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Election: 18 CSOs Protest Against INEC, Demand Mahmood Yakubu's Resignation



By: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

A coalition of the Civil Society Organisations of Nigeria on Tuesday took a protest to the national headquarters of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), asking the Chairman of the Commission, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, to resignation his position immediately. The coalition, an umbrella forum comprising 18 organisations, also demanded a probe of possible reasons INEC under Prof. Mahmood Yakub failed Nigerians and Africa's biggest democracy before and during the just concluded election. Addressing newsmen during the protest at the Maitama headwaters of the INEC, convener of the coalition Dada Olayinka, said Nigerians will not

accept any foisting of a compromised election on the nation. The Coalition is made up of 18 CSOs among which are Civil Society Forum of Nigeria, Nigeria Youth Development Forum, Democratic Youth Initiative, Forum for Social Justice, Movement for the Development of Democracy and Safeguard Nigeria Movement. Others are Alliance for People's Welfare, Forward Nigeria Movement, Human Right Crusaders, Defenders of Democracy, Democratic Rights Assembly and Voter's Rights Assembly. According to the protesters, prior to the election, INEC had promised that their staff are well trained, motivated and phycologically prepared for the task and importantly assured Nigerians that election results would be transmitted electronically

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Alleged Irregularities: Northern Observers Rejects Lagos West Senatorial Election

By EMMANUEL
AGBO, Kaduna

An Election observer group under the aegis of Truly and Fully Arewa Movement of Nigeria, has called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to cancel the just concluded National Assembly polls for Lagos West Senatorial district.

The group made the demand during a press conference held in Kaduna on Monday, through its spokesperson, Prince Elijah Francis, arguing that the election was marred by lots of Irregularities.

According to him, the group observed that there was late arrival of election materials, destruction and malfunctioning of BVAS machines, disruption of the election process by hoodlums, among others. He added that there are 7,000 polling units across the ten local government areas of the Senatorial district, urging INEC to declare the process void and announce a new date

for fresh polls.

He said, "the district consists of 7,000 polling units spanning across ten local government areas of Lagos state.

"It's sad to note that the election was disrupted by a lot of Irregularities, ranging from late arrival of materials, destruction and malfunctioning of BVAS machines, disruption of the entire process by hoodlums, insufficient security personnel in major polling units, non-transmission of results in the polling units, among other challenges.

The group also called on both local and international observers to draw the attention of INEC with immediate effects so as to do the right thing so as to enhance democracy.

"The Irregularities was much. Few security personnel were deliberately posted in the major polling units to pave way for hoodlums. We also called on international observers to draw the attention of INEC with immediate effect."

Tinubu, Shettima, A Perfect Pair - Dr Suleiman Umar

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

Dr. Suleiman Umar, Director Monitoring and Evaluation at the APC Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) Adamawa State, has congratulated Nigerians on the unequivocal election of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and Kashim Shettima as President and Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He said, "It is a victory for all where Nigerians voted out religious, sectional and tribal bigotry. Their emergence is the best thing to happen to our country at this point in view of its urgent socioeconomic development needs."

He added, "They have both passed the litmus test in the private sector and the public service over the past four decades."

The ex-banker and politician who doubles as the Coordinator in charge of Security and Intelligence for the PCC in the state also said the duo are capable of harnessing the potentials of the country and adding value to its immense resources.

According to him, their variegated experience spanning banking, finance, oil and gas as well as top executive and legislative political posts makes Tinubu and Shettima the best team to tackle the tons of bottlenecks stopping Nigerians from enjoying their enormous endowments.

Dr. Umar, who holds a PhD degree in Agricultural Economics with specialisation in International Trade, said Nigerians will be astonished with the transformation that the country would witness in the next four years.

He called on the 17 co-contenders in the February 25th presidential polls to consider the race over and join hands as patriots to restore peace, progress and prosperity to the nation.

"Government is humongous with room for all political stakeholders committed to contributing to national development. Political contests last a few months but statesmanship must go on forever" he stated.

Police Declares APGA Guber Candidate, 8 Others Wanted Over Alleged Murder Of Ebonyi Traditional Ruler

By ; M K P U M A
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Police Command has declared the gubernatorial candidate of All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Prof. Benard Odoh, and eight others wanted over alleged assassination of the traditional ruler of Umu-Ezekoha Community, HRH Eze Christopher Igboke Ewa. In a statement issued by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) S P O n o m e O n o v w a k p o y e y a, the under-listed were declared wanted in connection with the murder of the traditional ruler of Umu-Ezekoha community in Ezza North LGA of Ebonyi state.

"The Ebonyi State Police Command has declared the under-listed persons wanted in connection with the murder of his Royal Highness Eze Christopher Igboke Ewa of Umu-Ezekoha Community in Ezza North.

Their names are as follows:-

1. Prof. Bernard Odoh

2. Samuel Onyekachi Aligwe

3. Peter Orogwu (aka one boy)

4. Chukwudi Aliewa (aka Ezza)

5. Chika Ezealigbo

6. Nnaemeka Egede (aka Champaign)

7. Nnabuike Okohu

8. Ogobuchi Agbom (aka Okiri)

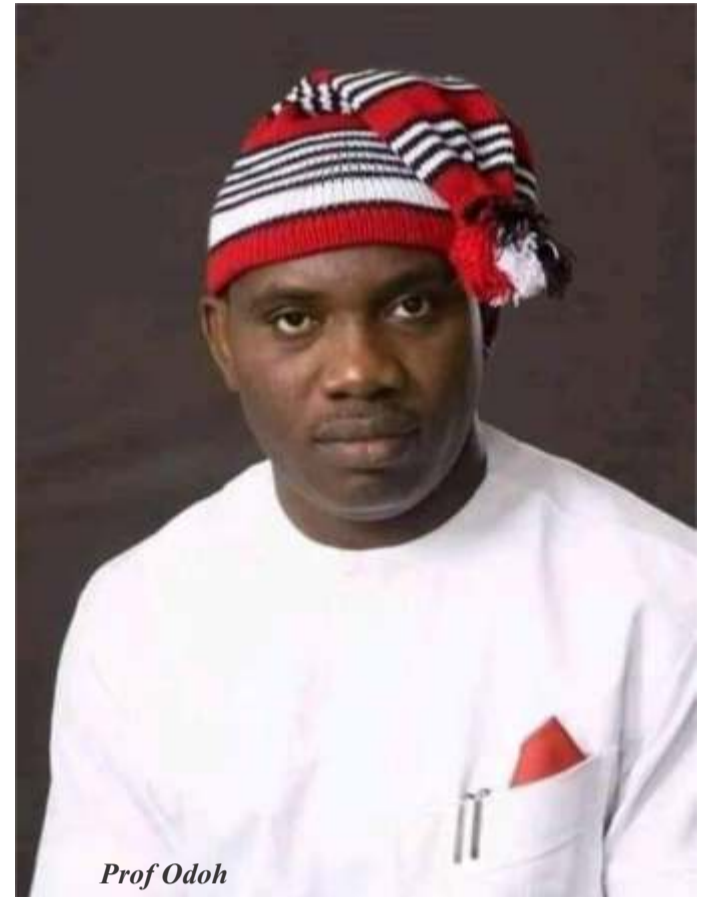
9. Nonso Obasi

10. Ikechukwu Nwoba (aka Solid)

"The Command urges the good people of Ebonyi State and the general public to assist in apprehending the suspects if seen or call the command's emergency number 07064515001 or the nearest Police station with any useful information that will lead to the arrest of the suspects," itsaid.

Reacting on the development, the APGA guber candidate, Odoh said he has obtained court order to restrain police, security agencies from arresting him.

The APGA guber



Prof Odoh

candidate, Benard Odoh on Monday, said he obtained an order from a High Court in Owerri in suit No: HOW/194/2023 dated March 3, 2023, to restrain the Nigeria Police and other security agencies in the state from harassing or arresting him.

Recall that the governor of Ebonyi State, David Umahi had said he will ensure that those fingered in connection with the murder of HRH. Ezeogo Igboke Ewa of Umuezeokaoha in Ezza North LGA, will be arrested and prosecuted.

NPC Plans Acceptable Population Census - Prof Jimoh

By Adama John, Lokoja

The National Population Commission (NPC) has assured Nigerians that it plans a fair, balanced and credible Population and Housing Census in 2023 as it has resolved to adopt edge-cutting technology for the exercise.

Federal Commissioner representing Kogi State, Prof. Habiba Isah Jimoh disclosed this at a One-day State Level Capacity Building Workshop for Journalists on Effective Reporting of the 2023 Population and Housing Census in Lokoja.

Prof. Jimoh said that census was key, critical and crucial to the development of any nation and though with huge costs, it was necessary to be held decennially in accordance with international best practices.

According to the National Commissioner, citizens' needs vary from group to group and through census, government would be able to know and plan for them to be met and deploy necessary

amenities, where, how and when.

"If you don't avail this type of information to the government, the government cannot plan. Although it is very disturbing that a government will be in place and they will not think of census.

"The argument has been that, with what instrument are they going to work in their government. Census is critical, its crucial for the smooth running of any particular government in Nigeria.

"That is why today, I am aware that the National Population Commission is preparing a document to the National Assembly for endorsement such that every 10 year census must be conducted", he said.

The Professor of Geography assured that the Commission's server to be deployed in the forthcoming Population Census conduct from March 29 to April 2, this year, was of Hi-Tech and built in-house to resist hacking and interferences.

Speaking earlier, Mr Ojo

Titus Abiodun, the Kogi State Director of the Commission said cutting edge technology has been deployed to ensure a smooth and hitch-free conduct of the exercise.

Abiodun said the Commission has resolved to conduct a fair, credible and acceptable Population and Housing Census in the country without bias for tribe, religion and race adding that journalists had a pivotal role to play in the exercise.

He said that the media capacity building was imperative in the exercise adding, "As Journalists and mouthpiece of the people, you can only talk about what you truly have experience on.

The State Director who gave a Chronicle of Census activities in the country from the pre-independence colonial era to post-independence, x-rayed the pitfalls and assured that the commission would avoid them this time around with edge-cutting technology.

Comr. Adeiza Momoh-

Jimoh, Chairman of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kogi State Council, underscored the place of reliable population data in planning and nation building and urged the Commission to be thorough in the upcoming exercise.

He however implored the NPC to guard against hacking of the communication equipment to be deployed, especially the server, as seen in recent outing of a sister commission on a critical national assignment.

The state Commissioner for Information, Mr Femi Fanwo, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr Teddy Adegbola urged Journalists to be fair in their reportage and avoid misinformation.

Mrs Ralie Omattah, Kogi State Public Affairs Officer in the Commission, in her presentation on "How to Generate Media Contents on the 2023 Population and Housing Census" urged Journalists to help inform and educate the people on the census exercise.

Election: 18 CSOs Protest Against INEC, Demand Mahmood Yakubu's Resignation

to their server from the polling units across the 176, 846 available.

"INEC claimed the BVAS technology was going to be effectively deployed to forestall rigging and over voting. These were major pillar upon which Nigerians anchored their excitement and belief in the process of electing their leaders.

"However, events during and after the elections would later prove that INEC performed below expectations and pulled the wool over the eyes of Nigerians: Over 93.5 million Nigerians were registered for the February 2023 election, only 23% of the total figure were able to vote. This is lower than previous elections.

"Late distribution of election materials. While many had hoped to maximally utilize the use of BVAS technology for easy accreditation and eventual voting thereby increasing participation, the BVAS technology was either deployed late or bypassed in many polling units thereby disenfranchising a large majority. In many other areas, people who had arrived polling units ahead of time couldn't enjoy voting rights due to non functionality and or inexperienced operation of the BVAS by largely untrained Adhoc staff.

"In places BVAS worked efficiently, there were reported



cases of over voting in many centres leading to denial of voter's rights. Many votes didn't count.

"Large scale violence orchestrated by political thugs supported by some desperate candidates who knew it was impossible for them to win free and fair elections thereby leading to cancellation of results.

"Non transmission of results from polling units to the INEC

server and the non-functionality of the Irev where Nigerians would have had opportunity to monitor results real time and accurately.

"Non adherence to the rules set by INEC itself for the conduct of the election.

"Compromise of the process by some adhoc/staff of INEC and Ballot snatching.

"In view of above, it is obvious that INEC deceived Nigerians into believing it was ready for

the election whereas the commission was ill prepared despite over 300 billion naira of tax payers money the commission received to conduct the elections."

Olayinka also alleged possible manipulation of election results at the polling units due to non transmission in real time.

"It is safe therefore to conclude that INEC not only conducted the worst election so far in Nigeria's history but blatantly

took the people for a ride. INEC also flagrantly disobeyed its own rules and regulations and disregarded the provisions of the electoral act.

The 2023 election cannot therefore be adjudged to be free, fair, credible and transparent.

"The Coalition of Civil Societies of Nigeria, an umbrella forum comprising 18 others demands immediate resignation of Prof. Mahmood Yakub and also entire cancellation of the sham results announced by him.

"We align with the observations of foreign missions particularly the EU, AU, ECOWAS and others who have all ascertained that INEC failed to meet the credibility required in discharging her duties. The UK, US and other advanced democracies/governments and all lovers of democracy have also willingly expressed their views that the election fell short of a remarkable credible test.

Nigerians are discontented with the poor and unprofessional handling of sensitive assignment such as this which empowers them to freely choose leaders of their choice and enthrone popular government.

"We also demand a probe of possible reasons INEC under Prof. Mahmood Yakub failed Nigerians and Africa's biggest democracy. Nigerians will not accept any foisting of a compromised election on the



Desperate Politicians Responsible For Our Fake Endorsement Of Guber Candidate. - Kaduna CAN

*Insists desperate politicians responsible to attract sympathy votes from a section

*Says anything not heard from CAN leadership should be disregarded

*Says Christians should vote any candidates of their choice

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna State Chapter has described as ridiculous, a fake letter attributed to them, endorsing a gubernatorial candidate ahead of the March 11 gubernatorial election in the state.

Reacting when contacted on Tuesday morning, Kaduna CAN chairman, Reverend Joseph John Hayab described the letter as an effort of desperate politicians, bent on swinging the voting pattern in their favour from a section of electorate in the state

"Why because some desperate politicians want to use us to poison the minds of our good brothers and neighbors Muslims.

"Christians and the general public should kindly disregard this. We are watching to see how far they will go and we know God will humble them and expose their craftiness.

"The letter may just be an effort by the fake writer to instigate division in the state to help achieve their political agenda," he said.

Hayab tasked well-meaning Christians and Muslims in Kaduna State to know that this letter is not the language of CAN under his leadership.

"For those who have given themselves to cheap blackmail, we have God in heaven who sees and will judge.

"Politics should not be this petty and we must not lose our humanity just to get power by setting people against each other.

Politics should not be this petty and we must not lose our humanity just to get power by setting people against each other.

"Nothing like that ever happened. What I understand is that one pastor made an announcement on Sunday in one of our churches mentioning ECWA, Anglican, and CAN. Since CAN did not call for any meeting and has not given any order about it, he used so many words.

*Someone in the church may have recorded it and handed over to politicians, who circulated the video.

"Probably the reaction did not catch much attention then they resulted in faking our letterhead,

fake office addresses, fake stories, and fake signatures of the Chairman in a press statement in circulation.

"CAN chairman is not a coward and the statement is not his style of language or pattern of writing.

"The police should investigate the source of this fake letter and bring him or her to face the law," he demanded.

Hayab advised churches to keep praying as the smear campaign in the few days to the gubernatorial polls is intensified.



FG Approves N15bn For Mega Projects In Ebonyi

*Umahi says Priests caught inciting citizens risk arrest

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Federal Government has approved the sum of fifteen billion Naira for the establishment of a power plant in Ebonyi State.

Governor David Nweze Umahi announced this during a town hall meeting with people of Ezza Nation at the International Airport complex in Onueke on Monday.

He announced that the project which promises to be the best in South East Nigeria, would be sited in Umuoghara, Ezza North Local Government Area of the State.

"I want to announce to you that President Buhari has approved a total of 15 billion Naira project in Umuoghara, the best power plant in the South East in your domain."

Governor Umahi also announced that the International Airport would be ready for commissioning and flight operations in the month of April 2023.

"This airport, I am building it without measure, the Federal Ministry of Aviation came here

and said that it is the most beautiful and biggest in the entire Africa.

"By April we must commission this Airport. Before I leave, the Airport will be busy."

Governor Umahi also appealed to the people of Ezza Nation to support the candidature of Rt Honourable Francis Nwifuru for Governorship so that they too would enjoy the support of other clans at their time.

"Ezza people are very intelligent and enterprising, match Ezza people against any other clan, they may not match Ezza people.

"Ezza will never make themselves Governor, we must work in alliance, be strategic, be wise, I stand for Justice, equity and fairness, if you don't want to vote for Nwifuru, reduce the altercations.

"I am not asking you to drop your son, I am not God but I can tell you that your son will not win, I am not angry that South East voted for Obi, I am not angry because through Obi we have made a statement.

"We need to stop being parochial, stop being selfish. "You will be everything you

want to be, just re-strategize to secure the future of Ezza Nation.

"If I have done nothing wrong to Odoh and he is castigating me, he will keep contesting election till the end of his life but he will never win, if I came in the name of God, there is nothing any Bishop or pope will do to reverse this curse.

"The state is bigger than one clan, go and do what you did in 2015, in 2019 and since I am still on board, go and cap it up on Saturday and leave the rest for tomorrow."

The governor condemned the murder of the Traditional Ruler in Ezza North Local Government Area, Eze Igboke Ewa, recently by unknown gunmen and directed security Agencies to get cracking to arrest all perpetrators.

"This man has been a towering figure for the Ezza Nation and the entire Ebonyi State.

"A man that is personally known by President Muhammadu Buhari and I know how much he grieved when he learnt of his death.

"Let me appeal for peace, there is no amount of retaliation that

will bring back the man, God will judge.

"Ezza people, everything is not politics, conspiracy against the people must be rewarded by God."

While directing chairmen of councils in Ezza land to provide security for all Traditional Rulers, Governor Umahi directed that all vigilante outfits in the State resume duty without delay to secure the lives and property of Citizens.

"I am directing the two chairmen to provide security for all traditional rulers. I hereby revive all vigilante groups, they should start working immediately.

"All those that the IG has declared wanted that killed Igboke Ewa, they must be fished out."

The governor also cautioned clergy from making inciting statements to avoid overheating the polity.

"If you are a priest or whatever, mind your words and stop inciting the people otherwise you will be arrested." He warned.

The Secretary to the State Government and Coordinating

Commissioner, Dr. Kenneth Ugbala thanked the Governor for siting major projects of the State Government in Ezza land.

He assured that people of Ezza Nation would vote for all APC Candidates in Saturday's Governorship and State Assembly elections.

The chairmen of Ezza North and South Local Government Areas, Chief Moses Ogodu Ali Nomeh and Mrs. Euphemia Nwali restated the resolve of the Ezza Nation to vote Right Honourable Francis Nwifuru in the March 11 Governorship elections so that at the appointed time the Izzi people and indeed all Ebonyians would repay the gesture.

The Chairman, South East Council of Traditional Rulers, Eze Charles Mkpuma, a former member of the National Assembly, Chief Innocent Ugo Chima, Mr. Ben Nwobashi Mr. Chinedu Awo among others promised to work hard to deliver all APC Candidates in the election.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the slain traditional ruler, Eze Igboke Ewa during the meeting.

Governor Inuwa Approves Payment Of N315m As Outstanding Scholarship Allowance To Gombe Students

**72,000 students body endorses Governor Inuwa, promises to galvanise support for victory ahead Saturday's elections*

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The Gombe State Students' Association (GOSSA), has endorsed Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for second term ahead of Saturday's Governorship and State House of Assembly elections.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs), Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Tuesday March 7, 2023, said that the 72,000-member students body also expressed satisfaction with the Governor's friendly disposition to the overall welfare and well-being of students of Gombe State origin.

Speaking during a well-attended solidarity visit on the Governor, GOSSA President, Comrade Mohammed Hinna thanked Governor Inuwa Yahaya for always prioritising needs of the students with a clear foresight that the youths are the leaders of tomorrow.

He explained that aside from payment of students' bursary allowances, the Governor has equally appointed 3 Special Assistants on Students' Affairs from the three Senatorial Districts.

Comrade Hinna commended the Governor for providing GOSSA with a new bus to assist the association in the day to day running of its activities.

He assured that his members will deploy all necessary machineries to galvanise support towards the seamless

and overwhelming victory of Governor Inuwa Yahaya.

Responding, Governor Inuwa Yahaya thanked the students for their understanding, cooperation and support to the present administration in the state, saying his government will continuously support them to actualize their aspirations.

He explained that the decision by his administration to appoint Special Assistants on Students' Affairs was to serve as a link between the students and the government for effective service delivery.

The Governor recalled that his administration was able to provide an operational vehicle to GOSSA in order to coordinate their activities thereby linking them with the wider world.

He said the presentation of 370,000 naira and a laptop to each of the 63 law graduates is a demonstration of his administration's commitment to the welfare of students in the state.

To this end, the Governor directed the Commissioners of Higher Education and Finance to release the sum of 315 million naira for the payment of outstanding students' scholarship in the state.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya called on the students to come out enmasse and vote for the All Progressives Congress in the Saturday Governorship and State House of Assembly elections in the state.

Earlier in his address of welcome, the Director General, Gombe State APC Campaign Council, Barrister Zubair Mohammed Umar thanked the



Gombe State Students for identifying with the laudable programmes of Governor Inuwa Yahaya.

He said in the last three and a half years, the Governor has performed credibly well in

delivering dividends of democracy to all sections of the State, and therefore called on the Students body not to be swayed by the antics of the opposition parties.

He explained that apart from the

earth shaking infrastructural development like the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park, the Governor has equally enthroned an atmosphere of peace and tranquility in the State.



Guber Polls: Kaduna Peace Commission Warms Against Hate Campaign

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Peace Commission, has urged the people of Kaduna State to sustain the positive actions in the Governorship and State House of Assembly elections holding on March 11, 2023.

All political parties and their supporters have therefore, been appealed to henceforth, stop hateful campaigns and incitement.

This came to the fore at a press briefing by the Kaduna State Elections Monitoring Committee, with representatives of political parties at a meeting to review the Presidential and National Assembly Elections and assess the ongoing campaigns for the forthcoming Governorship and State House of Assembly elections.

At the meeting which was held at the Kaduna State Peace Commission, in Kaduna on Tuesday March 7, 2023, Stakeholders expressed appreciation to the various candidates for the positive roles they played in ensuring that the Presidential and National Assembly elections took place in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity in Kaduna State.

The committee noted that the

ongoing campaigns for the Governorship and House of Assembly elections, is featuring desperation by politicians and their supporters who are now deepening the ethnic and religious divisions in the state, They frowned at the negative role some religious scholars and preachers are engaging in by the endorsement of political parties and candidates in places of worship, which they regretted, is further polarising the polity.

They frowned at the growing use of hate speech and divisive messages in some of the media organisations that is heightening tensions in the state.

"The alarming increase in the use of social media platforms to broadcast hate speech and fake news.

"The potential threats in many communities over the risk of recruiting young people to cause commotion and disrupt the peaceful conduct of the elections," was frowned at.

The committee, as a matter of urgency, cautioned and appealed to all candidates vying for elective positions in the state, especially the gubernatorial candidates, to make public statements, committing to non-violent elections and renouncing all forms of provocation and



incitement, including the use of hateful rhetoric made by others. "All political parties and their supporters are to henceforth, stop hateful campaigns and incitement. The Kaduna State Police Command and other security agencies to immediately initiate actions that will stop incitements and provocation.

"The Kaduna State Peace Commission, the National Orientation Agency, sister agencies, faith based organisations and civil society organisations to engage with the citizens of the state to calm the current tensions to ensure reversal to issue based campaigns.

"The Independent National Electoral Commission work to address all the lapses associated with the Presidential and National Assembly elections to ensure free, fair and transparent elections on 11th March 2023," stakeholders outlined.

The Christian Association of Nigeria and the Jama'atu Nasril Islam were advised to issue a joint press statement, appealing to religious leaders to

henceforth, stop using places of worship as avenues for campaigns and endorsing candidates.

"They should also extend this appeal to clerics outside Kaduna State who are engaged in endorsing candidates and inciting the citizenry in the state.

"Also, the people of the state, especially the youth should refuse to engage in thuggery and other unwholesome activities that will negatively affect the elections and cause election violence," the stakeholders urged.

The committee cautioned strongly, that peace and social harmony is embraced in the society.

They also said the lessons learnt from the last election is that when the citizens work together and say no to violence, they conduct themselves peacefully, notwithstanding the challenges witnessed in the late arrival of electoral materials witnessed in certain places and the aftermath of the peaceful election conducted.

NPC Plans Acceptable Population Census - Prof Jimoh

By Adama John, Lokoja

The National Population Commission (NPC) has assured Nigerians that it plans a fair, balanced and credible Population and Housing Census in 2023 as it has resolved to adopt edge-cutting technology for the exercise.

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Prof. Jimoh said that census was key, critical and crucial to the development of any nation and though with huge costs, it was necessary to be held decennially in accordance with international best practices.

According to the National Commissioner, citizens' needs vary from group to group and

through census, government would be able to know and plan for them to be met and deploy necessary amenities, where, how and when.

"If you don't avail this type of information to the government, the government cannot plan. Although it is very disturbing that a government will be in place and they will not think of census.

"The argument has been that, with what instrument are they going to work in their government. Census is critical, its crucial for the smooth running of any particular government in Nigeria.

"That is why today, I am aware that the National Population Commission is preparing a document to the National Assembly for endorsement such that every 10-year census must be conducted", he said.

The Professor of Geography assured that the Commission's

server to be deployed in the forthcoming Population Census conduct from March 29 to April 2, this year, was of Hi-Tech and built in-house to resist hacking and interferences.

Speaking earlier, Mr Ojo Titus Abiodun, the Kogi State Director of the Commission said cutting edge technology has been deployed to ensure a smooth and hitch-free conduct of the exercise.

Abiodun said the Commission has resolved to conduct a fair, credible and acceptable Population and Housing Census in the country without bias for tribe, religion and race adding that journalists had a pivotal role to play in the exercise.

He said that the media capacity building was imperative in the exercise adding, "As Journalists and mouthpiece of the people, you can only talk about what you truly have experience on.

The State Director who gave a

Chronicle of Census activities in the country from the pre-independence colonial era to post-independence, x-rayed the pitfalls and assured that the commission would avoid them this time around with edge-cutting technology.

Comr. Adeiza Momoh-Jimoh, Chairman of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kogi State Council, underscored the place of reliable population data in planning and nation building and urged the Commission to be thorough in the upcoming exercise.

He however implored the NPC to guard against hacking of the communication equipment to be deployed, especially the server, as seen in recent outing of a sister commission on a critical national assignment.

The state Commissioner for Information, Mr Femi Fanwo, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr Teddy Adegbola urged

Journalists to be fair in their reportage and avoid misinformation.

Mrs Ralie Omattah, Kogi State Public Affairs Officer in the Commission, in her presentation on "How to Generate Media Contents on the 2023 Population and Housing Census" urged Journalists to help inform and educate the people on the census exercise.

She said the capacity building is to equip the journalists with technical knowledge to inform and educate the public to enhance acceptability of "Our product, the 2023 census and refute negative perception/wrong criticisms.

"A critical national programme such as census will naturally suffer from wrong perceptions, information distortion and fake news. In this regard, the Journalists can help to generate content's that will correct the misinformation", she said.

Unify, Ensure Restructuring Of Nigeria Soon, Afenifere Leader Tasks Tinubu

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Leader of the Pan-Yoruba Socio-political organization, Afenifere, Pa Reuben Fasonrati has tasked the President elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu to unify the country and ensure that restructuring takes place very soon.

Pa Fasonrati gave the task in a congratulatory letter to Asiwaju Tinubu personally signed by the Afenifere Leader, dated March 4, 2023.

The Afenifere leader urged " all those who might be aggrieved, one way or the other, not to do anything that will set Nigeria on fire" saying, " we should all go peaceful while the aggrieved can take legal paths to seek redress in whatever areas they felt that things were wrong."

Pa Fasonrati's letter reads in part:

My dear Son,

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION

In the spirit of Omoluabi that encourages respect for the Elderly or Father-in-the-House, you ended your consultations for the Presidential race with a visit to me in Akure last year March. I prayed for you and asked you to go and secure your party's presidential ticket.

After securing the ticket, you

came back to me, and in the presence of very many distinguished Yoruba leaders, I gave you my blessings on October 30, 2022. We are indeed grateful to the Almighty God that eventually saw you through. Congratulations.

I marvel at your doggedness, self-determination, self-assuredness, strong belief as well as ability to overcome daunting and ever surging challenges.

I appreciate God Almighty who gave you the strength of character and such abundance energy that enabled you to navigate through all the ever emerging intricate problems, and made it possible for you to, against the wishes of some people, traverse successfully all the States of the Federation, during the energy sapping marathon Presidential campaigns.

I am, indeed, glad to know that your hard earned victory had a very good national spread. Amongst 18 presidential candidates, you came second (2nd) in the South South; also second (2nd) in the South East; first (1st) in the South West; first (1st) in the North Central; second (2nd) in the North East; and first (1st) in the North West.

What a brilliant performance!

I now appeal to all those who might be aggrieved, one way or the other, not to do anything that will set Nigeria on fire. We should all go peaceful while the aggrieved can take legal paths to seek redress in whatever areas they felt that things were wrong.

In the meantime, the President-elect, his Vice and all concerned should immediately begin to put in place measures to tackle the enormous problems confronting our dear country, Nigeria such as insecurity and economic downturn. It is also very imperative to restructure the country and rebuild this nation that was never, at any time in the past, been so badly divided on ethnic, religious and corrupt lines.

In my interviews in the "Sunday Vanguard" of July 19, 2020, and about two years later in the "Saturday Sun" of July 30, 2022, I said of your Presidential ambition that you "meant well", and that when you were "the governor of Lagos State, you did



very well," and could "carry" this passion and successful performances "into the Presidency". You now have the opportunity. Now is the time for you to prove me right. I pray God to be with you, amen.

In going about this, avoid the mistake of some of your predecessors. Be fair to all concerned. Go ahead to unite the country, see and treat the country as one. Be a true Federalist.

Allow the big ethnic groups to peacefully co-exist and respect one another, but also let the small ones have a sense of belonging, feel wanted and to be proud to be Nigerians.

In conclusion, I am conscious of the enormity of the responsibility that Governance entails. Let me, therefore, assure you that we are available for consultations and/or advice when the need arises.

Ganduje Approves Posting Of 14 Perm Secretaries

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Posting of the recently appointed Permanent Secretaries has been approved by the Kano State Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, as all the 12 appointees know their places of responsibility. All the postings are with immediate effect, while the governor directed them to work diligently to further propel public service in the state.

The new permanent secretaries we're posted to their respective ministries where Engineer Mansur Yakubu is posted to Ministry of Works, Salisu Dan Azumi posted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Dr Sa'adatu Sa'idu Bala will go to the Ministry for Women Affairs.

Others are, Baba Sharif Uba Dala, assigned to Government House, Aliyu Yakubu Garo will go to Ministry of Environment and Ahmad Tijjani Abdullahi is posted to Ministry for Education.

The new posting includes, Abbas Sanusi,

who is posted to Special Duties, Cabinet Office, Dr Tijjani Hussain takes charge of State Primary Healthcare Development Agency as Permanent Secretary and Yahaya Nuhu Amasaye to State Pensions Board.

Hajiya Aisha Abba Kailani was posted to Human Resources, Mustapha Madaki Huguma goes to Public Procurement and Musa Tanko Garko is now the new Permanent Secretary Protocol.

Similarly, Bello Tukur is posted to the Ministry of Transport and Tijjani Bello posted to the Ministry of Water Resources, while Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje directed them to be proponents of team work and complaints to the philosophy of global best practices.

He added that, their appointment as permanent secretaries from the onset, followed rigorous procedures and diligent screening, following their track records as disciplined public officers.

Kaduna Reps Elect, Mai Kero Condoles Gumi, Mr LA Families

**Describes Late Chief Imam of Jere as Icon of peace worthy of emulation.*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Hon. Member-elect For Kaduna South Federal Constituency, Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) has extended condolences to the Distinguish Senator-elect for Kaduna Central Senatorial District, Malam Lawal Adamu Usman, popularly known as Mr LA and the entire members of Imam Adamu Usman's family over the demise of their father, the Chief Imam of Jere, Imam Adamu Usman.

In a statement made available on Tuesday, Hon. Hussaini Mai Kero, described the death of the seasoned Islamic Scholar as a great loss not to only his immediate family, but to Kaduna and Nigeria as a whole, saying his demise has created a vacuum that no one can fill especially to the family that needs him most now.

He said late Chief Imam of Jere, Imam Adamu Usman was an icon of peace, who

devoted his life time preaching peace and bridge building between Muslims and non-Muslims in Kaduna State.

The Member-elect prayed that Allah forgives his shortcomings, grant him Aljannatul Firdaus and gives the family, the fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss.

In the same vein, Hon Kero extended condolences to a prominent Nigerian Islamic Scholar, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Abubakar Mahmud Gumi and the



Mai Kero

entire family members over the passing away of their mother, which sad event occurred on Sunday evening.

He prayed that Allah grants her soul eternal rest and gives the family, the fortitude to bear the huge loss.

MAAUN University Mourns Sheikh Ahmad Gumi's Mother, Condoles Family.

By; MUSTAPHA IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The Management of Maryam Abacha American University of Nigeria (MAAUN), Conglomerate, Franco-British International University (FBIU), Kaduna and proposed Canadian University of Nigeria, has expressed condolences to Kaduna-based Islamic Scholar, Sheikh Ahmad Gumi over the death of his mother.

The condolence message was contained in a statement signed by the founder of the universities, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo a copy of which was made available to newsmen in Kano on Monday.

He said her death is a great loss not only to her immediate family, but to the entire Muslim Ummah in the country.



Prof. Gwarzo described the deceased as a great and highly disciplined mother who trained her children on the path of Allah.

"I was shocked to learn of the death of our mother. May the Almighty Allah forgive her shortcomings and grant her

Jannatul Firdaus.

"On behalf of the Management of Maryam Abacha American University of Nigeria and Niger,

with Islamic rites at Unguwar Sarki cemetery, Kaduna.

Franco-British International University (FBIU), Kaduna and proposed Canadian University of Nigeria, I wish to extend our condolences to you and your family over this great loss.

While praying for her Allah's forgiveness and mercy, Prof. Gwarzo also prayed to God to give Sheikh Gumi and entire members of his family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

The deceased died on Sunday evening around 5.30pm and had since been buried in accordance

Timi Frank Urges INEC Chairman, Yakubu To Resign

By; JACOB
O N J E W U
DICKSON

A political activist and former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Monday, called on the National Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu to as a matter of urgency resign of his appointment or President Muhammadu Buhari should do the needful by relieving him of his position for conducting the worst ever rigged election in the history of Nigeria.

He called on President Buhari to be courageous enough to sack Professor Yakubu for bringing shame and opprobrium to the country by declaring highly compromised and heavily doctored results as an outcome for the just concluded Presidential and National Assembly elections.

Frank who made this call in a statement in Abuja, said it is high time the INEC boss resigned because Nigerians have lost total confidence on him.

"We are supposed to be the light and example in Africa but with the dismal conduct of INEC and its officials during the last Presidential and National Assembly elections, other countries in the continent absolutely have nothing to learn from us because of what Yakubu and INEC have done," he said.

He insisted that despite the avalanche of facts of rigging and manipulation that characterised the Presidential and National Assembly elections available in huge volume of videos, audios and documentary evidences yet Yakubu went ahead to declare the APC's Presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, as winner.



Timi Frank

He said: "Nigerians have lost confidence in Yakubu. His words and his promises mean nothing. He has started again by promising free and fair governorship and State Assembly elections but Nigerians are no fools because they know he will do exact the opposite.

"Prof. Yakubu has shown himself to be a practical disgrace to Nigeria and has brought shame, disgrace and embarrassment to Nigerians in the global community. Today, Nigeria is now a laughing stock among members of the international community.

"Even in 1993 without the use of technology, Nigeria conducted an election adjudged as the freest and fairest ever. But in an age of advanced technology like internet and BIVAS in 2023, Yakubu chose to compromise the oath of his office and obviated every truth and betrayed the confidence reposed in him by Nigerian taxpayers.

"Even at that time, the then Chairman of the defunct National Electoral Commission, Prof. Humphrey Nwosu, was asked to stop announcing results by then Military President, General Ibrahim Babangida, but he continued because he stood on the platform of

truth and living conscience.

"This is why he needs to urgently resign or President Buhari should show capacity to throw him out."

He called on the academia to strip Prof. Yakubu of his professorship rank because he has brought shame to that highly revered and top echelon of the academic community and scholars.

Yakubu has failed to project the academia in good light through personal probity, integrity and fidelity to his promises and sacred trust of the people

Frank who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, also urged the International Community to review and reverse all his current VISA status.

He enjoined them to do the needful by canceling all visas he presently holds and never give him opportunity to visit any of the developed countries like United States, United Kingdom or any member countries of the European Union.

He said that the election conducted by Yakubu has failed to meet international threshold of transparency and credibility and all friends of Nigeria must of necessity denounce it.

For instance, the US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mary Beth Leonard in a statement on Sunday unequivocally stated that it is clear that the electoral process as a whole on February 25 failed to meet Nigerians' expectations."

She added that while "many citizens are angry and frustrated with the results, some others are celebrating victories, they believe were hard-fought and well-earned."

He added: "We also use this opportunity to call on international community especially the US, UK, EU and other international institutions not to recognize the outcome of the rigged and fraudulent elections conducted on February 25, 2023.

"This is the time Nigerians expect the international community to prioritize the interest of Nigeria first before their own interest in order to save our democracy.

"In this wise, they must not recognize the APC's purported President-elect until the final outcome of the cases in court."

"We still use this opportunity to call on the judiciary to remove Nigeria from this shame through truthful, fact-based and unbiased judgement on the post election cases soon to be instituted before the Election Petition Tribunals and the appellate courts."

Gov Makinde Deserves Second Term - OFM

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

A group, Oyo For Makinde (OFM) on Tuesday, declared that Governor Seyi Makinde deserves a second term for Oyo State to witness more development.

The group in a statement by its Director, Tokunbo Olaitan, said that to achieve this, the people of Oyo State should troop out en masse this Saturday and vote for Governor Makinde for the realization of his second term in office.

He emphasized that it is now time for the people of Oyo State to ensure that Governor Makinde emerges victorious at the Saturday governorship election, saying, reelecting the governor will enable him "to complete his good works which have been to the benefit of the people of the state and applauded by indigenes and non indigenes across the country and outside".

Mr Olaitan maintained that OFM was able to beam the recorded activities of Gov Makinde's administration in over 400 locations across the 33 local government areas of the state with the reception being overwhelming,

signposting the genuine love the people of the state have for the governor.

"We have gone round the state with our visual campaigns to showcase the modest achievements of GSM in the last four years or thereabouts, and we can conveniently say that he is greatly appreciated and widely accepted by the people of the state" Olaitan maintained", he said

The OFM Director added, "our people should defy the antics of the oppositions in the state who may want to scare them away from voting. Never allow them to intimidate you before and during the election. Already, defeat is starring the oppositions on their faces" the group added.

Expressing the optimism that Gov Makinde would emerge victorious at the Saturday governorship polls, the OFM Director urged electorates in the state to translate the love they have for him so that he clinches the second term diadem as governor of the state.

Mr Olaitan urged the people of Oyo state to remain calm and be law-abiding before, during and after the election so as to allow peace being enjoyed in the state to continue unabated.



Makinde



Ashiru

Kaduna Governorship Election: Eight Political Parties Back PDP

**Say only Ashiru can unite state*

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Eight political parties have withdrawn from contesting the forthcoming governorship election in Kaduna State and have thrown support and loyalty to the governorship candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Isa Ashiru. Amb. Sanin Yaya, chairman Rescue and Rebuild Gubernatorial Candidates Forum for all gubernatorial candidates, while addressing newsmen in Kaduna on Monday, said, "Today, we wish to announce our support and loyalty to Isah Muhammad Ashiru Kudan, the gubernatorial candidate of the PDP. We took this decision after extensive consultation with our party members as well as the good people of Kaduna State."

He explained that this can be seen from the manner of his campaign which is aimed at building Kaduna State, saying that the selection of his running mate has given fair representation to both Christians and Muslims who are the two major

stakeholders in the state.

He lamented that some desperate politicians have turned the political space into a hub of religious sentiments, stressing that Isah Ashiru chose to stand by issue based campaigns only.

The chairman said, "I want to use this opportunity to remind the good people of Kaduna state of the hardship and pain inflicted on them by this APC administration, from unjustified high rate of taxes to authoritative leadership and ego from increase of school fees to tertiary institutions to unlawful disengagement of teachers, local government staff and the removal of traditional rulers."

"It is on these grounds that we call on our people to stay away from the apc candidate who is only a puppet to his paymaster who will continue with their anti-masses policy in the state," he explained.

The parties that have supported the PDP gubernatorial candidate are the Governorship candidates of the Youjg Progressive Party (YPP), Action Alliance (AA) Allied People's Movement (APM), Action People's Party (APP), All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) National Rescue Movement (NRM), Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) and Action Democratic Party (ADC).

Save Us From Imposed Guber Candidate, Concerned Kebbi Citizens Beg Buhari

**Say retired general seeking immunity from prosecution over alleged role with bandits*

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Concerned Kebbi Citizens (CKC), a socioeconomic development forum, has appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to intervene and stop the planned imposition of General Aminu Muhammed Bande, the gubernatorial candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Kebbi State.

With just days to the gubernatorial and State House of Assembly elections slated for March 11, the CKC said the reasons why General Bande (rtd) is so desperate for power soon after his retirement is to acquire immunity from

investigation and prosecution over his links with bandits.

According to Malam Ibrahim Dangana, spokesman of the group, "It is a do-or-die race for the retired General because he needs to cover his tracks in aiding and abetting banditry and kidnapping in the northwest geopolitical zone while in service."

The CKC alleged that while General Bande was in charge of the Nigerian Army in Katsina State between 2016 and 2019, he was collecting N6 million monthly from each of the 11 local government area councils suffering incessant attacks from bandits. He noted that despite the

payments of such huge amounts as security support, the conditions of the people only kept getting worse until he was transferred to Sokoto to oversee Katsina, Zamfara, Kebbi and the host state. As claimed by the group, similar scenario played out with the General extorting money without any results.

"For instance, General Bande collected over N30 million from government promising to organise the rescue of the kidnapped students of Federal Government College Yauri, but till date, 11 of them are still with the kidnapers."

According to the CKC, "We believe Bande used

his position and pretended to negotiate with the bandits simply to amass funds which he believes will buy him the governorship of our dear state. We appeal to President Muhammadu Buhari to broadcast a special message to caution our voters against such a calamity as he did for Kaduna State."

Alleging that the people of Kebbi State are satisfied with the candidature of the APC's Dr. Nasiru Kaura, former President of the Nigerian Union of Teachers, the CKC warned that Bande is prepared to pay any price for the exalted seat and he must be stopped in the interest of democracy.

Hajj 2023 Airlift: CSO Tasks Aviation Screening Committee On Professionalism

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Following the constitution of a screening committee to select airlines that would airlift Hajj 2023 intending pilgrims by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), Independent Hajj Reporters, (IHR), a civil society organization, has called on members of the committee to abide strictly by the terms of their mandate and apply their professional competence in selecting the carriers. IHR lauded the terms of reference handed over to the screening committee by NAHCON and the decision to include competent professionals from the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to handle the screening exercise, especially by allowing the committee to allocate passengers to the carriers based on their assessed capabilities.

IHR charged the 36-member screening committee to strictly adhere to the terms of reference handed over to them by the commission,

without exception.

Part of the guidelines given to the committee is to determine the suitability and capability of the applicants in line with the extant Nigerian Civil Aviation regulations and ICAO standards, allocate passengers to the Carriers based on their assessed capabilities, Establish criteria, score or grade for suitability and for the recommendation of an applicant, Recommend appropriate pilgrim airfare and excess luggage rate for the specified departure zones and make any other recommendation, necessary for the efficient conduct of 2023 Hajj airlift.

IHR said the committee should ensure that it abides by its commitment that only Airlines who meet the technical requirements are considered for ferrying Nigerian pilgrims and that only airlines who has the specified aircraft will be selected.

A statement on Monday, signed by the national coordinator of IHR, Ibrahim Mohammed says "the work of the committee will have a

great impact on the success or otherwise of 2023 hajj exercise. Airlift of pilgrims from Nigeria to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia constitutes the major operations during hajj exercise.

No matter the level of preparations, enlightenment or documentation carried out by states' Muslim pilgrims boards or NAHCON, intending pilgrims have to be airlifted to the holy land in Saudi Arabia, where all Hajj rites will be performed".

However, IHR further advised the airlines to resist the temptation of biting more than they can chew by presenting verifiable facts about their capability and capacity.

"Intending pilgrims who have paid Hajj fares and fulfill all requirements have been called to Hajj by Almighty Allah. Failure to airlift any of those pilgrims due to an act of commission or omission on the part of airliners simply means that the airliners has rejected the call of Almighty Allah for the intending pilgrims to fulfill the fifth pillar of

Islam," the group pointed out.

IHR also advised NAHCON to update its airlift contractual agreement with Hajj air carriers to include a clause that will allow NAHCON to unconditionally transfer allotted passenger of an airline that misses two flight schedules to any other available airlines without "Consequential Loss" - which means there will be no any damage, loss or injury of whatsoever or any loss or anticipated loss of profit, any loss or anticipated loss of revenue, any business interruption, any loss of use of any equipment, loss of any contract or other business opportunity and any other indirect loss of a similar nature.

"NAHCON as the apex Hajj regulatory body has a responsibility of ensuring that intending pilgrims get a commensurate value of service for their money. Amending the airlift agreement and applying such measures will discourage hajj carriers from using a single aircraft to ferry pilgrims from more than 3 different countries during Hajj airlift," the statement added.

We Will Resist Leadership Imposition, NITR Staff Warn Science Minister

By: EMMANUEL AGBO,
Kaduna

The joint unions of Nigerian institute for Trypanosomiasis Research (NITR), in partnership with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), in Kaduna, have said that the union will not accept any attempt to imposed on them, Dr. Felicia Enwezor as Director General.

NITR Staff expressed this during a press conference held in Kaduna on Tuesday, warning that any attempt to do that will be resisted at all costs.

The Chairman, Academic Staff Union (ASUU) of Research institutions, who also doubles as the Joint Union Chairman, Comrade Moijo Hussaini, alleged that the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Senator Adeleke Mamora in an attempt to bring back Dr. Felicia Enwezor, wrote a petition to the inspector General of Police, claiming that the suspended overseeing DG was forcefully ejected.

It would be recalled that the Governing Council of NITR, Kaduna branch, suspended Dr. Felicia Enwezor, over an alleged gross misconduct in July, 2022.

According to them, the suspended DG failed to respect and implement the court order delivered of May 18, 2022, which reinstated the governing council.

They also added that Mrs. Felicia refused to take lawful orders as directed by the authorities to convene board meeting despite council's instruction and for that directed the most Senior Director of Research, Dr. Joseph Ajakaiye, to oversee the affairs of the institute, pending outcome of the investigation.

Addressing journalists during the press conference, it was gathered that the suspended DG wants to resume duty to complete her five-year tenure, hence, she only spent three years before her removal, an attempt the governing board termed illegal.

Hussaini further stressed that the institution has been enjoying relative peace since the suspension of Mrs. Enwezor and as such, called on the minister to desist from any form of imposition.

He said, "we need to let Nigerians know that the minister in his aggrieved approach to bring back the suspended overseeing Director General, Dr. Felicia Enwezor, wrote a petition to the inspector General of Police, claiming that the suspended DG was forcefully ejected.

"As representatives of staff, we want to use this medium to inform the relevant authorities that Dr. Felicia Enwezor has been suspended by the governing council of NITR and since her suspension in July

2022, the institute is enjoying smooth running and relative peace.

"As law abiding citizens, we want the Honourable Minister of Science Technology and Innovation to desist from any further imposition of Dr. Felicia Enwezor as she was duly suspended by the council." He said.

Speaking with journalists shortly after the event, the Head of legal services, NITR Barrister Abdulrazak Usman said it is illegal for the suspended DG to return, adding that their five years tenure has elapsed.

He said, "it's only the president that can appoint a new board. Initially, their tenure was supposed to be five years. Then the Minister terminated their tenure at three years and constituted a new board.

"Now, the board whose tenure was terminated went to court and the court told them that their tenure was supposed to be five years and not three. So they brought them back to complete their tenure.

"By virtue of that, the earlier board that was appointed after their alleged termination doesn't exist. Because in the judgement of the court, the court specifically stated that the appointment of that board was null and void. As am talking to you now, their five years tenure will expire today.

"So the Minister cannot come and say that the board which was appointed after the alleged termination of their tenure should come back again because they have used their five years tenure. It's going to be a new board that will be reconstituted." He explained.

The joint Unions includes: senior staff association NITR Branch, non Academic Staff Union, NITR Branch, Chairman of Civil Society Organization in Kaduna state, Secretaries of various Unions, Civil Society Organizations and executive



Gombe Governorship Election: Transport Workers Endorse Inuwa Yahaya

Gombe Gov't To Support NURTW Members With 50 Vehicles To Enhance Their Operations

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Gombe State branch have unanimously endorsed Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for second term owing to his achievements and sterling leadership.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, the transport workers also extolled the governor's aggressive approach towards bridging the infrastructure gap in roads, healthcare, and other

critical sectors.

This was during a townhall meeting organised by the NURTW for Inuwa Yahaya at its secretariat to show their unflinching support and solidarity to the reelection bid of the governor for the enormous development he brought to Gombe State.

The Chairman of NURTW, Gombe State Chapter, Alh. Ibrahim Bala, who spoke on behalf of the union, explained that the rally had representation from 43 branches of the union operating across the 11 LGAs of the State.

He assured the readiness of members of NURTW to vote for

Governor Inuwa Yahaya come Saturday, March 11 to ensure the continuity of the good legacies of his administration. "We are not after anything but the development of our dear state", he affirmed.

He noted that Inuwa was the first sitting Governor to visit the secretariat to meet with the leadership and members of NURTW, a gesture they considered an honour done to them.

The leadership of the union also appointed Governor Inuwa as Grand Patron in recognition of his contributions to the development of the union.

The Chairman used the occasion

to applaud some of the policies, projects and programmes of the APC led administration in the state geared towards enhancing socio-economic activities of the citizenry.

"The procurement of 80 new buses to Gombe State Transport Service by the Inuwa-led administration has helped our union to increase its capacity as one of the large employers of labour in the state.

"Not long after he came to power, he implemented the 30,000 Naira minimum wage at the state level and ensures regular payment of salaries as well as the backlog of gratuities. We are affiliated to the Nigeria

Labour Congress and we say thank you for the wonderful job", he said.

He also expressed his appreciation to the governor for completing the hitherto abandoned Gombe Mega Motor Park which was meant for the members of the union to use. "Despite being abandoned by the previous administration, work is now almost 100%; the project is just awaiting commissioning. We are grateful your excellency".

In his response, Governor Inuwa expressed delight over the solidarity of the transport workers which he said is an attestation to the good



Gombe Governorship Election: Transport Workers Endorse Inuwa Yahaya

relationship and mutual understanding between them and his government.

He further explained that the union has been an indispensable partner that contributes a lot to the progress and development of Gombe State in many areas, maintaining that his administration will continue to support the activities of the union.

"NURTW is home to me and I consider myself a bonafide member of the union ever since. I am, therefore, in a better position to know your

challenges and worries", he remarked.

Governor Inuwa announced that his government will procure 50 vehicles of different categories for the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW to support their operations in the state and beyond.

"We heard your pleas and have promised to procure additional 50 vehicles for you. We will work with you in determining the brand and quality of the vehicles to be procured to make sure that they suit your taste", he assured.

"When we came, we procured 50 new buses and later added 30 units. And even when were to dispose the old ones, we auctioned them to your members, all in our efforts to support your operations".

Inuwa said many projects executed in the state like road networks under network-1100 are all geared towards improving the transportation industry in which the union operates, seeking the support of the members for the continuation of the good projects he stated.

"We have connected our rural

and urban areas with roads, even places where it is hard to reach in the rough and mountainous axis of Balanga and other regions are made accessible".

He called on members to come out en-masse on the election day to vote for the APC candidates at both gubernatorial and State Assembly seats for the complete cycle of purposeful leadership.

The governor announced that "in addition to the 10 million Naira already allotted to the Union, there is also 2.750 million Naira cash for the members to take care of logistics and other related

expenses".

The governor was accompanied to the venue of the rally by the Chairman House Committee on Police Affairs and Member-elect representing Akko Federal Constituency, Hon. Usman Bello Kumo, DG State APC Campaign Council, Barrister Zubair Muhammad Umar, State Assembly members, Commissioners, Special Advisers, Akko LGA Caretaker Chairman, Abubakar Barambu, among others.



1,020 Women Benefit From Kaduna Dep Gov WEEP Empowerment

*Beneficiaries get deep freezers, grinding machines, sewing machines, power generating sets



By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, has empowered 1,020 women drawn from the 255 political wards of Kaduna State.

Dr. Hadiza in her gesture to empower the women, has expressed delight in bringing hope to those who benefited from the philanthropic gesture, which took place at the Yar'adua Hall of Mohammed Murtala Square Kaduna.

Speaking at the Women Engagement and Empowerment Programme (WEEP), Dr Hadiza said she was motivated to donate the items in order to empower women who are actively involved in politics to enable them gain financial freedom and make them self-reliant.

She urged them not to sell the items but put them to use to support themselves, their families to be self-reliance.

The Deputy Governor gave out items such as Deep Freezers, Grinding Machines, Sewing Machines and Power Generating Sets to empowered the women and lift them out of poverty.

Among the beneficiaries were women with disabilities who were given deep freezers each.

In appreciation, the beneficiaries expressed readiness to make use of the items judiciously.

"We are to happy with the state government for this kind gesture, we appreciate the Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe who has made it to come to reality.

"We assure you that these items given to us will go a long way," they expressed in separate interviews.



1,020 Women Benefit From Kaduna Dep Gov WEEP Empowerment



Tinubu Would Lead Without Bias - APC-IGG

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Initiative for Good Governance (APC-IGG), has congratulated the president-elect Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu on his recent victory at the just concluded general election held on February 25, 2023.

Extending the congratulatory message to newsmen in Abuja, the national president of the

organization, Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken described the APC's victory as a result of its excellent achievements, resulting to national progress.

Tsoken said, "We are happy that All Progressives Congress has won the presidential election and APC-IGG as a support group that has worked selflessly towards the success of the polls, would continue to work as partners in progress with

the new government in order to make Nigeria greater".

Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken described the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as a leader who would use his experience in politics to transform the nation and promote unity and peaceful coexistence among the Nigeria's citizens.

"On behalf of the national executives, zonal

coordinators, states, local government and wards executives, APC-IGG congratulates our President-elect, party leaders and all those who gave helping hands towards the success of the presidential election, and I call on the good citizens of our fatherland to come out massively and vote for APC governors and members of the state assemblies," he appealed.



Ambassador Musa Muhammed Tsoken, National President APC Initiative For Good Governance (In Pink attire) in company of the group's national executive after a strategic meeting in Abuja.

Igbos Should Support APC Guber Candidates To Have Peace -Umahi

**Says use of BIVAS is sacrosanct*

BY; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The chairman of South East Governors forum, Engr. David Nweze Umahi of Ebonyi state has called on Igbos across Nigeria to support candidates of APC in all the states in Nigeria in order to have peace.

He also insisted on the use of BIVAS in the forthcoming gubernatorial election for transparency and credibility. Governor Umahi made the appeal during the stakeholders meeting at Ecumenical Centre, Abakaliki.

He said that voting against the

ruling party in any state will not be for the good interest of Ndigbo, urging them to support all APC gubernatorial candidates in all the states for them to have peace.

The governor also used the opportunity to name a new motor park after the slain HRH Eze Igboke Ewa of Umuezekoha in Ezza North LGA and also placed a course on those responsible for his untimely death.

Recall that late HRH Eze Christopher Igboke Ewa was assassinated last month at his Palace, Umuezeoka community of Ezza North LGA by unknown gunmen.



Presidential Polls: Police Arrests 203 Suspects Over Alleged Electoral Offences

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Following alleged widespread violence and malpractice that characterised the just concluded Presidential and National Assembly Polls, the Police has said that no fewer than 203 suspects were arrested in connection with the incidents across the country.

A total of 18 firearms of various calibres were said to have been recovered from political thugs during the exercise.

The Inspector General of Police Usman Alkali Baba who made the disclosure added that 185 major incidents were responded by the Police across the country during the duration of the elections.

He spoke on Monday, 6th March 2023 during a meeting with Strategic Police Managers comprising Deputy Inspectors-General of Police and members of the Force Management Team, Assistant Inspectors-General of Police, Commissioners of Police, and heads of tactical investigative and Operational Units of the Force at the Goodluck Jonathan Peacekeeping Hall, Force Headquarters, Abuja.

The Force Public Relations officer CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi in a statement stated that the meeting was meant to debrief officers posted for election security

management duties and appraise the performance of the Nigeria Police Force at the February 25th Presidential and National Assembly Elections, identify gaps, and perfect the action plan for the forthcoming March 11th Elections.

According to Force spokesperson, the IGP similarly applauded the high level of resilience, and utmost professionalism displayed by Officers and men of the Nigeria Police as well as other security agencies in the course of the election security operations in line with the Reviewed Standard Operational Guidelines and Rules for Police Officers and Other Security Agents on Electoral Duties which was issued to all officers in the countdown to the election operations.

"He equally attributed the professionalism of the officers to the various pre-election pieces of training, meticulous planning, massive operational assets procurement and deployment, as well as prioritized welfare.

"The Inspector-General of Police reiterates that the Nigeria Police is committed to evolving pathways to incrementally strengthen the Force's operational capacity and professional knowledge in navigating through the complex electoral process dynamics to police our democratic heritage and meet the expectations of the electorates", Adejobi stated.

A total of 18 firearms of various calibres were said to have been recovered from political thugs during the exercise. The Inspector General of Police Usman Alkali Baba who made the disclosure added that 185 major incidents were responded by the Police across the country during the duration of the elections."

Up Nigerians, But No Yet Up Nigeria

By; **PRINCE CHARLES DICKSON Ph.D**

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only. ~ A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens.

The Presidential elections in Nigeria have come and go, the lessons are for us to learn, like I often have said, in speaking of heaven I am reminded that there will be four and half surprises, 1) the people we will see there, 2) the people that we will not see, and 3) the fact that we are there, 4) how about if there is no heaven and finally there is nothing to lose after all in believing and making it, than not believing and you don't make it. When you are exposed to something useful on the internet, it is like hearing a good joke. You enjoy it and pass it on. The author of the following is likely to make you extend a thumbs UP for coming UP with this delightful vignette.

It is this vignette that I would use to admonish us on the just concluded polls. The difference is that this is actually not just a good joke but about the state of affairs in Nigeria. The first phase of our General Elections is not just on the front burner but the burner itself, not exactly fully dusted but let me take us on this ride...I cannot promise you that it would not be rigged, I recall it was one of our past presidents that alluded to the impossibility of a perfect election even if it were conducted by our Lord Jesus.

However, what we make of the last few days, and as we prepare for the last polls, it's UP to us...

Up is a two-letter word that has more meanings than any other two-letter word in the English language” the treatise began. “You likely will agree with me when we are done. The Nigerian election is just like this treaty, except that this is one that may leave one more confused at the end.

If you consult your dictionary, you will find that 'up' is listed as an adverb, adjective, noun, verb or preposition. It is easy to understand 'up' meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? This introductory remark reminds me of our election, the BVAS, uploading on the IREV and failed servers, it depends on who is defining what, and which camp you belong to, the electoral act has over a thousand meanings depending on which law school you attended downtown or Uptown!

“At a meeting, why does a topic come UP. Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen? We lock UP our house and fix UP the old car. It reminds of the debate of finished completely and completely finished, has INEC done a job that is completely finished or finished completely a mess that may have consequences, is this election a learning process, steps backward or we are going up!

“At other times, this little word has very special meanings. People stir UP trouble, line UP for theatre tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. Do you see INEC, Tinubu, Atiku and Obi in the statement, one has worked up our appetite, the other stirred up trouble, another has come up with excuses.

“To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special. How 'bout the use of UP as follows: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. It is like understanding the kind of rigging our politicians engage in, and up till now, we never have come to the understanding that



we are tools in the hands of politicians.

“We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. If you don't understand this up till this point, go to court. Litigations are won not necessarily because of the truth but by looking up the technicalities and who will be UP ended by the decision.

“You can easily tell that English speaking people are pretty mixed UP about UP. But our own wahala pass...Obi said he won, Atiku said he won, then Atiku said Obi could not have won, then INEC said Tinubu won. Up till tomorrow we are not sure because there were several Prophet Jeros and Alfa Nebuchadnezzar up the mountain seeing things from up.

“To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost a quarter of a page and can add UP to about 30 definitions. Again, this reminds me of all the Naira design and the APC vs. APC drama, the seeming wedding of LP and PDP

to challenge APC or the fact that the Supreme court has extended the date for old notes use, leaving citizens tensed up, it is funny how we all are expert lawyers, up and down!

“If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. It is Up Nigerians because despite the best of provocation, we have done fairly well, just a handful killed or died as a direct or indirect result of the elections, baring a big and unseen provocation, the figure of casualty will not go up come the gubernatorial polls.

“When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but it is time to wrap UP for now, my time is UP. And indeed, while the LP has promised legal gymnastics to get back their mandate, they say they won't

give up, the judiciary must stand up, but doing what is right in these times will depend largely on who is up, Nigeria or Nigerians.

“For a post mortem, did this crack you UP? If the answer is yes, then don't screw UP. We have a president-elect, Nigerians are the winners, our democracy is growing up, very debatable though, but we have not heard martial music, it's UP to us, and if we want to scream, shut UP, then that is certainly okay... but the truth is that the last Mohicans are at the end of the tunnel, we are learning. It is a long journey, I dare say there is no end in sight, yet I remain cautiously optimistic that Nigeria will win, when—Only time will tell.

Prince Charles Dickson PhD is the Team Lead, The Tattaunawa Roundtable Initiative (T R I C e n t r e) [https://tattaunawa.org/Development & Media Practitioner|Researcher|Policy Analyst Public Intellect|Teacher234 803 331 1301, 234 805 715 2301](https://tattaunawa.org/Development&MediaPractitioner|Researcher|PolicyAnalystPublicIntellect|Teacher2348033311301,2348057152301) Alternate Mail: pcdbooks@yahoo.com Skype ID: princecharlesdickson

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

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- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
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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

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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
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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

Democracy, Ideology And Loyalty

By: ABIODUN KOMOLAFE

Democracy is a political paradigm, albeit, with a specific ideological undertone; and the ideological tone refers to the attributes of democracy. Indeed, that distinguishes it from other ideological classifications. Making it simpler, democracy is different from, say, monarchy in that, while the former embraces and encourages all to participate in a political system, the latter is reserved for the privileged family. In other words, it is family-specific, hereditary and it is essentially the government of the few. So, its either one belongs or one doesn't!

Lest we forget, the evolution of democracy has its rich history in a rebellion against dictatorship, against monarchical institutions, against bigotry, and anything that prevents mass participation. Be that as it may, democratic governments function only to the extent of the understanding of the society and the political gladiators practising it. So, for the society to have a functional democratic system, it must have a robust understanding of the tenets as well as the intrinsic attributes of democracy so that it won't appear alien to its practitioners and/or those over whom it is being practised. Since everybody will have to be part of it, it also has to be a general, not restricted, knowledge.

Let it also be noted that Democracy is not derivable, nor a by-product of hidden meanings! Impliedly, its meanings have to be known to everybody, with its central nerve being the majority having not only their say but also their way. That's the meaning of democracy! Democrats abide by the rules; that is, the grundnorm remains sacred! That's why, if a democrat should lose an election in a free and fair contest, he or she will accept the results and face the future with equanimity. On its part, ideologies, at best, are tools or instruments with which political paradigms are activated or energised. Ideology gives life and propensity to political paradigms. Undeniably, it is the oxygen with which political paradigms breathe. It distinguishes it and

makes it distinctive and identifiable. For instance, in a capitalist world, the pursuit of prosperity and personal riches are allowed without the state interference. But, in a socialist enclave, that's an aberration, because the state allocates ownership of all resources to itself, and, in the name of equitable distribution, socialism redistributes the states wealth – 'on behalf of the masses - according to its (socialist) light. It also spells out the modalities by which the political paradigms work. So, if we have a democracy, we will discover that it is glaringly opposed to a dictatorship or a monarchy.

Ideological attributes are not only to be assimilated but also internalised by its adherents. For example, a Labour party man in the United Kingdom remains so till death! And, since he or she might have assimilated and internalized those values, he can't be seen changing overnight. That's why it is difficult to see politicians decamping anyhow over there unlike here; which indeed shows the frivolity of partisanship. In the UK, a Labour man, fifty years on, remains not just a Labour man. His worldview is also affected by that ideology.

Lastly, loyalty presupposes an understanding that, irrespective of circumstances, one's disposition towards a particular cause is always constant; that it won't change! It also means that, deliberately, a man who is said to be loyal is not looking for a rescuer or an escape route. He or she is loyal to the core! His or her position won't change frivolously over a cause, an issue, policy decisions or an agreement with political actors. If there's anything that counters or interferes with that, then, the loyalty profile becomes wounded. In the then USSR for example, the people supported Mikhail Gorbachev till the very end. Ditto for Mao Tse Tung (China) and Adolf Hitler (Germany).

In saner climes, if and when politicians disagree with the fundamentals of their political party, they either resign or quit politics altogether, not to join or defect to another party. A



Marxist will always engage in an argument from a Marxian perspective. He will always bring Karl Marx into his or her discussions and/or arguments be they political, economic, or social. And, once the logic of argument is traceable, it becomes obvious to the world from what perspective the argument is being made.

In Nigeria, we have people who are referred to as progressives; which, to yours sincerely, has no meaning, simply because it has accommodated everybody. Progressivism as an ideology in this part of the world means different things to different people who think differently. Here, strange bedfellows are able to stay under one umbrella in the name of being progressives. But, to actually define and nail it down, nobody has a generally acceptable or accepted definition of the term and, in any case, it is the appeal of the ideologies that help to recruit membership to the political groups. They are people with common core values.

For instance, Labour believes that it is the creator of wealth, whereas a capitalist thinks otherwise: that those who invest their wealth in the acts of production are the real owners of the wealth. Labour also believes that it is the people, working together and producing

something who should be the owners of the wealth, not the main investors. That is why, in socialism, it is preferred that the state should invest; that when the state invests in the acts of production, then, the people, not the state, will own the production. Once that happens, it's not the capitalists but the state which will be in charge of the sharing of all the profits. As such, the portion of the less privileged will not be in vain.

Remember Lapite in Saworoide when he retorted: 'K'iwo jeji, kemi jeji, ki tara yoku ja sasan' (The survivalist creed of the selfish: you take double, I take double, while others become nought)! Therefore, the argument can be made that the progressive bent in Nigeria is amoebic in nature and texture. It's the same as wearing an Awo cap'. It's about the actors playing games with the peoples destiny and grounding the country to a halt by giving deceptive interpretations to progressivism. It's about progressing, not necessarily being progressives! Yes, it's about joining politics with bathroom slippers as the best pairs of shoes only to end up owning monstrous mansions at eyebrow Banana Island in Lagos and Asokoro in Abuja.

There was a time in Nigeria when Adams Oshiomhole was the symbol of Labour and the

struggle for the emancipation of the citizenry. Time it was also when Lai Mohammed was the face of the opposition politics in Nigeria. Now, the music has changed! No thanks to loyalty which has become a victim of dear fatherland's rapidly changing political temperature! Well, I intend to dwell more on this in my forthcoming Letter to the Progressives.

For the society to gauge the relevance of democracy, the roles of ideology in governance and the place of loyalty in party politics, there must be a robust understanding of what the concepts stand for. Not only that, the adherents must also be willing to do exactly as those concepts prescribe. The dangerous truth is that democracy will work to the extent of the understanding of the society; and, since one cannot give what one doesn't have, a better democratic practice will remain an illusion until the basics and fundamental issues of literacy, rule of law, equality and individual freedom are attended to.

May the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace in Nigeria!

Komolafe wrote in from Ijebu-Jesa, Osun State, Nigeria he can be reached via ijebujesa@yahoo.co.uk

PDP Protest TO INEC: A Dissection

By Law Mefor

The world over, politicians try to win elections by fair and foul means. That tendency is the reason institutions and laws exist and are operated by men of honour and integrity, who are sticklers to rules and unyielding to pressures from partisan interests.

The February 2023 Presidential election in Nigeria is a watershed and a new low in the kind of life Nigerians live as human beings who deliberately refuse to grow up and join civilized societies. Our leaders lack honour and integrity and have now added impunity by refusing to obey the laws of the land.

Nigeria's problems are essentially civilizational, not education. Nigeria has more graduates than Britain. But the question is: what is the quality of the human beings who live in Nigeria and are Nigerians? That is what the problem is and why the country is more of a jungle, governed by the principle of anomie – where human values count for really little, where dogs eat dogs.

Nigerians have been subjected to dehumanizing and annihilating conditions and many of them needlessly perish and the law and its enforcers do very little to ensure decency, the most basic requirements of law and order, and life for the living. Justice in Nigeria has become for sale. You cannot even get the police to investigate your case without parting with money and judges easily accept bribes to render justice going by the numerous disciplinary cases decided by the NJC.

Where the law appears to be serious and following the trajectory of justice, it is just for some symbolic gestures to create the impression that the nation is under the law, or a top personality is involved, or the international community has expressed interest and the nation needs to save face and appear good like the rest of the civilized world.

It is the background that will shed light on the PDP's protest match to the INEC headquarters

in Abuja to present a five-point demand, which summarized, is a demand for the cancellation of the charade called February 25, 2023 presidential election. Many say it was a needless protest match since the matter is already in court. Those who say this underestimate the rot in the nation's polity, which the judiciary has turned out to be the most recent victim.

Presidential election petitions have a lot to do with politics and technicalities. The Supreme Court is a court as well as a policy-making body. That is why the apex court dabbled into the currency crisis and even set a date (Dec 31, 2023) for the old naira notes to cease to be legal tenders, a function that ordinarily belongs to the CBN/Executive arm.

What this means is that if the opposition political parties keep quiet, their petitions may not be decided on point of law, but on technicalities. This may end up as a travesty of justice and the citizens will feel more bewildered and betrayed, and will likely be forced back into apathy and depression, or even into self-help that may convulse the polity to the point of eruption and, as PDP has warned, truncate the fledgling democracy.

The judiciary is brought into this presidential election because the process was marred by INEC abandoning the Electoral Act 2022 and its Guidelines and descending into the arena as a player, rather than remaining the umpire statutorily assigned to it by law.

What INEC did can be better understood by taking a look at what happens in the game of football. The referees and players know the rules of the game and the referee moderates the play accordingly. If there is no referee, a team can do anything to win just like in politics. The players will use the hand of God to score as Diego Maradona did in the 1986 world cup final between Argentina and England. The goalkeeper can always handle the ball outside his 18 yards box. No referee worth his name will allow such flagrant violations in the field of

play. Imagine the referee in a football match removing the goalposts or moving them to the sides of the field while the game is on. Imagine the referee allowing players to score with their hands, and changing the football game to a game of handball. This will be absurd. Yet, that was exactly what Professor Mahmood Yakubu did in the February 2023 Presidential election, when he abandoned the Electoral Act 2022, and resorted to manual collation (Electoral Act 2010) and refused to match the manual results with results directly transited from the polling units as required obligatorily by law obligatorily.

Professor Mahmood's impunity was so glaring and nauseating. All the objections and complaints fell on deaf ears. He even promised the opposition parties that he would consider all the observations and complaints once he was done collating.

Most Nigerians still believed him then thinking they were dealing with an honourable man whose word was his bond and waited. Mahmood completed the collation, and rather than review the objections as required by the electoral act, which gave the Commission one whole week to review cases before announcing winners, he went on to announce a president-elect and asked the opposition parties to go to court. This is tantamount to telling the political parties to go to hell!

This last act of impunity speaks volumes and shows that the Commission does not care about how Nigerians feel. Of course, most top leaders in Nigeria have dual citizenships and one will not be surprised if Professor Mahmood is holding the citizenship of say a Caribbean country with a sprawling



mansion and a yurt waiting for his retirement into opulence and freedom from any sort of want. The PDP protest to INEC is really necessary to continue to draw attention to what is going on and to officially file a complaint with the electoral body lest the Commission would claim that such a complaint never came to it. That way too, the judges who are also human first and foremost will see the need to dwell on the law and serve justice that will be satisfactory to both Nigerians and the internal community who felt so disappointed.

Three former presidents led various international observer teams to this fiasco called presidential election, including Uhuru Kenyatta, who as a sitting president allowed a free and fair election that produced William Ruto as his successor against his (Uhuru) preferred candidate. The Kenya's experience has been so exemplary that the nation's Supreme Court had to cancel the presidential election and their electoral body repeated it to meet the requirements of Kenyan electoral laws.

Unfortunately, Nigeria rather than being an example to Kenya and other African countries, it has since been the other way round. Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and others are now showing good examples to Nigeria, the so-called giant of Africa!

The PDP 5-count demands on INEC are clear and ultimately seek a cancellation of the presidential election since it was conducted outside the extant

Electoral Act 2022. Kenya did the same not quite long ago, even for lesser violations of their laws.

As the PDP noted in their petition to INEC, there is nothing ambiguous about Section 64 (4) of the Electoral Act which states: "a collation officer or returning officer at an election shall collate and announce the result of an election, subject to his or her verification and confirmation that the number of accredited voters stated on the collated result is correct and consistent with the number of accredited voters recorded and transmitted directly from polling units and that the votes stated on the collated result are correct and consistent with the votes or results recorded and transmitted directly from polling units".

Comparing the transmitted result with the physical result by the collation or returning officer as a legal requirement under the Electoral Act 2022 is what is called 'Condition precedent' in law and conjecture in scientific reasoning and logic - 'if this, then that...'

Yes, collation done without verification and confirmation with the transmitted from polling result is fraudulent and a violation of the law and ought not to stand.

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Nigeria's 2023 General Elections: Understanding the Crisis of “Elections” in the Context of a Crisis of Neoliberal Capitalist Accumulation

By CAST-Nigeria

PRIOR to the conduct of the February 25th Presidential and National Assembly elections, we had been categorical and clear about the absence of any meaningful option on the ballot for the overwhelming majority of working masses and Youths. We had pointed out that the common thread binding the main contending candidates and parties together, was their fidelity to neo-liberalism, and the united belief in the private sector as the engine of growth, and in the magical powers of the market to enable development.

We had pointed out that given the lack of difference in the policy orientation of the candidates and parties, that they would be left with no option but to seek to mobilise support on the basis of ethnic, religious and geopolitical differences and grievances.

The conduct and outcome of the elections have borne out our fears.

We have always insisted that Liberal Democracy, especially at the peripheries of neoliberal capitalism is a blackmail and a fraud, orchestrated against the victims of capitalist accumulation.

Its two alleged rights (1) right to vote for any candidate of one's choice; and (2) right of every citizen to be voted for – are essentially illusions and frauds. The ruling class – the moneyed class, decide the candidates; and money decides who can be voted for!

In this election for instance, it was not possible for a Mass Party of Working People and Youth, with a socialist ideology, committed to working towards the socialist transformation of Nigeria, to be registered and to participate in the elections; nor was it possible for working people, toiling masses, revolutionaries, and or socialists to be fielded as candidates in the election.

The underdevelopment, or rather degeneracy of the popular mass movement regarding



consistent organising and capacity, in a way, has contributed to our increased faith not only solely in parliamentary, and the attendant electoral processes, but also even seeking shortcuts through latching on the coattails of supposedly progressive parties and personalities. We must admit that there are limitations in the electoral road to working class power, and in particular in a strategy that excludes all other possible roads to power, notwithstanding the visibility that electoralism enables for working class struggles.

In these regards, it bears reiteration that liberal democracy is not a working-class invention, for its own use. It is a concession wrestled from, and controlled by, the ruling class just like wage labour from slavery. The concession simply enables the ruling class to carry on with accumulation as it enables them to also resolve some of their intra-class contradictions through the agency of their negotiation blocks they call political parties. But, that it is a concession won out of struggle is of utmost importance, for it opens up the possibility not only to win further concessions, but to also shake the system to its very foundations, and trigger systemic change, engendering a crisis that can precipitate revolutionary transition.

And what were Nigerian people forced to vote for in this election? Regional divisions: (North, South, East, West; etc.), Religion (Christian, Muslim, Muslim / Muslim, Christian/Muslim, etc.) and ethnicity; alleged competence/incompetence; technocracy; old people/young people, etc. And, of course all under the control of big pockets! Hardly any serious issue was allowed to be raised about, or how to address, in pro-people terms, unemployment, minimum wage, the sale of Nigeria under the banner of privatisation; the neo-liberal capitalist foundation of the war on Nigerian industry and national currency; privatisation of education, health-care delivery and even security especially of life; the escalating levels and the loads of debt that already compromised our future!

A ruling class that could not supervise the simple affair of returning old bank notes to the banks in exchange for new notes could not have been expected to allow or supervise peaceful elections.

Yes, ordinary people are justifiably frustrated and angry and our movement had not done much to generate the appropriate responses based on working people's independent working class agencies and organising.

It is this deficit, over time, that

make us wake up only when a plethora of messiahs emerge during elections whose rules and processes are determined by the ruling class which also dominates the formulation of the issues.

And as for the crisis of electoral fraud, violence and monetisation of the electoral process, we are amused that various segments of election activists appear unprepared for the confusion and chaos that attended the 2023 General Elections even with the antecedents of the contrived currency and petrol shortage!

The outcome of the electioneering manoeuvres of the various factions of the ruling class towards the presidential and national assembly elections have been the enabling of ethnic gladiators, irredentist, and jingoists, who are now more overtly accusing one another of hegemonic ambitions, and who are resorting to more blunt, mutually antagonistic ethnic mobilisations, across the country. In so doing, they are perpetuating and deepening the divisions among ordinary workers and Nigerians.

Their sole purpose is to prevent the working people and toiling masses and youth of Nigeria from understanding the class character of the crisis and of the hardships being imposed on them, and thus prevent the class unity and solidarity of the

oppressed and exploited. Workers and the toiling masses are thus being pushed to unite along ethnic and geopolitical and religious lines, rather than class lines, such that rather than fight our common oppressors, we shall be fighting each other.

Three political parties in the 2023 General Elections attracted the attention of the left generally. Among them, Labour Party has the distinction of having two distinct, indeed antagonistic manifestoes. The Party's manifesto is, at best, social democratic. The manifesto of the Presidential candidate of LP, as predicted from Obi's ideological track, is thorough-going neoliberal. No one in LP is known, until a few days to the election, to have articulated this fundamental issue. To put it bluntly then, Obi's LP is ideologically on the same side with Tinubu's APC, Atiku's PDP, and Kwankwaso's NNPP!

As we insisted before, and for those committed to socialist Transformation of Nigeria, Socialism was not on the ballot; certainly not effectively!

The socialists in Nigeria need to figure out how to undo the massive damage that the ruling class divide-and-rule ideology and the vacillation of organised labour had done to the solidarity of Nigeria's working people.

Our commitment now, more than ever before, must be towards redoubling our efforts towards the building of a Mass Working Peoples and Youth Party, on the basis of a socialist program, and one that is revolutionary, and has organic relationship with other organisations of the working class and working peoples, in particular the trade unions.

This is the road ahead for the working people. We urge that we harness our anger and disillusionment, and channel this energy towards the building of our own Mass Political Movement and Party, in our own image, and in the pursuit of our own class interests.

2023 Election: Borno PDP Guber Candidate Denies Stepping Down For Zulum

***Says Presidential election full of BVAS failures, irregularities**

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Borno State 2023 Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Candidate, Alhaji Mohammed Ali Jajari has denied the rumours making the round in Maiduguri and the state at large, he is stepping down for the All Progressives Congress (APC) Gubernatorial Candidate, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum.

He also described last presidential election as a failure saying, "It is a lie. I have never thought or nursed such a thing in my mind. In politics, you people are journalists and can hear lots of things from all corners or angles against or in favour, but that's politics. I am not doing and I am going to do it."

Addressing journalists at a press conference at the NUJ Press Center Maiduguri on Monday, the PDP Governorship Candidate said, "People of Borno State are already with the PDP as evidenced during the last Presidential election. If not for the series of BVAS failures and technical hitches that resulted in some polling units using manual method of voting method to rig elections by means of over voting, buying votes and the accredited votes as well as manipulating election results.

"As for what I have for the people of Borno, already people of have seen it already that we mean change and changes have started manifesting vividly from actually what is happening in the state. PDP is everywhere and we gone round and mobilize people, show the, your projects, our plans, our good intention and prop;r have already accepted us and the change in governance.

"So, I want them to come out assessment this time around during the Gubernatorial election to massively vote for PDP. Elect new leaders that will serve you at the state and national level.

"I call in all sons and daughters of Borno that are eligible to vote and obtained their voters cards to come out and vote. This time, around we should ensure properly measured are taken to preserve your mandate is protected and the change in leadership of the state that you desire is achieved.

"Even in the last presidential election, PDP won the election but they manipulated and roughed that election at various Polling units out leaders at the national and state levels including the presidential candidate are now pursuing the matter to ensure your choice and, and ate is not stolen or bastardized.

"We are democratic people and always with the people. And we know very well that Borno people; like us and we know very well that you people like and wants a change in leadership of the state and nation at large due to the



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2023 Election: Borno PDP Guber Candidate Denies Stepping Down For Zulum

hardships and sufferings the ruling party has exposed you to. There is clear glaring that with your support and solidarity, PDP will form the next government," Jajari said. He further asserted that, "the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly Election that was supposed to be free and fair election but that was not what we will witness. The elections were flows with a load of irregularities."

"Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we're here to make a brief statement about the conduct of election, presidential and National Assembly election on 25th of February of all, we thank the Almighty Allah. We also thank the people of Borno for coming out and voting for PDP during the last election. That election was supposedly free and fair election. But was not.

"But that was not what we will witness the election where flows with a load of irregularities. Beavers were not working, inflated voted in polling units. Change of results. So many other flows. Today as a gubernatorial candidate of PDP,

"I'm here to encourage and tank, the good people are going to have faith in this same process and come out in mass and vote for PDP in upcoming March 11 gubernatorial and state House of Assembly election. We have learnt a lot of lessons in the last elections.

"And we are sure the good people have been know that most of these flows would be rectified. Some of the flaws were lack of agents in polling units in what coalition centers, local government coalition centers and at the state coalition centers.

"We have been having consultative meetings amongst our stakeholders, party officials, candidates and supporters. When we all put our heads together and correct these mistakes, definitely deliver.

"I'd like to urge the good people of Borno to come out again and vote for PDP. Finally, I would like to commiserate with the people of Borno, particularly the Monday market people over the fire outbreak in one demand. May God be with us. Thank you," Jajari said.



**Presidential Polls:
Police Arrests 203
Suspects Over Alleged
Electoral Offences**

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Come Out, Vote APC, Yari Begs Zamfara Electorate

By; MUSTAPHA IMRANA
ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

A former Governor of Zamfara State and Senator elect representing Zamfara West, Abdul'Aziz Abubakar Yari, the Shetima of Mafara, has called on all Zamfara State people that are with their Permanent Voters Cards) PVCs) to vote for the All Progressives Congress (APC) during the Gubernatorial and State House of Assembly polls on March 11, 2023.

Abdul'Aziz Abubakar Yari made the call while fielding questions from journalists in Talata Mafara.

Yari said, "voting Senators and

House of Representatives members is like a 35 per cent out of hundred, that is why I am calling on people to come out and vote for Governor Matawalle, because the state government is the one closer to people, even in the rural areas, which is very important

"I have to admit that there is my own camp in the political cycle in Zamfara State, that is why I am calling on them to come out and vote for APC during the Gubernatorial and State Assembly elections, which Governor Matawalle is the candidates".

Yari further said that, this time around, they are ready to correct

all the mistakes even if there were any, because nobody is perfect, I believe people are wise, so they should vote wisely.

"I will do my best at the National Assembly because I cannot put my words in doubt, but I thank almighty God for taking us to where we are today and I also thanks my constituents that votes for me as senator under this harsh weather only God will reward them so with this I will do my best".

"There is nothing one can do to win the heart of human beings except from God that is why I wins and I accept is and I will do my best", Yari admitted.



Yari

Ebonyi PDP Youth Express Dissatisfaction Over Outcome of Presidential Election

**Call on INEC, politicians to resist compromise, respect electoral laws*

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA,
Abakaliki

The Director of Youth Mobilization, Ebonyi People's Democratic Party (PDP) Campaign Council, Comrade Igwe Kelechukwu Maduabuchi on Tuesday, expressed dissatisfaction over the level of alleged rigging and swapping of presidential election results in Ebonyi State, while calls on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and politicians to resist every form of compromise and respect electoral laws in order to ensure free, fair, and credible elections.

Comrade Maduabuchi, while briefing journalists in Abakaliki, stated that the just concluded Presidential election was marred by high level of rigging and swapping of election results, saying that the youth of Ebonyi State have lost confidence on INEC.

"It has become mandatory and expedient for me to address the general public and to express my disgust and dissatisfaction over the event of last two Saturday's Elections.

"Let me state categorically, that the youth in the state, especially



Comrade Maduabuchi

in our great party, are not happy over the high level of rigging (swapping of elections results) and violence at the concluded elections

"The youth are saying no to rigging and manipulation of elections results. I call on INEC to resist every form of compromise, by not allowing themselves to be used by some politicians in manipulating election process as was demonstrated during the

presidential and NASS polls.

"We have lost confidence in INEC and that is why they youths want to following them up. The can only rig that election if they are ready to kill all of us. After the Presidential elections, we lost confidence in INEC and Nigerians are highly disappointed.

"But this time around, we have written to them and to the security agencies to make sure the don't play funny game with

us. So, the can only rig this election if they are ready to kill all the youths in Ebonyi State."

"We advice the politicians to play the election game by the rules. Respect the electoral laws in order to achieve free, fair and credible elections come March 11 governorship Elections. The youth Will not tolerate any act of violence. You must remain neutral and apolitical instead of causing disorder," he said.

He urged security agencies to beef up security at the polling units across the 177 wards in orders to protect the votes and electorates to ensure a peaceful and credible election in the forthcoming gubernatorial elections in the state.

Comrade Igwe further encouraged all the eligible voters to come out en mass to cast their votes for PDP during the forthcoming gubernatorial election.

"We, therefore, call on security agents to step up operations at

the polling units across the 177 wards in order to protect both the voters and their votes as well as ensuring that the rightful voters' are not disenfranchised.

"We urge all eligible voters in Ebonyi especially the youths in general to come out en-mass to cast their votes on March 11. Vote but don't fight. Vote for the credible candidate, the capacity and the candidate that is God fearing for Governor and that candidate is, His Excellency, Chief Dr Ifeanyi Chukwuma Odi. This is the time to follow who know the roads for better Ebonyi.

"Cast your vote and protect it. Make sure the results are recorded on the result sheets, captured with the BVAS machine and uploaded to the INEC server before leaving the polling units and if possible accompany the INEC officers to The Collation centres.

"On the youth readiness ahead of the Governorship and House of Assembly elections, we have mobilized our members from the grassroots to ensure that the processes are being conducted peacefully.

"We have engaged the traditional rulers and youth heads in all the 13 local government areas of the state and they were all sensitized on the need for a peaceful and violence free polls," he informed.