna State is committed on talent and skills development.

"Because we know that it contributes to human capital development.

"This is the very reason why el-Rufai administration has continually initiated wide ranging reformed policies and programmes to meet the needs of our youth, especially looking at their skills.

"We are on road to making Kaduna State a knowledge state economy," she said.

Dr Hadiza congratulated the winners of the innovative challenge and prayed, "may your future continue to be brighter."

She said, "I particularly appreciate Kaduna ICT Hub and all partners that supported this initiative and Kaduna at 55.

"We need to put a system that will enable us deliberately identify and support young innovators and those with great endowments," she said.

The top three winners are of the challenge are;

1st Place: Al Mannar Academy

2nd Place: Essence International School

3rd Place: Kamlick Schools.



Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Monday, presented awards to the winners of the 2022 Kaduna Innovation Challenge, the winners emerged from the STEM & Creativity Festival that held during the commemoration of Kaduna State at 55.

Malaria: Over 5.4m Insecticide Treated Nets To Be Distributed In Kaduna

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

A total of 5,471,028 Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) will be distributed to all the households in Kaduna State simultaneously from July 17 to 18, 2022.

This was disclosed at a one-day media parley organised by the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Society for Family Health in Kaduna, with participants urged to create awareness on dangers of malaria.

At the parley held on Wednesday June 21, 2022, at Al-Ihsan Metro Hotel, Mogadishu, Kaduna, focus was mainly on the need to create awareness on the use of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs).

Delivering a paper, Mr. Daniel Gbue David said that the media should facilitate subsidized media placements for ITNs promotions, provide adequate media publicity before, during and after the campaigns

The media was also urged to continue promoting the use of ITNs after the



Participants at the one-day media parley organised by the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Society for Family Health in Kaduna

campaign as part of corporate social responsibility.

They were also urged to follow process through, to get interesting and educative human interest stories.

He said some of the concerns surrounding ITNs can be addressed through keeping their windows open for fresh air to reduce heat.

"Feeling of discomfort will reduce as you continue to use the net. Remember to use your net even if you sleep outside," he advised.