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Police Teargas Protesters Demanding CJN's Resignation

*Say Ariwoola will Compromise Judiciary

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

There was high tension and pandemonium in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) on Tuesday as Police tear gassed and dispersed hundreds of protesters staging a protest to demand resignation of the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Justice Tajudeen Ariwoola, over his alleged

partisanship comments recently made in Rivers State.

The protesters who brandied several placards and banners while marching towards the Federal Ministry of Justice complex to push for an impartial judiciary ahead of the 2023 general elections, however ran towards different

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ASUU Stages Protest, Demands Immediate Sack Of Adamu, Ngige, Keyamo

■ *Declares Tuesday lecture free day*



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Hajj 2023: IHR Lauds Saudi Ministry Over Early Preparations

By: JABIRU AHASSAN, Kano.

Independent Hajj Reporters (IHR), a civil society that reports and monitors Hajj operations in Nigeria, has commended the move by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to begin the preparation for the 2023 Hajj in December 2022.

This was contained in a statement signed by its national coordinator, Ibrahim Muhammed, adding that the Saudi Ministry of Hajj will hold a virtual meeting with Nigeria's National Hajj Commission on the 21st of December, while a similar meeting has been scheduled for the December 18, with the South African Hajj and Umrah Council to review the 2022 exercise and discuss the guidelines for 2023 Hajj.

IHR said it is commendable that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has begun reaching out to Hajj-participating countries early for an all-inclusive policy and guidelines for the forthcoming 2023 exercise.

"This will create a seamless synchronization of major procedures and allow hajj missions to troubleshoot its possible peculiar challenges that may inhibit commensurate service delivery to our dear pilgrims.

"So far, the Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah have visited Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Egypt where they hold talks ranging from hajj services and diplomatic relations with those countries.

"Notably was the minister's speech during his visit to Egypt on October 10 where he "expressed appreciation for the efforts and organizational measures taken annually by the Egyptian Ministry of Interior to arrange, prepare and supervise the Egyptian Hajj mission, as well as his aspiration to identify the obstacles that Egyptian pilgrims may face during the Hajj season and any proposals to overcome them," the statement said.

It described it as a welcome development that the Minister of Hajj is aware and ready to assist participating countries to overcome their peculiar challenges.

"While in Indonesia, Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah said that they discussed a partnership between the Kingdom and Indonesia in creating a better pilgrimage experience as part of the goals of Vision 2030 – meaning that the tour is about the services to hajj and Umrah pilgrims.

"However, IHR urges the Minister of Hajj to extend his visitation to Hajj Nigeria - being the fifth largest hajj contingent and the largest hajj quota in Africa. Such a visit will cement Nigeria and Saudi Arabia's relationships and also assist the Minister in familiarizing himself with Nigeria's local hajj structure," it added.

IHR said that early issuance of 2023 Hajj guidelines would assist missions from participating countries to marshal their operational plans towards a hitch-free exercise.



Tension In Abuja As Police Teargas Protesters Demand CJN's Resignation

**Say Ariwoola will compromise judiciary*

directions after a contingent of heavily armed policemen fired several canisters of teargas at them. Among the inscriptions on the placards were; "You are partisan, Ariwoola resign now", "Judicial politicians will cause us harm, Ariwoola is a politician", "We demand independent judiciary, peaceful 2023 general elections", and "No more politicians in judicial bodies, among others

The protesters under the aegis of the Coalition of Civil Societies of Nigeria (CCSN) said the alleged posture by the CJN portends a great danger to the smooth dispensation of justice in case of electoral dispute before, during and after the 2023 general elections.

Speaking during a banquet held in his honour by Governor Nysome Wike, in Port Harcourt, recently, the CJN, who hails from Oyo State, reportedly said his host (Governor Wike) was threatening to withdraw Makinde's wife, who is from Rivers, expressing hope that Makinde would emulate Wike to replicate the good works in his state.

The CJN was also reported to have expressed delight that his Governor (Seyi Makinde) is in Wike's camp of G5.

But speaking with newsmen on Tuesday before Police swooped on the protesters, spokesperson of the group, Comrade Olayinka Dada called on the CJN to resign his appointment in the interest of democracy in the country.

Some of the CSOs involved in the protest include Civil Society Forum of Nigeria, Nigeria Youth Development Forum, Democratic Youth Initiative, Forum for Social Justice, Movement for the Development of Democracy, Safeguard Nigeria Movement, Alliance for People's Welfare, Forward Nigeria Movement, Human Right Crusaders, Defenders of Democracy, Democratic Rights Assembly and Voter's Rights

Assembly, among others.

"We are out today to save our hard fought democracy. The journey to this point despite all imperfections and challenges is no doubt one that cost great countrymen and women their lives. Many people sacrificed their time and lost lives to enthrone this democratic order in Nigeria.

"Seeing the hard fought democracy under threat as we are witnessing now is nonetheless a misnomer. Nigerians will resist this affront with all legitimacy of their convictions!

"Few days ago, Nigerians woke up to the reckless partisan interference of the Chief Justice of Nigeria Tajudeen Olukayode Ariwoola in political dispute capable of making Nigerians distrust the electoral processes leading to the 2023 general elections.

"The Chief Justice of Nigeria in an unholy visitation to Rivers state, alleged to be a bought commissioning exercise made reckless statements in favor of his new found political friend Governor Nyesom Wike.

"The Coalition of Civil Societies of Nigeria has since analysed his statements at the commissioning and came to the conclusion that democracy is indeed in danger.

"How do we explain that the man saddled with the impartial role of dispensing justice is now on the side of a particular group in a political dispute? Given the fact that 18 political parties are up in the race for the 2023 general elections, we wonder what interest the CJN had in one of the political parties (PDP) leading him to obstruct the impartiality of the Judicial arm of government he currently head.

"Nigerians are at lost as to the reasons our constitution spelt out the independence of each arm of government. It is worrisome, unpardonable and sinister for the Chief Justice of Nigeria to openly show the ugly side he is

affectionately sympathetic to in a political race that has just began.

"This portends a great danger to the smooth dispensation of justice in case of electoral dispute before, during and after the 2023 general elections. As the saying goes, he who pays the piper dictates the tune.

"From Justice Tajudeen Olukayode Ariwoola's body language, it is becoming clearer that no party or candidate can get justice in the supreme court he oversees. Nigerians will not watch this overbearing suggestion by the CJN to rob off the citizens of the good governance which they have suffered in the last eight years.

Governor Makinde is a reknowned ally of Governor Wike and others in the camp, what is the CJN's business advocating for them outside the courts?

"As responsible citizens of this country and the voice of the voiceless, we demand the immediate sack of the CJN especially now that his amorous political intentions and bias are in the public domain.

"The CJN'S position is nonetheless an invitation to anarchy and we condemn his political romance with political actors in all ramifications. The partisanship displayed with full emotional support by the CJN is evident enough to know that 2023 elections is already in his courts. He has compromised his office and person.

"In the coming days, should the CJN refuse to resign our coalition will press for all legitimate means through citizens revolt for him to vacate the exalted, impartial and independent office of the Chief Justice of Nigeria.

"We call on all Nigerians to see this anomaly as a danger enough to truncate citizens interest in electing a President of their choice come February, 2023

"Let the National Judicial Council ACT now that the CJN has put a stop to the impartiality of the Judiciary.



Celebration As Nigeria Harvests First Batch Of Biotech-potatoes

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Elder Isaiah Buwah is an aged potato farmer, in the Bokos Local Government area of Plateau State, North Central Nigeria.

He has grown potatoes for the last forty years. During this time, most of his fellow potato farmers have given up on the crop due to the ravaging effects of late potato blight disease.

This year has not been any different. In June, when farmers thought that their harvest for the year would be great, late blight struck again, ravaging their farms. As in the previous years, the blight dampened the spirit of these farmers.

Buwah's persistence in potato farming has, however, been kept alive by activities started in the first quota of 2022 in Jos by the National Root Crop Research Institute (NRCRI), under the Feed the Future Global Biotech Potato Partnership project that seek to resolve the lingering challenge of late blight disease, by developing and releasing varieties of blight resistant potatoes.

His joy knows no bounds, being counted among those to witness the harvest of the first batch of biotech potatoes, following Confined Field Trials by researchers from NRCRI at their outstation of Kuru, near Jos under the Feed the Future Global Biotech Potato Partnership project.

"What I am seeing is salvation coming to potato farmers on the Plateau. I am happy it is happening in my lifetime. We have seriously suffered from the impact of late blight to the extent that some of our colleagues suffered seriously because of the massive destruction and losses we have encounter yearly. Those of us still growing potatoes have done so as a labour of love," he says.

According to a statement signed by the Communication Officer (West and Central Africa) AATF, Alex Abutu, made available to our correspondent on Tuesday November 29, Buwah explained that persistent requirement for fungicides force them to spend more than necessary to maintain the



Biotech-Potato Harvest at the CFT site in Kuru, near Jos: Photo: AATF

crop till harvest to contain the disease.

"The fungicide comes with instructions on usage, but we hardly follow this because when you see your crop flourishing and you don't want late blight to rob you of it, you keep applying the fungicide till harvest and this could have health implications on the consumption of the crop," he added.

Another farmer, Serah Kwarpo, also says that for the 30 years she has been growing potatoes, late blight has been her biggest nightmare, giving her sleepless nights to the extent that growing potatoes has become less attractive.

The farmers were among stakeholders invited to witness the harvest of the first harvest of the biotech potatoes at a ceremony tagged Brown Field Day. A day set aside by researchers from National Root Crop Research Institute and International Potato Centre to showcase the difference between the biotech potatoes and the conventional varieties.

Prof. Chiedozi Egesi, Executive Director, NRCRI, said the biotech potatoes project aims at providing an enduring solution to the late blight menace in Nigeria. "We are happy to show our esteemed farmers, and other stakeholders, the first harvest from the CFT. It is our firm belief that with biotech potatoes, we

have an enduring solution to late blight in Nigeria. It is time for our farmers to wipe away their tears," he says.

Prof Egesi, who was represented at the trial by Dr Charles Amadi, Principal Investigator for the project, assured the farmers that the institute, in collaboration with other partners, would expedite the release of the new varieties to boost harvests and income from sale of surplus produce.

Dr Amadi said the research programme hoped to release late blight resistant potato varieties to farmers within two years.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Dr Kyenpiya Deshi, a potato breeder in the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, University of Jos, said the Feed the Future Global Biotech Potato Partnership project intervention in Nigeria was timely.

"As a breeder, I know firsthand what farmers are going through. It has been tough, but today's ceremony has rekindled our hope and brought us joy. The happiness is not only for farmers but also for us breeders, who have been toiling day and night to find solutions to the blight crisis," she said.

The harvest from the first round of confined field trials planting shows that the biotech potatoes have

a yield advantage of 300 percent, when compared to the conventional varieties which have severely suffered from blight infestation.

The Feed the Future Global Biotech Potato Partnership project is implemented in 4 countries – Kenya, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nigeria. It is coordinated by Michigan State University, and involves various partners including the National Root Crop Research Institute, Umudike, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and International Potato Center (CIP).

Founded in 2003 to address Africa's food security prospects through agricultural technology, AATF believes that the agricultural sector is a key foundational pillar as Africa consolidates its economic growth and carves out its new position as a major global economic powerhouse and the next growth market in the world.

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

Osun: Oyetola Didn't Employ 12,000 Workers Before Leaving Office, Spokesman Replies Adeleke

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chief Press Secretary to the immediate past governor of Osun Governor, Alhaji Adegboyega Oyetola, Malam Ismail Omipidan on Tuesday, said that the former governor never employed 12,000 workers as claimed by the new administration in the state. Malam Omipidan while speaking with the New Nigerian on phone, said the claim that Alhaji Oyetola employed 12,000 workers while about leaving office, "is a lie" and total falsehood. Emphasizing that the said claims by the Governor Ademola Adeleke's new administration was not only false but unfounded, he challenged the new government in Osun State to come up with facts to back up its claim on the 12,000 workers. "They are now in

government, they should have access to every file and paper of government. Let them bring out the papers or anything to substantiate the claims. It is a lie, it is a false claim," he stressed.

Omipidan added, "Once a lie is told, you need a thousand lies to cover it up. In no distant future, the people of Osun will know who the real liars are."

The Chief Press Secretary then challenged the government to publish the list of the purported 12,000 workers.

"What is the entire workforce of the State?" He queried.

He stressed that when the claim was first raised by Governor Ademola Adeleke on the media last August, he cautioned them against raising unsubstantiated allegations to prevent misleading the people of the state at that time.



Oyetola

New Security Features On Abuja-Kaduna Train Guarantees Safety Of Passengers - Minister

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Intending passengers on the Abuja-Kaduna train have nothing to fear as the security features on the train will guarantee their maximum safety.

The Minister Of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo made the disclosure while riding on the train to inspect the security features and other measures put in place to protect passengers and also forestall subsequent attacks that may occur in the course of plying the Abuja-Kaduna corridor after resumption.

The Minister was accompanied by the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Engr. Suleiman Hussein Adamu, Honourable Minister of State for Transportation, Prince Ademola Adegoye, Chairman Governing Board Nigeria Railway Corporation, Alh. Ibrahim Musa, Directors of the Federal Ministry of Transportation and the Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation Fidet Okhiria.

Sambo said the train service on the corridor is 90% ready and that the remaining 10% would be achieved in the next couple of days for a full resumption of rail services.

He said the remaining days would be utilized to achieve the balance of 10% and be certain that the guarantee he is giving Nigerians to use the train is 100 per cent.

"I also want to make sure that the Nigerian public is sufficiently enlightened about the new procedure for buying tickets.

"The assurance I can give Nigerians is that I am also using this train. My counterpart, my friend here, the Honourable Minister of Water Resources has a home in Kaduna. In fact from next week, his family would start using this train.

"I am giving Nigerians the full assurance that a human being can give that this train is safe for them to use. There is absolutely nothing to fear. We have learned from what has happened and life is all about learning lessons and adopting measures to deal with the lessons.

"As a responsible government, we have seen those lessons. We have devised appropriate measures to counter them and like I always told the public, I was not going to allow this train to resume until everybody who was in captivity was released.

"To the glory of God, we have achieved that. We will also be taking measures that will ensure that by the grace of God such an incident never happens again in Nigeria.

"There are certain concrete measures that are visible for you to see and know that there are changes, for example, the ticketing and security status. Now you don't buy a ticket unless you have a valid phone number and the National Identity Number (NIN).

"If you are a foreigner, you also have a means of identification you can use which is produced by the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC). Having secured your tickets, you will not gain access to the lounge until the barcode machine reads the barcode on your receipt.

"Your image, name, necessary details and your complete profile will show on the



The Minister of Transport wearing faze cap and the Minister of Water Resources Suleiman Adamu on a ride.

screen. Only then will the bar be automatically lifted for you to go into the lounge.

"This is unprecedented. This is what we call Customer profiling. Ask any security expert in the world and they will tell you that when you're dealing with passengers, the first thing in terms of security readiness is the profiling of your passengers.

"You need to know who is coming on board. That is a visible change. Another visible change people may notice will be an increase in numbers of security personnel and I'll tell you without mincing words, some of these security personnel may not even be wearing uniforms to guarantee the safety of the travelling public.

"There are other sensitive equipment that we have deployed, which I will not reveal. The other thing I can tell you is that on every journey, the train is monitored every second on a screen and the train driver can see up to a certain distance if there's any threat on the track.

"That will enable him apply the brakes long before getting to the perceived threat. I think that gives you comfort and that is why I'm talking to you very confidently," he said.

He added that the introduction of the NIN would also help check cases of racketeering as a person can only purchase a ticket per trip with his NIN.

The Minister said there will be slight changes in the mode of operation as the number of trips will be reduced because a certain number of Nigerians may not be comfortable coming back to the train for obvious reasons.

He said the number of trips will eventually pick up when people are more comfortable riding on the train and that there wouldn't be night trips for now.

"I mean, we are human beings, we are bound to feel a little bit uncomfortable

until we can see that every security measure has been taken care of. It is a natural way of reacting so we will reduce the number of trips.

"As the travelling population picks up, we will increase the number of trips but we will certainly not travel at night for now," he said.

Sambo said passengers should however expect some increase in fares which may not be immediate as a panel consultation with the management of the Nigeria Railway Cooperation and management of the ministry is ongoing.

He said the rise in the cost of maintenance is one of the reasons for the possible increase in the train fare which he said had affected aeroplane fares too.

Sambo added that the management would consider the masses while making changes in the fare, being a sensitive administration.

"I can assure you that the poor masses will be taken care of and we will be considered in raising the fare. We are a very sensitive government. We are pro-people. You know that there is no government that has been as pro-people as this government.

The Minister of Water Resources, Eng. Suleiman Adamu who was also on the train said he was invited by the Minister of Transportation to join him on the inspection as a Kaduna resident and a colleague.

"This train service means a lot to me as well. But most importantly, as colleagues in government, the Minister invited me so that I could also see and give him our opinion about what I have observed.

"I will say without any fear of contradiction that I am very impressed with what I have seen and I am convinced that as much as humanly possible, the short to medium term may just have been taken to secure this trade to restore the service.

"However we want to assure Nigerians

that the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) is back in business and myself and my family will continue to patronize this train as we used to "We call on all Nigerians to have faith in the arrangements been put in place and come back to patronize the train service. A lot has been put in place. Some, as the Minister has said are obvious while some are not for public consumption.

"So it's us now to go back to normalcy. If we don't go back to normalcy, we are giving the terrorists the ammunition they want.

"If you recall, after the 911 terrorist attack in the United States, America was calling on people to go back to their normal lives. We must do that because the whole idea is to terrorize us. So we need to go back to our lives.

"We need to have faith in the system that has been put in place to secure lives and property and just move on and also for people to cooperate with the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC)" he said.

Adamu added that security is everyone's responsibility and should not be left alone for the government or security agencies.

"People also should take security as their own business. If you usually watch NTA, there is a jingle that says "If you see something, say something," and that means all of us should be conscious of our surroundings.

"We see anything, like things not adding up well, we should alert the security agencies and see that as part of our own citizen contribution, you know, as citizens our contribution is to make the country safe which is very important.

"Beyond that, I think people should come back to this train service. It is now good and open for business and very comfortable. We've been on this train now for hours and all is well and I am confident that all will continue to be well," he said.

2023: Women Converge On Kaduna, Validate Report On 35% Affirmation

**Dinidari Foundation promises capacity building workshop*

**Shonekan decries disenfranchisement due to insecurity*

**Risikat demands PLWDs inclusion in 35% affirmation*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As the 2023 elections draw closer, the Dinidari Foundation Africa Women Political Empowerment Project gathered women at the Asaa Pyramid Hotel Kaduna on Tuesday November 29, 2022, with a resolve at ensuring that the 35 per cent affirmation for political offices is actualised.

In an introductory remark ahead of the session, Dinidari Project Associate, Sonia Yusuf while speaking on the Validation Session, said that it is aimed at capturing 35 per cent affirmation by political parties.

"We converged to validate findings and make recommendations before presenting it as a report.

"It is targeted at having women in leadership positions, not just women in the party serving as women leaders," she said.

She informed that soon there will be a capacity training for

women hopefully in less than two weeks.

In the presentation of the document titled, "Preliminary Findings Capacity Assessment of Women's Wings of Political Parties Kaduna State" a consultant, Rachael Aisha Akingbehun said that their findings captured four political parties, People's Democratic Party (PDP), All Progressives Congress (APC), Labour Party (LP) and the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP).

She said that methods used in gathering their data includes Desk Review, while women from the four political parties, APC, PDP, LP and NNPP were interviewed.

According to her, women leaders were interviewed in the two states, Kaduna and Plateau where the project is ongoing.

She said from their findings, women are becoming aware and bracing up to compete with male counterparts.

According to her, the role of

women in the four parties studied, is geared towards wooing female voters.

"All roles appear to be tailored towards mobilizing women voters," she said, explaining that NNPP however, has no role for women spelt out in its constitution.

She explained that other ways they lure women to the parties is to share food items to keep them in the party.

She identified barriers faced by women to include, lack of finance, discrimination by men, poor leadership skills, lack of cooperation and low awareness.

"For the women leader in Kaduna State, the main barriers identified were, funding, how to convince women to engage in politics, lack of cooperation amongst members and neglect of women (non-inclusion) in party affairs," she explained.

She said in Kaduna, a woman is the deputy governor and as such, she needs to be supported, to encourage more women to

participate in politics.

According to her, solutions to bringing more women on board includes, prompt funds release, women empowerment, educating women and engaging men in political positions, which will address barriers raised with respondents, according to their research.

Speaking further, she explained that from the survey sent out, there are capacity needs of women in political parties in becoming leaders.

She listed such needs as governing rules for the women wings in political parties, functional committee for increasing women participation in politics, monitoring and evaluation of women inclusivity (does not exist in four parties), budget for increasing women participation in politics (does not exist in three parties, inadequate in one party), advocacy strategies for women wings in Kaduna (inadequate in all parties, especially those

related to lobbying, no advocacy strategic plan known to all), partnership and collaboration (only NNPP and LP), Resource Mobilisation (inadequate practice, resource mobilisation needed) and leadership training (inadequate, no training plans for promoting leadership training).

While speaking to newsmen, Communications Associate of Dinidari, Clara Jack said

that the project is aimed at meeting with the women, identifying their struggles and organising a capacity building workshop.

She said women deserve more representation and inclusion in governance.

"The capacity training will be held in December. We are collating their questions raised here to tailor it towards the capacity building workshop," she disclosed.

On whether the training will be relevant for the 2023 elections, she said it is not, but in view of the appointments that would be made subsequently after the elections, women expect the 35 per cent affirmation reflected.

In an interview with newsmen, Risikat Toyin Mohammed said that PLWDs also need inclusivity in governance.

She called for equal opportunities for all, including PLWDs in all seats.

Also speaking, Executive Director Women and Youth Awareness Empowerment Network, Dr. Rakiya Shonekan, said that women constitute bulk of campaign team and actual voters.

She lamented that they also generate most of invalidated votes during elections, as well as voter apathy makes their number at the ballot to dwindle.

Shonekan said that violence is also affecting voting patterns, as people move from such violent prone areas to safer havens, thereby being disenfranchised in the process.

She therefore, stressed the need for voters education to sensitize women on electioneering process.

"Women wing of parties talked about budgeting, representation and others from the research carried out. If I will make my input, a lot still needs to be done. Like when decisions are taken, what difference can a woman in an exco make? Where you have 17 exco and only one is a woman, what can one do, so there is more to be done by parties. Women also need to be knowledgeable," she declared.

UN Women partnered Dinidari Foundation in holding the meeting which attracted women leaders from most of the top political parties in Kaduna State.



Why I Am Passionate About Less Privileged - Venerable Ibrahim

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Stimulated by his love for humanity and the desire for the less privileged in the society to improve their livelihood, Venerable Muhammad Ibrahim has stressed the need to continue taking care of the needy.

In an interview with our correspondent in Kaduna, Ven. Muhammed, an Anglican Priest, said that he is passionate about ameliorating the suffering of the people, especially women and children.

This he said, he has been doing over the years, through his foundation "Passion for Christ International Foundation" "This is stimulated by my

love for humanity and the desire to see people around me enjoy the small benefits of life especially in the grassroots," he added.

He said for some years, his foundation has been able to touch the lives of people in Makarau and Unguwan Musa communities in Zangon-Kataf and Chukun local government areas of Kaduna State.

"This gesture has become necessary for me because some women especially widows find it difficult to feed their children.

"The livelihood of these people are most times affected by insecurity.

Right now, efforts are in top gear to provide palliatives for people of various communities in



Venerable Ibrahim

Southern and Central Kaduna as the Yuletide season approaches," he disclosed.

2023 Presidency: South West Muslims Have No Option Than Supporting Tinubu - MURIC

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) Director, Prof Professor Isiaq Akintola has asserted that Muslims in the South West zone of the country have no other options than to support the candidature of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the 2023 polls.

Professor Akintola who expressed this while speaking with journalists at the University of

Ibadan, maintained that Muslims in the South West region have a task of supporting Asiwaju Tinubu.

The MURIC Director pointed out that Yoruba Muslims have been suffering for decades as those who have either been President or Vice President from the South West region are Christians.

"MUSWEN endorsed the APC presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed

Tinubu and I want to affirm that MUSWEN has no other choice. They don't have any other alternative", he said

Professor Akintola added, "MURIC has said it earlier that we are supporting a Muslim presidential candidate from the South West.

Because, the Yoruba Muslims have suffered for decades. All those who have been either President or Vice President are Christians.'

"From Obasanjo to Diya to Shonekan and now to the current Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, all of them have been Christians. At this time, we are supporting MUSWEN for endorsing Tinubu. MURIC has said it earlier that we want a Muslim presidential candidate and since Tinubu has emerged as the APC candidate, the South West Muslims have no other choice than to support him".

Troops Storm Bandits Kaduna Hideout, Rescue 9 Kidnapped Victims

**90 cattle, four motorcycles recovered*

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Troops of Operation Forest Sanity have rescued nine kidnapped persons during fighting patrols to suspected bandit hideouts in Kaso, Chikun LGA.

A statement signed by the Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, dated Monday November 28, 2022, said

the troops searched the camp and rescued nine kidnapped persons.

The rescued victims are, Salama Oliver, Hussein Odu, Danjuma Jakanwa, Ezekiel Garba, Obadiah Moses, Taiwo Isaac, Buky Isaac, Ado Adamu and Maigari Shekarau.

According to operational feedback to the Kaduna State Government, the troops engaged bandits on the Tantatu high ground,

as they abandoned their camp and fled further into the forest.

Initial debriefing of the rescued victims revealed that they had all been kidnapped around the Gurara Dam area.

The troops also recovered 90 cattle left behind by the fleeing bandits.

The animals will be handed over to the Kaduna State Livestock Regulatory Authority for

proper identification.

Further clearance patrols to Bawa Rikasa hill led to the recovery of four motorcycles belonging to the bandits.

"The nine rescued persons will undergo further debriefing and examination before being reunited with their families. Fighting patrols will continue in the general area," it added.

Ebonyi EXCO Effects Minor Cabinet Reshuffle

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

As part of the outcome of Monday's Ebonyi State Executive Council meeting, some executive council members were reshuffled and assigned new portfolios in other ministries.

The Commissioner for Information and State Orientation, Barr. Uchenna Orji announced this while addressing newsmen on the outcome of the State Executive Council held on Saturday.

According to the Barr.Orji, the Commissioner for Infrastructural Development for Concession, Chief Romanus Nwasum has been redesignated as Commissioner for Special Duties, while Mr. Chidozie Igwe is to serve as Special Assistant on Housing.

The Exco in session, also approved the recall of the suspended traditional ruler of Ishinkwo Ukawu with a caveat to ensure law and order in his community.

"Exco resolved to lift the suspension of the Traditional Ruler of Isinkwo Ukawu effective 26th day of November, 2022. Exco noted that there had been decorum and abatement of hostilities since the suspension of the traditional ruler.

"Exco directed that the traditional ruler must undertake to continue to keep the peace in the area as a condition for his reinstatement."

The Commissioner stated that the Exco also approved activities for Christmas programmes for categories of Ebonyians beginning from December 9, to make the Yuletide memorable.

The Information Commissioner also announced the setting up of a Committee headed by Commissioner for Trade and Investment to review agreement with Computer Village merchants over delay in commencement of activities at the site.

He further noted that the Exco also set up another committee headed by Commissioner for Information and State Orientation, Mr Uchenna Orji among others, to review the State Anti-Corruption Law.

"Exco considered the draft State Anti-Corruption Bill presented before it by the Hon. Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General and resolved to set up a review Committee made up of: the Commissioner for Information & State Orientation-Chairman, the Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General, SA Legal Member, Perm Sec Min of Justice, Other Exco members who are Lawyers."

Commissioner Orji also announced the constitution of a Committee headed by Special Assistant on TAs and STAS to verify shop allocation at the Saint Margaret Umahi International Market Abakaliki.

"Exco constituted a committee to verify shop allocations in St. Margaret Umahi International Market. Members of the Committee include: Engr. Collins Eze-Chairman, acting Chairman, Board of Internal Revenue-Secretary, SA Deputy Governor's office-member, Dr (Mrs.) Ngozi Obichukwu-member, Commissioner for Finance and-member, Accountant General-member, Principal Secretary to the Governor-member.

Terms of reference: to find out the number of shops allocated, those paid for, evidence of payment and other matters connected thereto, they have Seven (7) days to submit their report."

On the UBEB Projects, Commissioner Orji said Exco set up a Committee to review the project performance and revert to the Council.

The Information Boss while noting that the Executive Council considered the request and approved the request of 20% discount sale of the remaining 14 plots at the Salt City Estate also spoke on a number of other decisions at the meeting.

"Today, Ebonyi State Government in Exco received a delegation from Oziza Community in Afikpo North Local Government Area with regard to the State Government Property named Pontoon.

"This is consequent upon a letter from elders of Afikpo North LGA including the Chairman of the Forum of Afikpo North Elders & D-G EBBC, Engr. Timothy Nwachi, the Deputy Speaker EBHA, Rt Hon Kingsley O. Ikoro, the Chairman of Afikpo North LGA, Hon Uchenna N Ibiyam, the Chairman of SUBEB, High Chief Hycinth Ikpor and Prof. Amari Omaka, SAN.

"Exco noted that the state government has deliberated on the matter severally including deliberation by the House of Assembly and the setting up of over 3 different committees which had deliberated on the issue and came up with the same verdict that the pontoon was properly disposed in line with the laws of the State and that any attempt to reverse the decision will amount to setting the state on fire as such may invoke similar applicability on other government properties acquired from communities in other locations in the state.

el-Rufai Partners MAPWHAA In Promoting Peace In Kaduna

**Kaduna Journalist, Ibrahima Honoured*

By; FUNMI ADERINTO,
Kaduna

Kaduna State Government led by Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai is in collaboration with MACA Peace Walk and Humanitarian Achievers Awards (MAPWHAA) a brain child of Gafiligadoki Communication, to promoting peaceful coexistence and humanitarian services in the state.

MACA peace walk embarked on a peace preaching exercise and honouring of individuals that have contributed to the society.

They stormed Kaduna for peace walk and humanitarian achiever's awards 2022 on Saturday.

They were in the state at the weekend for the peace walk awareness in the morning around 8am, with Team A and Team B marching from Ranchers Bees Stadium to Murtala Square and Ahmadu Bello Stadium Roundabout for peace and unity to improve the living conditions of the society.

The peace walk featured Kaduna State Government's senior officials, in a bid to encouraging leaders, groups and individuals to intensify efforts towards providing humanitarian assistance to the needy in the society and to also improve their living conditions.

el-Rufai and his deputy, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe and senior government officials, groups, individuals, civil society groups and religious leaders were presented with some humanitarian awards during the event.

At the occasion, the leader of the organisation, Nyam Tekimbi Teri said the gesture is in recognition of efforts and consistency in promoting peace in the society.

"However, the primary aim of the MACA Nation is to provide access and quality education to children, shelter to the less privileged, widow's empowerment, healthcare and reducing extreme poverty especially in Northern Nigeria and beyond.

"Also, MACA Nation has decided to launch its version of the poverty alleviation programme, to qualitatively transform the lives and education of our children through our 100 Naira to School



Campaign and Scholarship Endowment Fund, as well as provision of shelter to the less privileged, widow empowerment, youth empowerment and the setting aside of an interest free revolving loan facility to artisans, traders among other Nigerians," he said.

On their mission, he explained that they work around Nigeria to save lives, promote peace,

honour individuals and improve quality of lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice.

"It is a reassuring conversation, financial help, education, professional training, or simply the assurance that they are not alone.

"We also make sure that everyone gets support that meets them where they're as quickly as possible as they address the specific and diverse needs of

young people and also ensure they have access to the information, resources and support they need to escape poverty for good.

"We recognize that poverty is inextricably linked to social marginalization and discrimination – and our experience has shown that simply providing young people with a few skills, through our programmes makes a whole lot

of difference.

"MACA Nation, MACA Reality TV Show, MACA Food Carnival, MACA Film Festival, MACA Family Game Show, MACA Queen Africa, MACA Talk Show, MACA Social Club, MACA Play and Dance Troupe, MACA Peace Walk and Humanitarian Achievers Awards, are ways we reach the society," he said.

After the morning peace walk, the MACA organisers held an award ceremony at Arewa House in Kaduna, where journalists that are exceptionally good for

humanitarian services which involve reporting news of all calibers of people irrespective of tribe, culture, region or religion differences were awarded.

"The journalist exemplifies humanitarian ideals and attributes by contributing significantly towards alleviating human suffering and improving the quality of life and oral health of individuals both at rural and urban centers are recognized," he explained.

The organisers of the MACA award spotted Deutsche Welle correspondent, Ibrahima Yakubu, whom they said, has contributed immensely towards promoting peace and developmental journalism in African countries through his write ups.

The management of MACA humanitarian organization deemed it fit to equally award him with Ambassador of Humanitarian Award by decorating him with membership regalia.

The recipient, Ibrahima Yakubu was delighted as he called on others to be more committed towards providing humanitarian assistance to victims of banditry, Boko Haram and terrorism across the country.



Commissioner Explains How Akwa Ibom Spent Oil Derivation Arrears

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Finance Commissioner in Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Linus Nkan has said that the 13 per cent derivations arrears released to the state was used to build key infrastructure as monthly allocations from the Federation Account has not been enough to fund numerous projects embarked upon by government.

Nkan at a press conference yesterday, disclosed that Akwa Ibom State has since 2021, received seven tranches of the 13 per cent arrears paid to oil bearing states in Niger Delta region of the country.

According to Nkan, the refunds were subsumed into the state's annual budgets which have been used for key capital projects as the monthly allocations from the Federation Account has

not been enough to fund numerous projects embarked upon by the Governor Udom Emmanuel administration.

He said, "In 2021, the sum of 160,000,000,000 Naira was remitted to the state account. In 2022, the projected income from this source was 41,434,000,000 Naira but as at Q3, the sum of 26,000,000,000 Naira has been received.

"In line with proper financial records keeping and public finance transparency, the refund was reflected in the 2021 budget as "Other Exceptional income: 13% derivation revenue arrears, which was revised to the tune of 193,000,000,000; in 2022 the revised provision was 41,434,000,000; in the 2023 budget, the estimate for this line item is 100,000,000,000.

"A simple calculation of these figures will reveal

the sustainability thinking disposition that guides the governance of our state".

"The agitation for the refund of the arrears which were deducted from the earnings due to the Oil bearing states was undertaken by the affected Governors, directly and through their officers at the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee FAAC, which agreed with the very detailed submission and calculated the sums accruing to the states.

"However, due to the large amount involved and the inability of the Federal Government to pay all at once, it was agreed that the payments be made in tranches quarterly, over a period of five years.

"The report of judicious application of this income and other incomes to the state are captured in the statutory Accountant General's audited report for 2021 and same will be reflected this year.

"There is therefore no reasonable cause for the activation of alarmist tendencies on the state of finances of the state, because the Governor is conscious of the judgement of history and posterity and is doing everything to earn a copious mention on its golden pages.

He said further, "We therefore urge the entire public to ignore the various figures bandied around on various media platforms, as those are nothing more than fiction.

"With the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting System (IPSAS), it is impossible for any unaccounted expenditure to occur. It is also worthy to point out that the state's budgets and annual reports must first be reviewed by the World Bank and it is practically impossible that financial infractions can skip their attention".



Commissioner for Finance in Akwa Ibom state, Mr Linus Nkan (left) flanked by Information and Strategy Commissioner, Comrade Ini Ememobong during a Press Conference in Uyo, yesterday.

Kaduna 2023: LP Guber Candidate, Asake, Condemns Murder Of Women Leader

**Says it's a clear case of political assassination*

By; VICTOR DAZANG, Kaduna
The Labour Party (LP) governorship flag bearer in Kaduna State, Hon Jonathan Asake has condemned the gruesome murder of the party's women leader in Kaura Local Government Area, Mrs Victoria Chimtex, on Monday night. In a statement signed by his Media James Swam, dated November

29, 2022, Asake said the killing of Chimtex was a clear case of political assassination in view of her rising profile in the area. He therefore charged security agencies to bring the perpetrators to book in the shortest possible time.

"I condemn in strong terms the gruesome murder of the Labour Party women leader in Kaura Local Government Area of the state.

"This is a clear case of political assassination and I charge the security agencies to leave no stone unturned in unravelling the mastermind." He said.

He prayed for the repose of her soul and the quick recovery of her husband who sustained serious injury from the attack and is lying critically ill in the hospital.

Food Security Tops Agenda As KADCCMA 3-day Agric Value Chain Workshop Ends

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In view of the importance of ensuring food security for economic stability and prosperity, the Kaduna Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KADCCMA) 3-day workshop and exhibition on post-harvest management/technology and value chain financing has ended with participants calling for more investments in the agriculture sector.

The workshop which was held between Wednesday 23, to Friday November 25, 2022, turned out to be a much needed capacity building event for key stakeholders of the agriculture value chain.

The venue, Conference Hall, Kaduna International Trade and Investment Centre, was packed full all through the duration of the workshop, supported by the Bank of Industry (BOI).

In his presentation, Dr. Hassan Dalhatu of the Farm Input Support Department and focal person in Kaduna, harped on the need to leverage on sustainable technology in the

agriculture value chain.

He explained the importance and how to use and apply organic fertilizers to food crops.

Dr. Dalhatu therefore, tasked participants and guests to make deliberate efforts at using quality seedlings to get yields worth their time and investments on their farms.

KADCCMA organised the workshop in collaboration with the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC).

At the exhibition in the sidelines, variety of input and locally sourced technology were on display to the delight of visitors.

The Chief Host was His Excellency, Malam Nasir el-Rufai, Executive Governor of Kaduna State, while Special Guest of Honour at the workshop, was Dr Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar.

His Highness, Emir Of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli CFR and KADCCMA grand patron, served as the Royal Father of the Day.

It would be recalled that a similar workshop was held in 2014.



With Asiwaju In Saddle, A New Nigeria Is Possible – Ade Omole



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As the All Progressives Congress (APC), United Kingdom Chapter holds its Town hall conference over the weekend, the Director of the APC PCC Diaspora Directorate, Prince Ade Omole has assured Nigerians that the presidency of Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu in Nigeria will change the terrain of the country in all ramifications.

In the highly attended town hall meeting organised by the APC UK Presidential Campaign Council under the leadership of Mr J K Adebola, various support groups domiciled in the UK came with their representatives, which added colour to the event. Prince Ade Omole, who was the guest speaker at the event and was accompanied by the Diaspora Directorate Secretary, Lady Ifeoma Nwankwo, asked everyone in the Diaspora to take the advantage of the event to get involved in the campaign by either their physical presence to vote at the elections in Nigeria in 2023 or to encourage their family and friends in Nigeria to

vote Tinubu/Shettima and APC.

In his speech titled, Who Is A Leader? The Asiwaju Examples, Omole extols the exemplary leadership qualities of the APC Presidential Candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and described Asiwaju as a leader of a rare gem.

“By chronicling this Life of Service, you would then be saying that because Asiwaju has very glaring, incredible pieces of evidence of his superlative accomplishments, it therefore goes without saying that a better Nigeria is indeed possible under his leadership. And at the end of it all, we would be saying the same thing but in different words.”

“Also equally important to mention here is the fact it was because of that leadership seed that a foreign student, which Asiwaju was in Canada, dared to run for the headship of the Accounting students body, most, if not just about all, were American students. This speaks about a man imbued with greatness from the Almighty”.

“My next example of who a leader truly is can also be explained in "Diary of a Debacle: Tracking Nigeria's Failed

Democratic Transition (1988-1994)." This is a book written by Professor Olatunji Dare. For those of us who may not know him a quick citation will suffice here. Prof. Dare is a communication scholar and Professor of Communication, Emeritus, at Bradley University in Peoria, the State of Illinois in the United States. He was a Chair of The Guardian Editorial Board and a central figure in Chief MKO Abiola's ill-fated Presidential bid who had to go underground in the aftermath of the June 12 annulment. Not only that, but he was also at the epicentre of subsequent events that cascaded from the June 12 annulment. So, we can see that from this brief description, Prof. Dare is a pro-democracy activist and a public intellectual”

Besides Omole, other speakers took turns to reinstate their commitment to the campaign urging Nigerians to see the opportunity as a golden one that must not be missed. APC UK PCC Chairman, Mr J K Adebola added that the support groups should do everything humanly possible to ensure a

landslide victory for Tinubu/Shettima and APC at all levels in the coming elections to make governance easy for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, according to him, there is no “if he wins but when he wins,” but he warns against complacency and advised all support groups to take the campaign to all nook and crannies of the Country where the real voters reside and galvanise them to vote for Tinubu/Shettima and APC.

Also the Secretary to Diaspora Directorate, Lady Ifeoma 'Iyabode' Nwankwo urged everyone to support the aspiration of Tinubu, saying a win for him is a win for all. She described Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as a detribalised Nigerian whose aspiration has garnered support all over the country.

The event in London was held at the same time the APC South-South Women and Youths Rally was being held in Calabar and the APC National Campaign Was underway in Lagos.

The mammoth crowds at each event are indicative of a good omen for Tinubu/Shettima and APC at the polls in 2023.

Comptroller Ali Vows To End Smuggling In South East, Bags CRAN Award

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In spite the security challenges in the South Eastern zone, the Unit Controller of the Federal Operations (FOU) Zone C' Owerri, of Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Comptroller Ali Ibrahim has vowed that his zone will not relent in its efforts at putting a stop to smuggling of dangerous products into the country.

He also assured that Nigeria Customs under his zone will not compromise on its constitutional mandate as regards national security.

Ali stated that more intelligence is being applied now more than ever before in the anti- smuggling Operations of the customs in view of what looked like an unusual situation around the nation.

Corroborating the fact that South East used to be one of the peaceful zones in the country, the Controller stated that the ugly situation now is a temporary setback which will fizzle out with time, as every nation has its own difficult phase in history.

Ali stressed that there is no alternative to peaceful coexistence, adding that it is the only way to engender a virile development of Amy country.

He said every security apparatchik has a role to play in sustaining national security, and the customs, being a major stake holder especially in curtailing the influx of arms smuggling will not fail to maintain the tempo.

According to him, citizens must do everything possible to coexist as suspicion and internal strife were the forerunners of any country's disintegration.

Making reference to the Sahel region where peace has almost eluded them as a result of internal strife he was of the view that tribal sentiments or religious intolerance must take the back seat if any nation must move forward.

The Controller said his Unit will key into the mandate given to it by the Comptroller General which centred on the extant laws of the service in promoting security of lives by preventing importation of uncustomed or prohibited items nipping in the bud evasion of duties, facilitation of lawful trade as well as protection of the economy.

He spoke of the Unit's desire to make striking or spectacular seizures across the States in the south, as that would be the major yardstick to hold a briefing in no distant future.

Reminded that since he mounted the rostrum, seized goods have been a constant feature and that his officers especially on the Benin axis were harvesting seizures that can make headlines, he agreed but stated that views differ, in this instance as few may not see such intercepted goods as worthy to attract any briefing yet.

“We are looking forward to magnificent seizures to enable us converge here for a briefing before the year runs out.” he said.

He was again taken on the fact that when striking seizures are not made, it goes to show that the officers are working hard; for smugglers to have gone underground, he also reluctantly agreed but noted that it was also better if striking seizures are made to show that we are on top of the situation'

The Unit Controller enlisted the support and synergy between the media and the service in promoting national security

Noting that the pen is mightier than sword, Ibrahim went on to state that all security agencies as well as state actors must synergies to be able to

surmount the present insurgency in the country. He added that positive media will build the nation than destroying it.



Ward-to-ward Campaign: PDP Storms Senator Nwaboshi's Community, Thanks Tinubu For Predicting Party's Victory In 2023



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In continuation of its ward-to-ward campaign, in preparation for the 2023 General Election, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) took their campaign to the hometown of the Senator Representing Delta North, Senator Peter Nwaboshi, a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ibusa, Oshimili North Local Government Area. The party's visit to Oshimili North on Monday, November 28, 2022, brings the local government areas visited so far to six, out of the nine in the Senatorial District.

Speaking to the PDP faithful in the area, the Delta North Chairman, Elder Moses Iduh thanked the Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Ahmed Bola Tinubu for his prediction of the PDP to win the 2023 elections at all levels.

He said the prediction of Ahmed Bola Tinubu on the victory of PDP at the polls, is not surprising as the party has done all the necessary preparations to ensure it wins the election.

He thanked the APC Presidential Candidate for his predictions, for confirming what Nigerians are already aware of, that voters will vote out the APC, and vote in the PDP for the party to restructure and return the country to its place in the comity of nation.

The Delta North Chairman reminded the people that the two statements credited during his campaigns and consultations do not show a man that is sick, but a man of sound mind, who knows what he is saying.

According to him, Tinubu's statement, that the Deputy Senate President, who is the Governorship Candidate of the APC will win election as Governor of Niger Delta State clearly affirms his belief that the Presidential Candidate of the PDP will win, and will create more states in the country to accommodate Ovie Omo-Agege.

"The Presidential Candidate of the APC prayed for the PDP, for God to bless PDP, and that the Governorship candidate of the party, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege, will be the Governor of Niger Delta State."

"What this means is that Tinubu will in 2023, congratulate our own, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, who as the president, will create states which will include the Niger Delta State."

"A man who can make such a statement is not sick, he is stating the fact that PDP will win the 2023 elections. We have to thank Bola Tinubu for his foresight, for his early prediction." He said.

He further advised them to go for their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs), as the



2023 election will be an election that will be different from the previous.

The Deputy Governorship candidate, Sir Monday Onyeme, while speaking, advised the people at the various wards visited not to fall into another promise of the APC, assuring them of a better government at both federal and state levels if the party wins.

On his own part, the Senatorial Candidate of the party in Delta North, Hon., Prince Ned Nwoko assured them that he will be their ambassador, especially that of the youth, saying that the PDP will under Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, as President and Senator Ifeanyi Okowa as the Vice-President of Nigeria, build a social policy that will focus on youth alleviation.

Also speaking, the Candidate for the House of Representative for Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency, Hon. Ndudi Elumelu said the people of the wards have no alternative, but the PDP, encouraging them to mobilise their various family members and friends, especially as the presidential candidate of the APC has prayed and blessed the party. He stressed that the PDP government

from the federal to the state levels will work towards the improvement of the living conditions of the women in the area.

Earlier, the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), and Coordinator of the Oshimili South Campaign Council, Chief. Patrick Ukah while welcoming the campaign team, assured the Campaign Council of the willingness of members in the area, to mobilise voters for the party.

Others who also spoke were the various ward chairmen and the PDP candidate for the State House of Assembly, Barr. Frank Ezenwa.

The campaign train which was in its two days ward-to-ward campaign to the local government area, had the Deputy Speaker, Delta State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Ochor Ochor, Chief Whip of the Assembly, Hon. Pat Ajudua, Hon. Festus Okoh, Secretary to the Delta State PDP, Engr. Dan Ossai, Mr. Godswill Obielum, Dame Nkem Okwuofu and other chieftains of the party.

The wards visited were Ward 4, Umueze Ogboli, Ward 8, Umuedem Umueze, Ward 7, Okponta, Ward 5, Ogbowele and Ward 6, Umuodafe.

NASENI Boss Tasks University Lecturers On Linkage With Industries, Relevant Research Organizations

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) has tasked Nigerian universities on improved linkages with industries and relevant research organizations towards solving the socio-economic challenges in the communities.

Prof. Mohammad-Sani Haruna, Chief Executive of NASENI made the call during the public presentation of four books and celebration of excellence of Former Director-General, National Teachers' Institute (NTI), Professor Aminu-Ladan Sharehu as Professor of Public Administration.

He lamented low linkages with industries and relevant research organizations by the institutions, adding that most of the institutions cannot attract funds for market driven research.

He advised lecturers of higher institutions to be spending vacations in the industries to update their knowledge and align themselves with the realities of the industries.

"As an academician myself, let me confess that the attitude of some teaching staff leaves much to be desired. Some lecturers are not even qualified or suitable to teach courses assigned to them.

"Most have no professional teaching qualification, most have no passion for teaching and are in the profession only as a 'lasting job alternative'; I have seen teachers who recycle the lesson notes given to them when they were students

three to four decades earlier.

"How can the products of such a process be relevant in today's dynamic and digital world?" He queried.

As part of the remedies for the challenges, NASENI boss advocated for a decentralized University Salary Structure of all tertiary institutions in such a way that lecturers are paid for productivity hours.

He said salaries should be negotiated on a case-by-case basis with the governing council and according to the capacity and performance of the lecturers and the universities.

"Yes, payment of living wages is important, but it does not make sense to pay uniform salaries for lectures in Damaturu, Birnin Kebbi, Lagos and Port Harcourt where cost of living is not the same.

"Lecturers should be paid by contact hours and remunerated according to the impact of their output.

"They can earn more than a Vice Chancellor, or political office holders if their work attracts funding from private sector or other sources or impact attracts glories to their institutions," he said.

He also called on the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to commence a five-year programme of retooling tertiary education workshops and laboratories across the country with appropriate equipment.

According to him, retooling the workshops will make it possible for all students to acquire at least an occupational trade skill before graduation.

"Yes, payment of living wages is important, but it does not make sense to pay uniform salaries for lectures in Damaturu, Birnin Kebbi, Lagos and Port Harcourt where cost of living is not the same."

Awwal Tukur Denies PDP Chance Of Fielding Senatorial Candidate For Adamawa Central

**Scuttles ADHA Speaker's Senatorial Ticket*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Federal High Court I in Yola, Adamawa State on Monday, nullified the primary election of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) which produced the Speaker of the Assembly, Rt. Hon. Aminu Iya Abbas, as candidate for Central Senatorial District.

The election was invalidated on grounds that an aspirant, Auwal D. Tukur, who participated in the exercise did not resign his appointment as the Chairman Governing Council of the State University Mubi, before contesting.

Auwal Tukur's participation in the exercise without tendering his resignation letter brought about the nullification of the

election which saw the emergence of Iya Abbas, as flagbearer.

Aside the nullification of the exercise, the court barred the party from fielding a candidate for the district in the 2023, general election since the entire exercise was voided.

The court's judgement scuttled the chance of Iya Abbas, who represents Uba/Gaya constituency at the State House of Assembly from contesting in the 2023 polls to represent the district.

The court presided by Justice A. M. Anka, nullified the election while delivering judgement in suit instituted by an aspirant, Ibrahim Mustapha (Baba10).

However, the judge declined to order for fresh primary election; instead,

declared that anyone who is not satisfied with the court's verdict has the right to appeal the decision.

Our medium was informed that the Speaker is considering appealing the decision in order to seek redress.

Ibrahim, sued the party, Iya Abbas, Auwal Tukur and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) where he asked the court to nullify the election which according to him, was marred by irregularities.

He told the court that aside concocting or doctoring the list of delegates, Auwal Tukur as well as some delegates who participated in the exercise were government appointees in an outright violation of the electoral act.

Meanwhile, the court presided by Justice Anka, on Monday, struck out a case filed by an aspirant, Mohammed Murtala Modibbo.

In his suit, Modibbo, had alleged that the Speaker submitted falsified/fake documents to the PDP Screening Committee and urged the court to declare the election conducted on May 23, 2022 null and void.

Delivering judgement on the case, Anka, held that the suit cannot be resolved vide originating summons or base on assertion as contained therein in the affidavit tendered.

Justice Anka, declared that the mode of commencement of the action via originating summons was wrong and cannot be sustained, insisting that the foundation is shady and shaky.

Ninzo Community Development Association Honors NUT National President

By; VICTOR DAZANG, Kaduna

The paramount ruler of Ninzo Chiefdom in Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Alh Umar Musa has charged people in the area to vote for credible leaders into public offices irrespective of party affiliation.

The paramount ruler gave the charge during a thanks giving service in honor of the national president of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) held at the Evangelical Reform Church of Christ (ERCC) in Kaduna.

Alh Umar Musa who expressed satisfaction over the invaluable contributions and sacrifices been made by the national president of NUT to the development of teachers and the Ninzo Chiefdom, prayed God grants him wisdom in championing the cause for the improvement of the Nigeria's teachers welfare.

In a remark, the member representing Sanga Constituency in the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Hon Comfort Amwe implored youth in the area to emulate the

exemplary leadership qualities of the NUT President.

She described the national president of the Nigeria Union of Teachers as a dependable and hardworking leader, who has been contributed positively towards the amelioration of suffering of t

he downtrodden, particularly the teachers at the grassroots.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ (ERCC) Local Church Council, Television- Kaduna, Rev John Adagari said the church is proud of the developmental exploits of the NUT president.

Rev John Adagari however, appealed to Christians in leadership positions across the country to invest more in the propagation of the Christendom for the promotion of peace and societal development.



On his part, the celebrant and national president of the Nigeria Union of Teachers, Mr Titus Audu Amba thanked the Ninzo Community in Kaduna for the honour and reiterated his resolve to contribute more positively towards national growth.

The NUT president who used the occasion to thank his predecessor, Dr Nasir Idris (Kauran Gwandu) and the APC Gubernatorial flag bearer in Kebbi State for the genuine support towards succeeding him, added that the APC Gubernatorial flag bearer

is a detribalized Nigerian with genuine passion to serve humanity, while also praying God to grant him victory in the 2023 elections.

Mr Titus Audu Amba also enjoined the people of Kebbi State to close ranks and take advantage of the candidature of Dr Nasiru Idris under the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) for rapid socio-economic development in the state.

Highpoint of the occasion was a musical interlude and prayers for the NUT national president and his family.

YPP Soaring High In Adamawa, community agog As Reps Candidate flags-off Campaign

**Over 200 PDP members defect*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Activities in Mayo Belwa town on Saturday came to a halt as the Young Progressives Party (YPP) candidate vying to represent Mayo-Belwa, Toungo, Jada and Ganye Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Nuruddeen Hammanero, flagged-off campaign amidst pomp, pageantry and unprecedented camaraderie.

During the flag-off which was attended by members and leaders of other political parties including Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressives Congress (APC), the candidate also unveiled his five-point manifesto centered around the development of trade, education, agriculture, security and empowerment.

The ambition of Nuruddeen Hammanero got a boost as a PDP stalwart in the area, Nuruddeen Okocha, led over 200 stalwarts from other political parties to join the campaign train of Hammanero because of the belief that the budding politician has what it takes to turn around the fortunes of the people of the area.

Meanwhile, the ancient town was virtually shutdown as thousands of supporters of the candidate left their activities and joined the long motorcade of supporters as the candidate moved round the town to fraternize with the people.

Movement through the town was hectic as it took the

candidate hours to finish activities lined up for the day, including visitation to the palace of the district head and unveiling of the party's campaign office as security operatives had a hectic time trying to control the ever surging crowd of supporters.

While thanking the people of Ganye, Toungo, Jada and Mayo Belwa for their uncommon gesture and show of goodwill, Hammanero who was visibly overwhelmed with emotion, pledged not to disappoint them if elected.

He noted that he will channel considerable energy to ensure the revival of the constituency's potentials through proper border security and attract investments to the area in order to usher in peace, stability and prosperity.

Hammanero said he is in the race to right the wrongs of the past, noting that the area has suffered neglect since the advent of this democratic dispensation in 1999.

He however, expressed optimism that all hope was not lost, as the messiah who will save the constituency from further drift has appeared on the horizon.

Hammanero urged the people not to despair in the face of serial disappointments they suffered in the past as he is mindful of the verdict of posterity on him.

He enjoined the people to go out en mass and collect their PVCs, noting that the voter's card is the only weapon at their disposal to elect good leaders come 2023 general election.

He also pleaded with the other

constituents to reciprocate the gesture Mayo Belwa has been extending to them over the years by voting him this time around.

Speaking during the occasion, the Director General of Nuruddeen Hammanero campaign

council, Hammadu Jada, called on the

people of Ganye Chieftdom to support Mayo Belwa to produce the next federal lawmaker in the area to reciprocate the gesture Mayo Belwa has extended to the chieftdom over the years.

"Since the advent of democracy, Mayo Belwa has been supportive to Ganye Chieftdom, making its sons to represent the area in the House of

Representatives. In reciprocity, we should also support Mayo Belwa now as one good turn deserves another.

"More so, our candidate has the wherewithal, capacity, experience, exposure and the youthful energy to translate our hopes and aspirations into reality," he said.

Also speaking, Adamawa State chairman of YPP, Musa

Maigana congratulated those who pitched tents with his party, noting that they would be carried along and will be treated like old members of the party.

He expressed hope that with the massive grassroots support his party is garnering across every nooks and crannies of the constituency, his party will comprehensively win the 2023 polls.



2023 Guber: I Am On Rescue Mission To Restore Dignity, Pacesetting Status Of Oyo State - Folarin

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State All Progressives Congress (APC), governorship candidate, Senator Teslim Folarin on Monday, said he is on rescue mission to restore the dignity and pacesetting status of Oyo State.

The APC governorship candidate in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan, declared that his administration if elected, is determined to elevate "Oyo State from the nadir to the zenith of good governance, where it truly belongs"

According to Senator Folarin his decision to contest the governorship election was as a result of calls by stakeholders in Oyo state asking him to come and rescue the state from its present pitiable situation and moved it forward for Growth and Development".

"Barely two years after the inauguration of the present administration in Oyo State, I was inundated with calls from critical

stakeholders across all walks of life on the pertinent need to rescue our dear State from the claws of the most vision less government in the history of the Pacesetter State with a view to moving the State Forward for Growth and Development", he said.

The APC governorship candidate added "for more than three years, all areas of governance in Oyo State have largely been kissing the canvass. From all indices, it is apparent our people, instead of enjoying dividends of democracy, are suffering from a government where institutional rigidity, exclusiveness, pervasive insecurity, policy summersaults, monumental debt and inoperable economic ideas reign supreme".

According to Senator Folarin, "despite being blessed by providence with surplus human and capital resources, our people are made to live under severe hardship and excruciating frustration as a result of

receding opportunities.

Hence, my decision to offer myself to serve the good people of Oyo State as Governor from May 29, 2023".

"With my robust administrative experience, unimpeded courage and strength of conviction, I am poised to invest in policies that will drive economic development, provide a sea of opportunities for the teeming populace, improve healthcare, agriculture, education and infrastructure, so that our State can be an investment hub and a preferred destination for industrialists.

"All these will be clothed in human face by our administration, which will be people-driven. My aim is to form a pact with the good people of Oyo State through an invaluable blueprint that is anchored on a mission to move Oyo State Forward for Growth and Development."

Senator Folarin noted, "Our government

shall be established on a mission that will prioritize functional and qualitative education for all school-age children, productive mechanized agriculture, efficient and affordable healthcare delivery for all, irrespective of age, gender and status; massive industrialization, strongly supported by expansive agricultural value chain; employment generation with emphasis on entrepreneurship and innovation; urban renewal and rural infrastructural development".

He stressed further, "our government shall secure Oyo State, where every lawful citizen shall have no reason to fear or fret.

It's TKF O'clock! I urge everyone to join me on this Rescue Mission to restore the dignity and pacesetting status of our dear State. Let's elevate Oyo State from the nadir to the zenith of good governance, where it truly belongs. With you by my side, it is possible! Long Live Oyo State!"

2023 Polls: Society For Peace holds 16th Conference, AGM In Abuja *To bestow awards on Prominent Nigerians

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

It is now set for the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP) 16th International conference and Annual General Meeting in Abuja from today November 30 to Dec 1.

According to a statement by the Chairman of the International conference and AGM Local Organising Committee, Prof. Tajudeen Akanji, the two-day conference will hold at Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Abuja.

Prof Akanji stressed that

the conference themed "Elections, Democratic Consolidation and Good Governance in Africa" amidst 18 other sub-themes slated for the conference " is in collaboration with the Nigerian Army Resource Centre, (NARC) Abuja He said a one-time Chief of Army Staff and former Minister of Interior, Lt. Gen. Abdul-Rahman Danbazzau will be the Guest Speaker at the conference with Prof. Attahiru Jega, former INEC Chairman as the Chairman of the occasion. Prof Akanji stated further that Prof. Suleiman

Bogoro, SPSP Chairman of B.O.T will be the Chief Host while Major General Garuba Wahab, the Director-General of NARC is the Co-host while Dr Nathaniel Danjibo, SPSP President, will be making his valedictory speech.

In addition to the scientific, practitioner and student panels, Akanji said the conference will have TETFUND centre of Excellence, University of Ibadan panel on "Early Warning System" and IPSS/Senator Abiola Ajimobi Foundation panel on Election Security in Nigeria".

Other highlights of the conference include special icons Peace and Democracy awards on Bishop Matthew Kukah, Prof. Uba Adamu, Dr Abdul-Rahman Danbazzau and Prof. Attahiru Jega as well as distinguished Fellowship awards on seven Nigerians including the DG of NARC who was a former GOC of One Division.

The conference will also induct full members, carry out investiture of new fellowship by upgrade as well as direct full membership and induction of Associate members.



Maiden NUJ Milestone Recognition Awards Holds December 8

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

The National Secretariat of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) will on December 8, 2022, honour some media personalities in the maiden edition of its "Milestone Recognition of Media Icons" initiative.

Information released on December 26 by Awosanya Olayide, the Secretary of the Organizing Committee for the awards, said that unlike other awards, the Milestone Recognition of Media Icons, being organised in conjunction with the Lagos State Council of NUJ, is unique in its originality and is targeted at media owners and some seasoned journalists who have distinguished themselves in the industry. The event which will take place in the Banquet Hall, Muson Centre, Onikan, Lagos, on December 8, 2022, by 5.30pm will have the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, as the Chief Host/Guest Speaker.

Media gurus listed for honour include Otunba Olusegun Osoba, former governor of Ogun State; Chief Nduka Obaigbena, Publisher, ThisDay Newspapers and Chairman Arise TV; High Chief Raymond Dokpesi, Chairman Emeritus, Daar Communication; Dr. John Momoh, Chief Executive Officer, Channels Media Group; The Chairman of Trust Media Ltd, Mallam Kabir Yusuf; Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu, Publisher, The Sun Newspapers among others.

Chairman, Organising Committee for the event, Gbenga Onayiga, said in a statement in Lagos that these topflight media personalities are to be honoured for their immense contributions to the development of journalism and the empowerment of media professionals in the country.

"Having created and sustained employment for journalists over the years, our union has deemed it fit to

encourage the recipients and encourage other media professionals and entrepreneurs to invest in the industry," Onayiga explained.

Other seasoned journalists and media entrepreneurs penciled down for recognition include the Kano State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, who was also a former president of NUJ, Mallam Mohammed Garba; the Chief Executive Officer, Independent Communication Network Limited, Mr. Bayo Onanuga; Chairman, Editorial Board of Penpushing and former Chairman, Lagos NUJ, Mrs Funke Fadugba; former Managing Director of Champion Newspapers, Mr. Emma Agu. Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi, Publisher Blueprint Newspapers and the Inspector General of Police Usman Alkali Baba.

Mr. Buki Ponle, Managing Director of News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Mrs. Yemi Kolapo, Publisher/Managing Director, The Point Newspapers & Director General of Governor Yahaya Bello (GYB) Media Organisation as well as Mr John Ajayi, Publisher of Marketing Edge Magazine are also shortlisted for the award.

The Milestone Recognition of Media Icons initiative is designed to encourage top professionals to sustain the tempo and prop up the budding ones not to be discouraged by the current economic and professional challenges.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who will speak on "The Role of the Media in the 2023 General Election", will also be honoured for his media-friendly disposition.

The event will have in attendance no fewer than 300 guests from different walks of life, including journalists drawn from across the country, who will join their Lagos counterparts, for the unique occasion.

Tell Us Your Next Plan, Loyalists Tell Adeyeri

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following the resignation of a former House of Representatives aspirant, Hon. Adeyeri Stephen, from the Ondo State All Progressives Congress (APC), his supporters have asked him to reveal his next line of action.

The staunch loyalists who demanded the former APC Chieftain to hint the public on his next plan, told Adeyeri to critically explore three options such as —rejoining the APC, rally support for PDP's candidates in Akoko South West or join the Labour Party.

Hundreds of Adeyeri's supporters who converged on Saturday at a meeting tagged, "ASK Team: The Way Forward" at Iwaro-Oka in Akoko South West Local Government Area of the state, unanimously issued him a 7-day ultimatum to address the press and reveal his political standpoint to the public.

Speaking at the meeting, his close associate, Mr. Adeolu Igbede, said their leader had kept them on tenterhook without any hope of ease on which way to go, adding that the sole purpose of the meeting is to make available options for him.

"We are very loyal to our Leader, Hon. Adeyeri Stephen Kunle and we won't rescind on our firm



support for him, but we want him to covertly and overtly tell us his next line of action, we can't be under suspense anymore" "Adeyeri is a big gun in Ondo State political vortex. He has done so much despite the fact that he wasn't given the fair platform to continue his philanthropic gestures" "In view of this, it is imperative for him to tell us which way to go because we so much believe in his political strength and drive to win election, hence I suggest he takes us back to APC", Igbede said.

Another leader, Oluwaseun Pius, argued

that rejoining the All Progressives Congress would amount to going back to a former abode laden with unsettled crisis.

"I want our principal to go back to the People's Democratic Party, infact the opposition party is booming again with defectors so I suggest PDP, we can't stay without joining a political party, APC is troubled crisis"

Contrary to the afore-stated opinions, an ardent supporter from Akoko South East LG, Mrs. Grace Ogidan, noted that owing to the growing popularity of the Labour Party and its Candidate,

Peter Obi, she further suggested that Adeyeri should join the LP.

"I believe LP is okay, given by what we are hearing about the party and Obi, we believe we are good to go, Mimiko brought the party and he won twice as Governor, so I suggest LP"

However, Hon. Bolorunduro Emmanuel, said if the former Reps aspirant fails to comply with the issued ultimatum, he might risk losing his huge supporters.

As at press time, efforts to reach Adeyeri for comments were unsuccessful.

War Against Insecurity In Imo Yielding Dividends - Gov Uzodinma

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The fight against insecurity by the Governor Hope Uzodinma's administration in Imo State is yielding dividends and the reason attention could now be given to other essential issues in the state.

The governor made the disclosure at the 31st edition of the Annual Lecture/Awards of the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN), held in Ikeja, Lagos State.

Represented by the Commissioner for Information, Hon. Declan Emelumba, the Governor said he was quite happy that his dogged fight against insecurity in Imo State had been noticed, applauded and then appreciated.

He said that it was because the fight against insecurity was yielding dividends that attention could now be given to other essential issues in the state.

According to Emelumba, if not for insecurity which took most of the governor's attention and enormous money, the state would have become incredibly transformed to the level that other states would be envious of Imo.

He further explained that it was because the insecurity had been tackled and checkmated to a certain level that the governor decided to focus attention on other important state matters, which led to the promotion of civil servants across the board in the state. This promotion was announced on Wednesday, said Emelumba.

His words: "The

governor wanted to be here himself, but today is the All Progressives Congress (APC) rally in Ebonyi State, so he had to stay. The rally is within his zone and he is the Chairman of the APC Presidential Campaign Council in the South-East, so there was no way he could have stayed away from there. But he said I should come to represent him. His Excellency is super excited with the award because it hits to the point of his dogged fight against insecurity in Imo State, which has worked and today, Imo State is relatively safe."

He further stated: "When people appreciate sacrifices made in restoring peace in Imo State, then the Governor too will be happy. When you appreciate somebody for what he has done, he will do more. He said I should thank CRAN, for not only watching and monitoring what he had been doing in Imo state, and is still doing, but for appreciating it. Civil servants in Imo State had never been promoted in the past 10 years because of the enormous amount of money involved, but just yesterday (Wednesday) he approved the promotion of all civil servants in Imo State across the board. This is happening now because there is peace in Imo State and the governor can now focus on other important things."

Uzodinma, who received CRAN's coveted Platinum Award in Fight Against Insecurity, was among 36 respected and deserving Nigerians recognized by the association for their services to the country and humanity.

I Left Over N14bn Cash In Osun Govt Coffers - Oyetola

*Says in 4yrs, they didn't take any bank loans

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The immediate past governor of Osun State, Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola has disclosed that his administration is "leaving behind cash of over N14 billion" in the coffers of the state.

Alhaji Oyetola in his farewell address to the people of Osun State on Saturday, disclosed that, "in addition to the N14 billion cash, another N8 billion is being expected between December and January from our performance in SFTAS and the IGR".

The immediate past governor stressed that his administration among others, "also restored the lost glory of our civil service and ensured that workers' salaries are not only promptly paid but continued to pay minimum wage despite the devastating effect of COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are leaving behind cash of over N14 billion. In addition to the N14 billion cash, another N8 billion is being expected between December and January from our performance in SFTAS and the IGR", he said.

Alhaji Oyetola added, "also, another seventy-two million Dollars will come to the state soon from RAMP 3, NG-CARES, Nigeria for Women Project and Ease of Doing Business. These are earned, based on performance. And we have indeed performed to earn them.

"For four years, we did not take any bank loan facility. But we benefitted from the N3 billion monthly intervention from the federal government to all the states for six months to cushion the effect of deductions of budget support facility and salary bailout accessed by the

previous administration, just as we have paid N97 billion from the total debt we inherited in 2018'.

Alhaji Oyetola stressed, "however, by the latest ranking in 2021, we have climbed to the 19th place on the index, as we are now ranked 13th out of 36 states of the federation", adding, "as we end our first term, rest assured that Osun is more stable economically than we met it in 2018 and it remained the most peaceful state in the country under our leadership.

"From a little above N10 billion in 2018, we have been able to grow the State IGR N20 billion, just as our performance in the World Bank's States' Fiscal Transparency, Accountability, and Sustainability (SFTAS) has continued to earn us accolades and financial benefits. In 2018 before we came into office, Osun was placed 32nd on the fiscal sustainability index, finishing just ahead of Taraba, Plateau, Adamawa, and Kogi states".

Speaking further, Alhaji Oyetola said "we also resolutely defended and prioritised the welfare of workers and pensioners", adding, "for this first term, we expended over N50 billion to cater for our senior citizens to settle their pensions and gratuities.

"We remitted the contributory pension as and when due, and we were at the same time reducing the backlog we inherited from the previous administration. By and large, we were able to stabilise the economy of the State under our leadership.

"We never toyed with the security of our people as we cooperated with other States in South-West to set up Amotekun to support the conventional security agencies in order to



Oyetola

further secure our state. We also launched the Osun Youth Policy Document to take care of the present and future of our younger generation, just as we injected over N2 billion into the economy through the Osun Microcredit Agency to empower our market men and women".

He however expressed optimism that his sustainable development and participatory governance "shall be restored and put on a surer and better footing", saying, "we look forward to continue to serve you in no distant future".

"We are confident that this period of temporary political eclipse shall pass. The sun shall shine again, brighter and warmer and the sustainable development and participatory governance that we enthroned, which have been applauded by local and international organisations, shall be

restored and put on a surer and better footing.

"As we draw the curtain on this first tenure, We are convinced that we neither renege on our promises nor disappointed you. We kept faith with you and maintained fidelity with our electoral promises. It was our wish to continue to serve you but we are constrained by the outcome of the July 16 Governorship election which we are already challenging in court."

Alhaji Oyetola emphasized, "as a law-abiding citizen and government, we are stepping aside to allow the law take its course.

However, we look forward to continue to serve you in no distant future. We have absolute trust in God that we shall be back soon, as we have implicit trust and confidence in the judiciary to do justice in the case before it".

"Alhaji Oyetola in his farewell address to the people of Osun State on Saturday, disclosed that, "in addition to the N14 billion cash, another N8 billion is being expected between December and January from our performance in SFTAS and the IGR".

I Will Harness Youth Energy, Improve Human Capital Dev - Tinubu

By ; RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), in Lagos, centred his campaign promises on the youth, assuring them of harnessing their energy through job creation to accelerate economic growth if victorious in the 2023 presidential election.

He also said his administration's priorities would focus on improving human capital development.

Tinubu made the promise on Saturday at the main bowl of the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Surulere, during the inaugural 2023 presidential rally of APC in the Southwest region.

The presidential hopeful, who shared his message of "Renewed Hope" with the mass of young people at the rally, said his capacity to lead the country is not in doubt, noting that Lagos' growth trajectory from a State in deficit to one of the six largest economies in Africa best demonstrated his ability to drive the needed change to put the country on the path of prosperity.

When elected, Tinubu said he would do his best to change the country's fortunes, but noted the task would not be easy at the start.

He said: "I stand before you all with a solemn promise that when we are elected next year, we will continue and build on the progressive path laid forth by our party since 2015. We have a clear agenda for the future of the country and with your support, we will work to achieve a better future for you and your family.

"Nobody will be forgotten when we roll out our development plans. We have great plans for our youths in education and employment. You will not be forgotten. Economic growth is one of our biggest priorities. We will do our best to solve the contemporary challenges facing us, but it will not be easy at the start."

Tinubu, again, took a swipe at Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, calling on the electorate to use their votes to retire him finally. The APC presidential candidate said PDP spent 15 years making excuses and forgot the mandate given them to better the lives of Nigerians in the era of boom.

Under the PDP, Tinubu said major infrastructure projects were left to rot with no plan for their rehabilitation, including Lagos-Badagry Highway.

"Rejecting Atiku with your votes and retiring him will be the final step to take in burying PDP



for life," Tinubu said.

The APC National Leader passed a vote of confidence on Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, saying the Governor had become a symbol of good governance.

Tinubu said PDP would repeat another outing of failure in Lagos gubernatorial election, stressing that the opposition party did not have enough strength to stop Sanwo-Olu's re-election.

Speaking at the event, Lagos State Governor Babaji Sanwo-Olu opened the floor with his short remarks, thanking Tinubu for laying the foundation for the physical and socio-economic growth being witnessed in Lagos since 1999.

The Governor, who described the APC presidential standard bearer as "architect of modern Lagos", said Tinubu's vision, character and tenacity stood him out among presidential contenders, urging Lagosians to elect the candidate with unprecedented number of votes at the polls.

Sanwo-Olu said: "Tinubu is the builder of the modern Lagos we are all enjoying today. For implementing his vision through character and tenacity, and pushing his ideas to what we can physically see, our candidate is



the best choice for the president. "Aside being a visionary leader, Tinubu has also been an advocate of unity and a figure who has stood firm in support of national cohesion. We are all witnesses to all outstanding achievements to his name. His reputation stands tall among his peers and he is the right man for the job."

The Director-General of the Presidential Campaign Council and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Lalong, described Tinubu as a "consummate

manager of people and resources" with capacity to change difficult situations.

Lalong said Tinubu's greatest success as former Lagos governor was his ability to groom brilliant successors that expanded his ideas to the next level.

Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, said Tinubu's winning the party presidential ticket took him out as the most investigated politician in the Fourth Republic.

Despite series of wild allegations being bandied against Tinubu, the Speaker said none had been proven to be true. The APC presidential candidate, Gbajabiamila said, would win the election with convincing margins.

He said: "This is not the main rally for Lagos. We are energising the base with this large turnout witnessed here today. When the main campaign is held, it will be the double of the crowd we see here today."

Photos: AKINOLA ARIYO

Minister Reveals Why FG Suspended Nigerdock - Minister

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Federal Government has expressed its readiness to lift the suspension order on Nigerdock following its willingness to abide by the rules and its contributions to the growth of the national economy.

The Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo made the disclosure when he visited the firm in Lagos in the company of the Minister of State for Transportation, Prince Ademola Adegoroye and some management staff of the ministry.

Addressing the Chief Executive Officer, Nigerdock, Maher Jarmakani and other officials of the company, the minister pointed out that the reason why they were suspended was as a result of complaints from other terminal operators, saying Nigerdock has operating advantages over them.

"What led to your suspension was that I received complaints from terminal operators, saying that you are not on the same level with them. In the sense that they pay more to the

government than you do. You're likely to attract freight at much lower cost to the detriment of other businesses", the Minister disclosed.

He, therefore, urged them to liaise with Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to work out all the operational licenses needed to enable them operate and the latter will forward same to the Minister of Transportation, whose prerogative it is to give approvals.

Speaking further, the minister said: "We will never do anything to undermine the things you are doing here in terms of generating wealth and jobs for Nigerians. The only thing we are saying is that the law should be followed. We should not encourage lawlessness".

Responding, the CEO, Nigerdock, Maher Jarmakani,



The Minister of Transportation during his visit to Nigerdock

said the firm has taken notable steps in this regard as they have been granted bonded permits by the Nigerian Customs and they are currently working with Nigerian Ports Authority to ensure all processes of getting the needed approvals are

followed accordingly.

"We are seeking your support Honourable Minister and that is why we wrote a letter of appeal for your guidance and your support to see that we have followed all processes and procedures" Jarmakani stated.

Furthermore, Jarmakani informed the Minister that in the 30 years of its existence, Nigerdock has employed more Nigerians than its peers, assuring that the company will not undermine the country's extant rules and regulations

Lagos Arewa Council Of Chiefs Rejects Imposed Leaders

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Arewa Council of Chiefs in Lagos has vehemently rejected the imposition of one Alhaji Aminu Yaro as the sole Sarkin Hausawa and Alhaji Ahmed Bambado as the sole Sarkin Fulani in the state, saying it was needless.

The council denounced the endorsement of the duo purportedly appointed by the Governor of Kano State, Dr. Umar Ganduje.

Asserting that there is no crisis within its fold, the council maintained that it was not consulted before such appointment, adding that it is only a warring group that can be reconciled.

Secretary of the Council, Alhaji Ibrahim Danbatta while addressing journalists at the weekend, along other members, said the two persons purportedly announced as the Sarkin Hausawa and Fulani of Lagos were not accepted because they were imposed.

"Our attention has been drawn to a publication making rounds credited to individual sources in the social media that Governor of Kano State, Umar Ganduje announced the two people as the sarkin hausa and Fulani of Lagos State which they claimed they were informed before such decisions was reach.



Gov Ganduje

"We did not sign nor accept any arrangement by the Governor, we were also not consulted. It is not acceptable that out of 53 Arewa Chiefs in the State, only two will be recognised as sole sarkin, it is not possible. We see it as an attempt to imposed unknown and unacceptable chief on the Arewa people in Lagos and we vehemently

rejected them.

"We are calling on our leader, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Kashim Shettima, Governor, Solomon Lalong and Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to call his Kano State counterpart to order not to rub Tinubu's name in mud and stop interference in Lagos Arewa affairs, in order to prevent uncontrollable crisis so

as not to affect the electoral fortunes of APC in the state.

"We are also appealing to Ganduje not to throw us into the type of crisis that rocked Kano and that of Osun State Arewa council which affected the votes of APC during the election in both states."

He added, "the Arewa in Lagos are one, there is no crisis among

us, where did Ganduje get the reconciliation from, it is when there is fighting that you reconcile the people, but we are one body.

"We were not invited for any meeting before those people were announced. They were imposed on us and they are not representing us, we have different tribes who make up the 53 Chiefs, The Chairman of the council in Lagos is Alhaji Ali Kabiru."

Danbatta also used the forum to announce the resolve of the council to pitch its tent behind the candidature of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the 2023 polls.

Other members of the council present at the briefing were, Alhaji Hassan Abubakar, Sarkin Idiaraba & Mushin, Alh. Alkali

Ibrahim, Shettima Kanuri Lagos, Alh. Malam Musa Abdullahi, Sarkin Ikeja, Alh. Sani Lambu, Sarkin Odi-olowo, Alh. Abdulrashid Aliyu, Sarkin Samari Lagos, Alh. Habibi Alaramma, Waziri of Okokomaiko, Alh. Abdullahi Umar, Zanna of Sultan, Alh. Sharif Mubaraq, Secretary to Shuwa of Lagos among others.

Zulum To Campaign Council: Attack During Atiku's Visit Despicable

**Asks security to ensure justice*

**Says he's against political thuggery*

**Insists they delivered on their 2019 promises*

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum on Sunday, inaugurated Borno State's Campaign Council for the All Progressives Congress (APC), ahead of the 2023 general elections.

During the inauguration held at the multipurpose hall of the Government House in Maiduguri, Zulum reminded the campaign council of his ban against political thuggery and strongly warned that he is vehemently opposed to the use of political thugs at any point, before, during or after any elections

Addressing the campaign council which was made up of APC's critical stakeholders and top government officials, Governor Zulum raised issues surrounding the campaign visit of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar to Maiduguri, on November 9, 2022 (about three weeks ago).

"There have been recent disturbing and worrisome political developments in the state. I am specifically referring to the spate of violence and assault meted out to the PDP and its presidential candidate (Atiku Abubakar) when they came here (Maiduguri) for their campaign rally.

"I want to put it on record that the assault was neither deliberate nor pre-planned. It was a spontaneous outburst by a coterie of some political party miscreants, cutting across all political parties.

"Suffice it to point out that what happened was despicable and unwarranted and it strikes at the very essence of democracy, which thrives and matures amidst the plurality of political parties. It has been posited time and again that any move against an opposition political party tends to raise the popularity of the opposition in the eyes of the electorate. So it is fruitless to even contemplate attacking the opposition. I have absolute confidence in the ability of security agencies investigating the matter to do justice, equity and fairness both to the victims and the culprit", the governor declared.



Meanwhile, Governor Zulum at the council's inauguration, said his administration had by Allah's grace, succeeded in fulfilling most of the promises made during the 2019 governorship campaigns.

"Of the promises we made, masha' Allah we were able to

deliver thousands of houses and shelter for our people, and were able to support consistently over 2.7 million people with food, funds and facilities to make their lives more meaningful. We built many roads in different areas of the state. We built more schools, hospitals, police posts, markets



and many more", Zulum said. The governor added: "We promised improvement in security and by the grace of Almighty Allah, everyone can objectively verify that indeed the security situation has improved significantly. We are not going to rest on our oars. We plan to continue on this path of progress to consolidate the gains of the last few years of our stewardship."

"It is true that I could stand here for the next one-week listing and detailing all the things that we did during the first tenure that is coming to an end. To make it easier for people to track what we have done, you will see everything published clearly inside newspapers and other media of communication for ease of reference", the governor said.

"Our projects are not paper projects. They are there for all to see. For us most importantly, we did not only build bricks and blocks, we fulfilled the promise of being with our people regardless of their location or situation. We visited all our local governments multiple times in

good and bad times", Governor Zulum recalled.

Earlier in his remarks, the Borno State APC Chairman, Ali Bukar Dalori, charged members of the campaign council to work towards delivering all the political units in the state to the APC.

Speaking on the composition of the council, Dalori said there are 22 strategic committees which include campaign council management and coordination, campaign patrons, campaign advisory, planning and strategic monitoring, finance and fund-raising, media and publicity, contact and mobilization among others.

The occasion was attended by the Deputy Governor, Umar Usman Kadafur, former Governor, Maina Maji Lawan, Senator Abubakar Kyari, Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume, Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno, members of the House of Representatives, Speaker Borno State House of Assembly, Abdulkarim Lawan, SSG, Usman Jidda Shuwa, former members of the National Assembly and other top party members.

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Ogun CCA Trains Presidents, Members Of Customary Courts

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The President, Ogun State Customary Court of Appeal (CCA), Hon. Justice Mobolaji Ojo has disclosed that the essence of the customary court is to ensure that justice is available to all in the state.

Justice Ojo, who disclosed this at the opening of a three-day annual retreat for Judges, Officers of the CCA, Presidents and members of Customary Courts, with the theme "The role of the Customary Court in Protecting and Preserving Culture and Tradition in a Modern Society", held at Yewa Frontier Hotel, Ilaro, Ogun State.

He said that it was imperative that more courts are established and effectively administered to make justice accessible across all social strata for any given society.

He added that Customary courts generally have unlimited jurisdiction to determine questions of customary laws, which has conduit that its not limited to settlement of disputes alone, but right to recognize and establish, customary law principles that were restated, declarations and made in the direction of promoting and preserving native laws and customary law practices.

Speaking further, he noted that the theme of the retreat is apt, highlighting the reforms that have taken place within the

customary courts system of Ogun State with a view to enhancing administration of justice across the the metropolis and touching the lives of the common man as it was.

According to him, "The administration of justice is indeed a broad term, and within that general rubric, the state strives within its enabling laws and institutions to achieve fairness, ensuring justice and impartiality according to the rule of law. The rules applicable to the administration of justice are extensive and refer to, amongst other concepts, fair trial, and presumption of innocence, independence and impartiality of the court or tribunal, and the right to appropriate remedy"

While noting that the main vehicle for the protection of human rights at all levels of the system of administration of justice is necessary for the peace and stability of the State, he informed the participants that an equitable and effective system of administration of justice is essential for protecting minority rights, which is also important to ensure a flourishing of an inclusive democracy.

"Indeed, the essence of this retreat is essentially to broaden the horizon of participants and thus, enhance their performance and productivity, and the quality of the justice system at the Customary Court level will have been raised appreciably", he said Justice Ojo reiterated that in order to promote the



L-R:- Hon. Justice Anthony Araba, Hon. Justice Oladejo Wasiu Akanbi, President, Customary Court of Appeal, Osun state (rtd), Hon. Justice Mobolaji Ojo, President, Ogun State Customary Court of Appeal and Hon. Justice Adebisi Femi-Segun, at a three-day retreat organised by Ogun State Customary Court for Hon. Judges, Officers of the CCA, Presidents and members of Customary Courts, held at Yewa Frontier Hotel, Ilaro, Ogun State.

State Customary Court Law (as amended) hence the need for the workshop and retreat.

One of the guest lecturers/Speakers, a retired Osun State Customary Court of Appeal, President, Hon. Justice Oladejo Wasiu Akanbi, stated that the law simply means that things must be done according to and in conformity with the law, noting that there is no room for arbitrary action by government or any person in a community where the pulse of law is held sacred.

persons before the law, while third, is that the constitution is the result of the ordinary law of the land as interpreted by the courts", Akanbi said

Also, Hon Justice, Anthony Araba, in his presentation, said that Customary Courts Law of the State, 2006, section 19, to be precise (as set out in the second schedule of the law) gave Customary Courts in the State jurisdiction to try criminal cases involving offences against public health, simple assaults, offences relating to animals.

origin in what was known then as "Native Courts".

Earlier in his address, the Hon. Justice Idowu Adebisi Odugbesan, disclosed that the retreat is the very second of its kind to be organized for the Presidents and Members of Customary Courts, noting that the retreat has proved to be very essential due to the need to ensure that the Presidents and Members of Customary Courts are well informed and trained for effective and proper discharge of their duties.

Webb Fontaine Customs Cargo Tracking System Kicks Off In Lagos Ports

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Cargo tracking system for use by Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) put in place by Webb Fontaine, a leading service provider for Customs and trade automation, has commenced operation in Apapa Port.

This was confirmed to our reporter by Webb Fontaine's Operations Manager in Nigeria, Vlad Ionescu

Ionescu said the feat which is a breakthrough and major milestone in NCS modernisation drive will aid online, real-time, and live monitoring containers within controlled areas in the customs zone at the port and outside of the port

According to him anomalies such as containers missing in transit, tampering with the seal, broaching, and removal of cargo before the examination can be easily detected and traced using the technology.

This will also change the narrative that neighbouring countries like Benin Republic are ahead of Nigeria in areas of customs and ports aided automation

Customs officers trained by Webb Fontaine will operate the monitoring system that will aid in achieving more operational successes that could have been done manually.

The new system comes with many advantages including building shippers' and port users' confidence in theft prevention and curbing other unlawful activities.

It will save the cost and time of using too much manpower to provide escort services for cargoes in transit as their movements within a geo-fenced zone will be monitored.

Diversions of cargoes from specified movement itineraries will be swiftly detected with further preventive mechanisms activated to prevent loss or theft of cargo.

The feat in Apapa, which is will also serve as test run that will be replicated in other ports across Nigeria, will help to position the country as one with a competitive port, befitting for hub status in the West and Central African region.

Ionescu said "This cargo tracking system, during the pilot phase, will function in Apapa, between a Tin Can port terminal and one Inland Container Depots with many objectives, among which is to decongest the port and improve the revenue of the NCS.

"It is also a way of monitoring the containers that are moving between the port and the Inland Container Depots, which means NCS will have eyes on the containers at all times. Therefore, if there is any attempt to tamper

with the process, NCS can immediately flag it and start investigating the matter.

"The NCS will monitor the full process; we are in charge of training the officers that are going to operate and supervise the transit of the goods. Webb Fontaine has recently renovated and equipped a modern control room with computer and big screen TVs. Customs officers sitting in this control room, using digital maps and the software deployed can follow all container movements and quickly act in case of any problem detected.

"By doing this, the port will be decongested, and all stakeholders like the terminal operators, ship owners, freight forwarders and all will be confident that when they move cargo from the port, things will not get lost and they will be safe.

"Also, unlike before that containers will have numerous escorts when moving out of the port, which required a huge manpower of officers needed to monitor and safeguard the cargo, this will not be necessary anymore.

"For now, we are in the pilot stage, and we are bringing in specialists to train NCS officers as well as the Inland Container Depot personnel involved in the process. For Customs, we're going to training the trainers, we will prepare the trainers, who will then pass on the

knowledge.

"The responsibility of training will fall to the Customs Service, because they know better how many people they want involved and those best suited for it.

"And once this is successful here, it will be replicated in ports all over Nigeria, and will be used as a base for tracking all goods in transit across the country, which is another activity that is important for the Nigeria Customs. The technology is also beneficial.

"Another exciting development is the automation of the Lagos Free Trade Zone, which is the first of its kind to benefit from this electronic process. And now, we are deploying this same electronic system to the rest of the Free Trade Zones in Nigeria" Ionescu said in Lagos

Webb Fontaine has succeeded in automating the Lagos Free Zone, sitting on 82 hectares of land

The Lagos Free Zone automation makes the complex stand out amidst 42 other free zones in the country being the first to be so technologically wired for trade

It is the first free zone in the country to be proximate to the most modern and equipped Lekki Deep-Sea port.

Nigerians Are Multidimensionally Happy

By; PRINCE CHARLES DICKSON Ph.D.

How do you show you're happy? If you're a cat, you purr. If you're a dog, you wag your tail. And if you're a rabbit, you bust out your best binky moves. You read that right — binky. When rabbits are happy, they do this crazy kind of move called a binky. Each bunny has its own binky style, but it's a kind of jumping, midair twist with a kick and a little hop or two on the landing. Some bunnies' binkies can reach almost three feet in the air!

If you watch a bunny binky, you can't help but be happy too.

So back to that first question: How do you show your happiness? Sure, there are tough days, but there are also wonderful days when everything seems to go your way. You wake up to your favorite breakfast, ace the test, and find an extra naira in your pocket. There are days when God blesses you with a chance to help a friend or the opportunity to learn something new about Him. And there are so-so days that are still amazing because you get to share them with Him.

So how do you let the world know life is good? Smile, sing, whistle, or dance — whatever says “happy” to you.

Just be sure to thank the One who gave you all those reasons to be happy.

So, how do Nigerians show they are happy, a nation that the latest Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report on Nigeria, released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) this November, shows the country has a higher incidence of poor people but less intensity of deprivation, even though the report measured more indicators of poverty than in the past.

How do people considering 15 indicators, instead of the 10 indicators in the past 2 surveys, with at least 133 million, 63% of the country's population, suffering from multidimensional poverty see happiness?

Furthermore, the 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index Report MPI noted that the extent of the deprivations that these 113 million poor people suffer is at an average of 40.9%. With these kinds of statistics what's there to be happy about?

Nigerians are happy, we are still high up there in the index of happy people, and I add very happy people. People kidnapped, robbed, flooded, week in, week out. And yet thanksgiving services with dances of all types and executions follow suit. We are happy jare...forget all that



multidimensional English!

We remain a proud people, joyous in nature, never put down by 'little' setbacks like stealing leaders. Visit a state where workers were owed seven months' salaries on a Saturday, you see women and girls adorned in expensive glittering 'aso-ebis'. Thousands spent on event planners/transport/comperes and more.

We are happy people, we love to party and forget that 'MPI' thing, we have continued in our happy nature unabated. We are happy that Ghana lost her match to Portugal because they denied us that spot to be at the mundial.

We attend 'suna' (naming ceremonies) and 'igba nkwo' (traditional wedding) and 'oku' (funeral party) of the same leaders we accuse of looting us dry. It gives us loads of joy and happiness, you get free food and booze and a fight if you are at the right party.

We are happy people, the only people who after being used, abused, disused, and misused are tortured with the

flamboyance, and ostentatious living and all we do is admire them and cling to hope—after all, 'my turn will soon come'.

Happy people: very few countries can live the way we do, weeks without light because the power transformer is bad, yet you pay bills. Fuel stations have no commodity yet opposite those stations, young men sell the same fuel at hyper-black prices for a product we are blessed in quantum with.

We are sad people, when the thief who is looting is from the other side, but when it's from our town, we use the phrase "he is helping our people". And because stealing is everywhere, we all are happy.

'Multidimensional my foot, tell that to the birds--we bribe the police and accuse them of taking bribes. We don't really pay electricity tariffs yet we say 'there's no light', when actually it's a case of Aso Rock owes PHCN, PHCN owes gas company, that one owes staff, the staff is in debt of school fees, rent and utility. We are happy people!

Maybe if the report had said we multidimensionally grumble, no arguments. Maybe we complain most, that's true, yes maybe we are amongst nations with most problems. But how do you know Nigerians are happy...

People who pay in recruitment scams in the police, immigration, army, civil service etc are happy people.

A nation that has bribes for admission scams, or money for marks in school's scams. Rent without house agent frauds. Pension fraud, electoral fraud, where girls date six guys simultaneously and men date five women including their secretary, wife's best friend and driver's wife and nothing happens...cannot be multidimensionally poor.

How many suicides can be traced to spirited men that were tired of the system and called it quits--fact is we kill to be happy because in Nigeria happiness is it. We steal to be happy because that's the real deal. We want to be happy not because we are sad but because we want a status quo.

We want change, but don't want

to change, and are weary of change, a Nigerian adage says an erect penis has no conscience. Nigerians are not multidimensionally poor, when an accountant general would steal money enough to pay all the nation's university teachers' salaries, no real arrest, no outrage. We are happy, if we really are poor, it is not because we are poor, it is because we are multidimensionally happy and not pained enough to do things differently.

How do you know a Nigerian is happy; he runs kitikata on the same spot and blames everyone but himself, so, as long as the thief is from his hood, he is happy, as long as his neighbour also does not have electricity, as long as his enemies, real or imaginary are suffering some fate he is exempted from, as long as he is winning a football game he was ill-prepared for, as long as he gets a job he least deserves and more; he is happy, when will that change—only time will tell. Prince Charles Dickson PhD is the

Team Lead, The Tattaunawa Roundtable Initiative (TRICentre), a Development & Media Practitioner|

Researcher|Policy Analyst|Public Intellect|Teacher he can be reached via, 234 803 331 1301, 234 805 715 2301

Alternate Mail: pcdbooks@yahoo.com
Skype ID: princecharlesdickson

“A nation that has bribes for admission scams, or money for marks in school's scams. Rent without house agent frauds. Pension fraud, electoral fraud, where girls date six guys simultaneously and men date five women including their secretary, wife's best friend and driver's wife and nothing happens...cannot be multidimensionally poor.”

2023: Fears Over Election Violence

By Jibrin Ibrahim

AS campaigns heat up and the elections approach, concerns are emerging over fears of violence in the country affecting prospects for successful conduct of the polls but also the growth of specifically election related violence. It is clear that insecurity is one of the most serious concerns for voters in the country and the level of violence in many parts of the country will make it very difficult to organise election logistics and many a voter would think twice about the risk of stepping out to vote.

Violent extremism by Boko Haram continues in the North-East and parts of North-Central Nigeria while terrorism organised by bandits has become a normal part of the political landscape in the North-West zone. In the South-East, violence associated with the separatist IPOB movement continues and the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway has become a favourite route for kidnappers. Almost nowhere is safe.

There has been good news from the security agencies in recent weeks about their invigorated attacks against armed insurgents, militants, bandits and kidnappers and numerous reports about the killing of many of the perpetrators of violence. Our hope and prayer are for more success by our police and armed forces in this battle so that insecurity will reduce to a level that successful elections can be organised. Beyond the elections, ultimately, we must return to normality in this country so that people can sleep in their houses with both eyes closed and travel around without fear of being killed or kidnapped.

“What has been of even greater concern is the repetition of incidents of verbal and physical attacks between politicians whose intemperate language and verbal attacks on their opponents are encouraging their supporters to engage in physical violence against other candidates. Motorcades have been pelted with stones and rallies attacked by thugs. There is rising desperation among some of the contestants that this is their last chance to power and they must win by hook or crook.”

A few weeks ago, a number of foreign missions issued alerts warning their citizens against traveling around the capital Abuja and even evacuating non-essential personnel. The terror alerts led to increased tension around the capital and some malls and institutions closed for some time. Although the National Security Advisor, Babagana Monguno, and the Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor, dispelled concerns over the alleged terror threat, describing the alert issued by the United States and the United Kingdom as needless and irresponsible, nonetheless concerns of Nigerians deepened. What has been of even greater concern is the repetition of incidents of verbal and physical attacks between politicians whose intemperate language and verbal attacks on their opponents are encouraging their supporters to engage in physical violence against other candidates. Motorcades have been pelted with stones and rallies attacked by thugs. There is rising desperation among some of the contestants that this is their last chance to power and they must win by hook or crook. There is also growing concern that in some states of the country, certain candidates are regularly denied access to the media, to rally grounds and meeting halls. Such action is illegal and it is important that the police and INEC take swift action to sanction such behaviour. In 2011, Nigeria witnessed a massive post-electoral violence in which over a thousand people were killed.

Partly in response to that development, in 2014, a non-governmental organisation, the National Peace Committee (NPC), led by former Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, and Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, Matthew Hassan Kukah. The leadership of the NPC has been recently expanded and includes the Sultan of Sokoto, HRH Sa'ad Abubakar III, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Mr. Femi Otedola, Dame Priscilla Kuye, Archbishop Nicholas Okoh, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, John Momoh, Idayat Hassan, Gen. Martin Agwai (rtd) and Justice Rose Ukeje (rtd). Their core

mandate has been to get the political class to sign and abide to a peace accord, long before the elections.

In September 2022, ahead of the flag-off of campaigns for Nigeria's 2023 general elections, the NPC announced that all the 18 political parties on the ballot would sign two peace accords. The first Peace Accord was signed at the International Conference Centre, Abuja on September 29th.

In their communique, the National Peace Committee announced that: “2023 is more than an election. It is an opportunity to serve Nigeria, to defend Nigeria and to uphold her unity and progress...Nigerians should avoid

the spread of fake news and uphold the principles of tolerance, respect, civility and decency in all public and private conversations and engagements about election and the progress of Nigeria. All political actors, especially their publicity agents and media advisers, should shun personal attacks, avoid insults and incitements; reject the spread of fake news and commit to issue-based campaigns and political rallies in the upcoming 2023 general elections”. This must be adhered with.

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom (UK) says it is watching closely all political parties, security agents or individuals that act violently or incite people through social media in the 2023 general election in Nigeria. The British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Catriona Laing, stated this when she led a team to a meeting with the National Working



Prof Jibrin Ibrahim

Committee members of the Peoples' Democratic Party earlier this week. Ms Laing said that the 2023 election is very important to Africa and the world, hence the spotlight would be on Nigeria and the UK will be watching closely. She said the UK had been really concerned about the recent events, including 52 election violence related issues in 22 states, including an attack on the PDP convoy in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital. “That is a real concern and we want to exchange our thoughts on what you can do as a political party to ensure that the election is as peaceful as possible.” She added that: “We will also be watching closely any individual who acts violently or incites people through social media; we do have the possibility of using our visas as sanction by removing Peoples rights to visit the UK.” If our political class really value their UK visa to the extent that

such a threat could make them modify their political behaviour, then we have to welcome this move.

This should also be a warning to the young Nigerians that are often used to perpetrate violence that the political bosses who fund and push them into such behaviour have their visas and are ready to check out of the country immediately the situation they have provoked gets out of hand. We all have a stake in a free, fair, credible and violence-free election so let's ensure that is the outcome that emerges from the process.

Ibrahim is a professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development. He is also the Chair of the Editorial Board of Abuja-based online newspaper, PREMIUM TIMES.

Queen Nanny: Ghanaian Woman Who Led Liberation Army in Jamaica

By Owei Lakemfa

NANNY, a young Akan woman from present day Ghana, born about 1686 was captured with her four brothers and sold into slavery. They were taken on 'The Journey of No Return' across the Atlantic Ocean, becoming part of the 12.5 million Africans forced on this journey by Europeans and Americans who wanted free labour to exploit for profit.

Unlike the 1.8 million others who perished during this journey and had their bodies fed to the roaring ocean waves, Nanny, who was to become known as "Nanny of the Maroons," and her brothers, survived the ordeal and arrived in Jamaica.

They later escaped from the slave plantations and fled into the mountains and jungles of Jamaica to become Maroons. This was the name for escaped slaves who banded together and fought for freedom, initially for themselves and eventually for various Latin American and Caribbean countries, including Jamaica.

The names of slaves, in almost all cases, were lost. This was part of the depersonalisation and dehumanisation of the slave, who was forced to forget the past and live entirely at the pleasure of the slave owner, who exercised the power of life or death on his "property". So, it is not unlikely that her original name was not Nanny. This was most likely a corruption of the name Maame, which means mother in Twi. This would have been preferred to the names given her by the slave masters.

By the mid-1550s, there were already escaped slaves in the Caribbean, who, with no way of finding their way back home to their loved ones, banded together to fight the slave owners and establish their own communities. In Jamaica, as in some other countries, these freedom fighters were called Maroons.

The word, "maroon" was derived from the Spanish word "Cimarron," which was originally used for runaway cattle. Since African slaves were valued and treated no better than cattle, it came to be used for escaped African slaves. Maroon communities were typically located among mountains and swamps, making slave owners and European countries' raids difficult.

They also provided safe bases

for the Maroons to conduct raids on white plantations and organise guerrilla armies. They linked up with local Native Americans to defend the terrain. Today, Maroon communities still exist in various North and South American countries like Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Ecuador and the Carolina's, Alabama, Florida and New Orleans areas. They also exist on islands in the Indian Ocean.

After escaping from the plantations, Nanny and her brothers joined the Maroons. She later founded a Maroon village with one of her brothers, Quao, in the Blue Mountains in eastern Jamaica in 1720. British Captain Stoddart said Nanny Town, was "situated on one of the highest mountains on the island" and found the only path leading to it, to be: "steep, rocky, and difficult, and not wide enough to admit the passage of two persons abreast."

This forced the invading army into a single file and an easy target for the Nanny fighters. This part of Jamaica was described as "Windward" and the inhabitants were known as "Windward Maroons." The village became known as Nanny Town. The Maroons evolved their own traditional religious practices with West African influences.

It was called Obeah. Nanny was a priestess, leader, and commander-in-chief of the rebel army who trained her soldiers in guerrilla warfare. She was so fierce in battle that the Europeans tried to pass her off as a myth created to rally the forces of the Maroons. But despite strenuous efforts, the Europeans could not force her off the history books.

This is primarily because a ghost

could not have been recorded by European writers; could not have been declared wanted with a bounty on her by the colonialists, nor could a myth had physically established two separate towns. Also, she organised and supervised the escape of about 1,000 slaves over a three-decade period and resettled them.

The Queen Nanny rebels fought the British military for six years from 1728 until the latter, led by Commander Stoddard seized and destroyed Nanny Town in 1734. In fact, the British claimed that one of its mercenaries, Captain William Cuffee, alias Captain Sambo, leading the "Black Shots," killed Nanny in 1733 during the battle for the town.

However, a year later, the same British reported that she was leading the Windward Maroons in a retreat westward. Eventually, she was reported to have led her troops to take refuge near the Rio Grande, one of the largest rivers in the country. The Maroons were making slavery costly and unsustainable and creating insecurity for the Europeans.

These, coupled with the European powers' inability to defeat them after 84 years of



Owei Lakemfa

insurgency, led the British settlers in 1738 to call for a truce. The first peace treaty was signed with the Leeward or Western Maroons, led by Captain Cudjoe (Kojo), another Maroon of Ghanaian origin, in 1739.

The other was with the Windward Maroons on April 20, 1740. The agreement tried to limit Maroon attacks against slavery, and also protect the Maroons. For instance, Article Eight states that "if any White man shall do any manner of injury to Cudjoe, his successors, or any of his or their people, (the Maroon) shall apply to any commanding officer or magistrate in the neighbourhood for justice.

Article Fourteen provided for two White men as ambassadors to live with the Maroons: "in

order to maintain a friendly correspondence with the inhabitants of this island." This clearly could be used for espionage. However, the treaty, in Article Three, gave 1,500 acres of Crown land to the Maroons.

Nanny took possession of the 500 acres allotted to her and her followers in Portland Parish in 1740. There, she built the New Nanny Town, which still exists today as Moore Town. She died a decade later. In 1781, the town bought an additional 500 acres of land. Ninety-nine years after the destruction of Nanny Town, slavery was abolished. Jamaica, 212 years after Nanny passed on, gained independence on August 6, 1962.

The date the treaty was signed is observed as a national holiday. Her grave is regarded as a monument, and Jamaica's \$500 note bears her image. Also, the Jamaican Government in 1975, awarded Queen Nanny the "Right Excellent" national medal, making her the only woman among the country's seven National Heroes.

Perhaps one more step the Jamaican government needs to take is to restore Nanny as the official name of the town. In about 1760, it had been renamed Moore Town after Governor Henry Moore. Nanny of the Maroons deservedly won her place in the pantheon of fighters for human freedom.



Portrait of Queen Nanny on Jamaican \$500 note.

Oyo Vice Chairman Aquatic Association Pledges Big Support For Swimmers

By: AYO OJEDOKUN Lagos
The newly appointed vice chairman for the Aquatic Association of Oyo State by the government, Dr Akande Kazeem Babatunde has promised to hit the ground running by mapping out plans to turn the fortunes of the swimmers around and boost them to win laurels in the fast approaching National Sports Festival (NSF) in Delta State. Reacting after he was inaugurated by the Oyo State Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Seun Fakorede at the Lekan Salami Sports Complex Ibadan, Dr. Akande urged the parents to eschew water phobia which is always responsible for debarring their wards from taking part in swimming, describing it as one of sports that has great health benefits to people of all ages. "We shall work hard to motivate our swimmers to win medals for us as the festival in Delta gets underway and we are also going



Photo captions: Dr, Akande Kazeem Babatunde (third from right) displaying his appointment letter after being inaugurated as vice chairman of Aquatic Association of Oyo State.

to produce more good swimmers for the state and by extension the country so that we can bring back the former glory of Oyo State, having good and best swimmers around.

"Swimming attracts more medals than most team sports in major competitions like NSF of Olympics and that is why we are urging government to provide good facilities and enabling environment to compliment the efforts of the aquatic association in discovering the budding talents for swimming, as we are going to unleash their potentials, and their potentials will be their credentials that will make them essential and influential in life", Akande who is also a life coach & career builder, certified e-campaigner and social media expert, said. Tackling the lack of facilities that is facing the aquatic sports in the state, Akande said, "to have identified many abandoned swimming pools that we can take over and revive to generate income to maintain it and make them suitable for our athletes to use for training until government completes its own at Lekan Salami Stadium".

Non Payment Of Affiliation Fees Delays Graduation Of Students From FCE Zaria - Parents

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria
Parents and Students of Federal College of Education (FCE) Zaria, have expressed concerns over non release and issuance of results for degree programmes two years after graduation from the college. The parents and students made the complaint in separate interviews with newsmen on Monday. Speaking to journalists on the matter, Malam Muhammad-Sani Mudi, a father of two of the students who spoke on behalf of the concerned parents' forum, said personally, his two sons graduated in April 2021 from the College. He added that his children studied degree programmes affiliated to Usman Danfodio University Sokoto and Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.' According to the parents, since their graduation in April 2021 to date, the college failed to issue results to enable them to proceed for NYSC and subsequent engagements. 'As a parent, we made efforts to ascertain the root of the problem but our efforts were not fruitful,' he said. Mudi further lamented that as a parent, he paid exorbitant school fees more than what is being paid at universities to enroll his

children to FCE Degree programmes to dodge the strikes action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). However, this was not fruitful as his children had wasted almost two years waiting for their results after completing their studies. He said a reliable source from the college told him that the delay was due to failure of the college authorities to settle affiliation fees to the universities which led to delays, hence the appeal for intervention from NCE and other key stakeholders. The students who pleaded anonymity said that delays by the college is causing family crisis between some of the students and their parents as some are doubting whether they studied or not. He added that, their colleagues from other colleges had graduated and commenced the national service, adding the delays would not allow some of them to go for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). "He appealed to the college management to consider their



plight". When contacted, the Academic Secretary of the college, Malam Ibrahim Mohammed did not deny the allegations of non-payment affiliation fees, but said he is constrained to shed more light on the issue.

The academic secretary advised that we should see the Public Relations Officer of the College, Hajiya Rakiya Sidi. In her response, Public Relations Officer of the college, Hajiya Rakiya Sidi said she has little knowledge on the matter and has

to consult the provost before speaking on it. She also promised to get back to us after seeking more clarification from the provost, which she was yet to do as at the time of filing the report.

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Oyo Vice Chairman Aquatic Association Pledges Big Support For Swimmers

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ABU To Partner Kadpoly In Mass Production Of Agricultural Implements - VC

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, set to leverage on Executive Order No 5 to commence mass production of agricultural implements developed by the Agricultural Complex of the university to promote agricultural mechanization.

Prof. Kabiru Bala, Vice Chancellor of the university disclosed this during the 2022 National Agricultural Extension Review and Planning Meeting in Zaria.

The meeting with a theme, 'rethinking agricultural Extension Strategies in Disaster Era' was organised by the National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS/ABU), Zaria.

According to him, ABU is endowed with a fully developed agricultural complex with over 1,000 hectares of farm for cultivation with large quantum of research and innovations.

The Vice-Chancellor said the university is developing an innovation and incubation centre so that findings and innovations could be fully harnessed to promote agricultural mechanization and



enhance food security.

"We will also leverage on the executive order number 5 which was hinged on the development of local technologies and innovations; anything that can be done in this country should not be imported.

"We have these farm implements and tools developed by the faculty of agriculture and Institute for Agricultural Research.

"The university would partner with places like 'Panteka' in Kaduna which serves as the innovation hub of Kaduna Polytechnic to develop some of these equipment," the vice-chancellor said.

He added that ABU would not wait for fantastic building and equipment before it starts the production of such implements, stressing that some of the machines and innovations for agricultural mechanization developed by China and other countries were initially developed without sophisticated workshops.

The Vice Chancellor lamented that the faculty of agriculture of the institution pre-dates ABU itself and the Agricultural Complex of the ABU has developed several innovation and agricultural mechanization tools which are left unattended. Earlier in his address, the

strengthen its collaboration with the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization and Innoson Motors to enhance the production of farm implements to

Executive Director of NAERLS, Prof. Emmanuel Ikani said it was high time the government fully embraced commercial agriculture and it should stop paying lip service to the sector.

He said, the university would

strengthen the agricultural mechanization drive of the federal government.

Similarly, Prof. Mohammed Musa Jaliya, Assistant Director Extension, Training and Outreach, NAERLS said the meeting was to enhance collaboration between NAERLS, State Agricultural Development Programmes and farmers.

He said, the meeting was to discourse the activities of 2022 farming and planning for the 2023 farming season for policy brief to Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Buhari, Others Mourn As Ex Minister, Paul Unongo Dies At 87

Barely two months after marking his 87th birthday, elder statesman and a former Minister of Power and Steel, Wantaregh Paul Iorpuu Unongo, is dead.

Unongo, who was a one-time Chairman of Northern Elders Forum (NEF), died at the age of 87 in Jos, Plateau State.

A close family source confirmed his death to reporters on phone in Makurdi, Benue State, on Tuesday. The family source said that his death will be officially announced in due course.

He said: "Yes Wantaregh Paul Unongo died today Tuesday but I cannot say more than that because I am not authorised to do so. But our family will issue a formal statement on the development."

Unongo was born on September 26, 1935, he belonged to the Kwaghngise-Anure-Abera ancestry, in Turan, Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari who was one of the prominent people to salute him on his birthday in September, has expressed sadness over his demise.

President Buhari in a statement by presidential spokesman, Garba Shehu, on Tuesday night, acknowledged the close relationship he had with the deceased,

"In all the positions he held as a politician and public officer, he displayed a high level of decorum.

"He was a colossus in public life, very articulate and witty. He served his community and the nation extremely well," he said.

He therefore, extended condolences to his immediate family and the government and people of Benue State.

"My deepest condolences to the bereaved family, and the government and people of Benue State," he added.



ASUU Stages Protest, Demands Immediate Sack Of Adamu, Ngige, Keyamo

**Declares Tuesday lecture free day*

**Alleges govt wants to destroy education, public Institutions*

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Federal University Lokoja (FUL) branch has demanded the sack of the Ministers of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, Labour and Productivity, Dr Chris Ngige and his state counterpart, Festus Keyamo for constituting clog in their wheel of progress.

The Federal University Lokoja chapter of the union stated this while staging a solidarity protest round the Adankolo College of Health

Sciences campus of the institution on Tuesday.

This is coming as the union had declared Tuesday a lecture free day in compliance with the directive from the National body of the union.

The branch union rose from an emergency meeting of the congress before embarking on a peaceful demonstration, carrying placards with various inscriptions and marched through the campus gate to the environs.

The inscriptions read in parts; "Say no to casualisation of lecturers, "Ngige must go, Okija

Shrine awaits you," "Pay our 8 months salaries," "stop playing politics with our education", "we are not casual workers".

The Chairman of FUL branch of ASUU, Dr. Joshua Silas who addressed journalists after the protest, said the Federal Government, represented by the three ministers has revealed clearly that they were out to destroy public universities.

"We are calling on Mr. President to remove the ministers before they completely destroy our educational system. They want to turn university lecturers to casual workers. This government

wants to destroy public Institutions," he bemoaned

Answering a question, Dr Silas said that, the decision to embark on strike is for the National Executive Council of ASUU to decide, adding that what they were doing is to sensitise the public to know how the trio Ngige, Keyamo and Adamu are destroying the educational system.

According to him, "We also want to tell the public that we should not be blamed when we decide on the next line of action. This government wants to destroy education; they want to destroy public Institutions" he added.