

# New NIGERIAN

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**Oyo Guber  
Polls:  
Gang Up  
Mounts  
Against Gov  
Makinde, PDP**

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### Tragedy:

Youth Protest As Councilor Is Burnt To Death In His Car In Ebonyi

# 24-hr Curfew Declared As Terrorists Attack Southern Kaduna Community

- **Casualty figures differ**
- **Police Confirms attack, says search ongoing for casualties, terrorists**
- **Prompt security intervention repelled attackers**

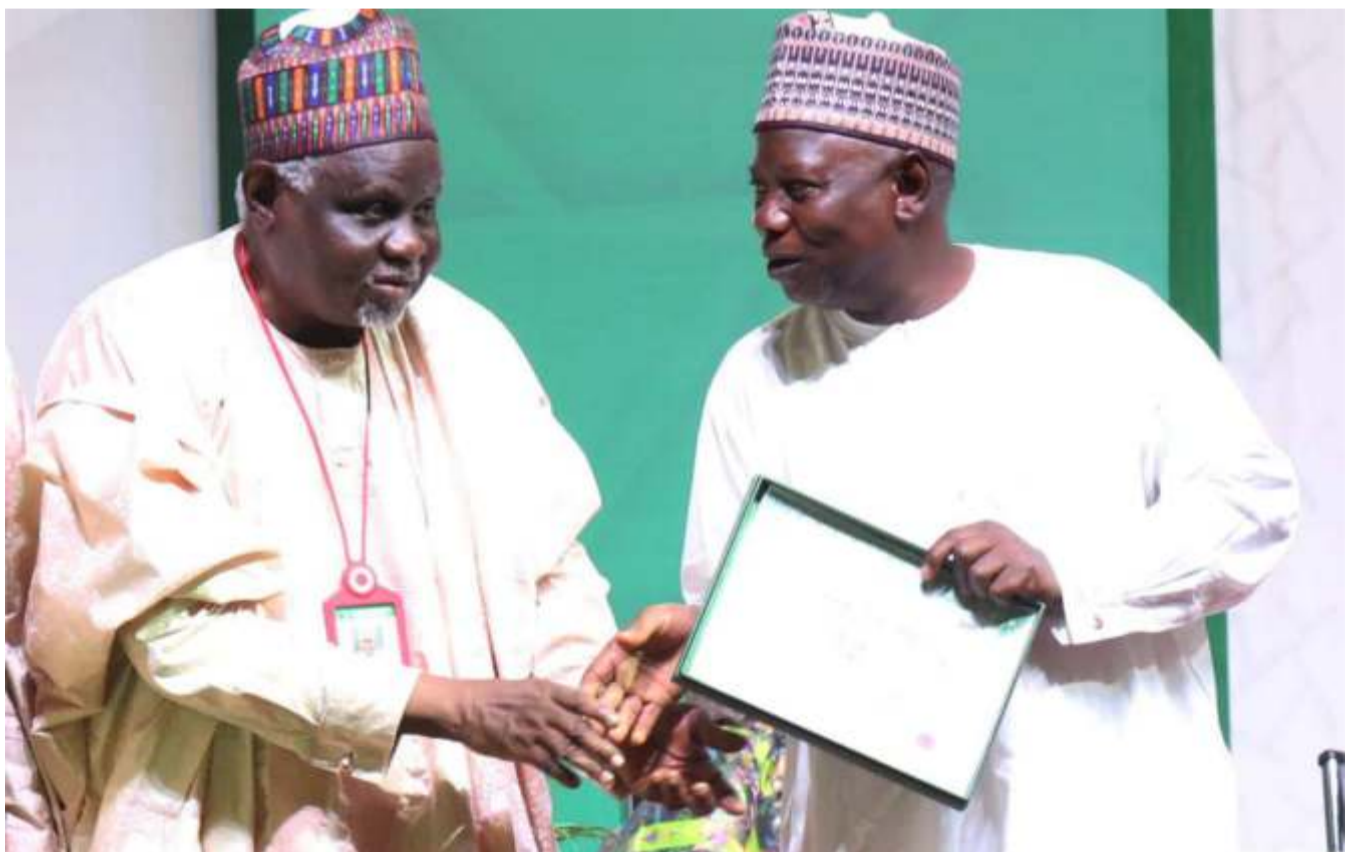
By; AMOS TAUNA & IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kadun

There are conflicting numbers of casualties recorded with some saying that about eight persons were killed following an attack on Saturday night by terrorists in Ungwan Wakili, Atyap Chiefdom, Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

A source told New Nigerian that the immediate intervention of security operatives saved the situation and they were able to bring the situation under control.

The source further explained that trouble started on Saturday with a misunderstanding between security operatives and a Fulani man at a check point at

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Hon. Yusuf Shitu Galambi representing Gwaram (R) Federal Constituency Jigawa State, receiving certificate of return from INEC, in Abuja. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



## Ensure Victory For PDP In Guber Polls, Kaduna Central Senator Elect Tasks Supporters

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# Occupants Escape Death As Truck Falls On Exotic Car In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Occupants of an SUV car escaped death by whiskers when it was crushed by a containerised truck in Lagos, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt. The fully loaded 40ft containerised truck was said to have fallen on the SUV car with registration no EKY 723 OS at Ago Palace Road inward Ago Palace from Apple Junction inward Mile 2 on Friday.

The Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment department of Lastma Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) Adebayo Taofiq confirmed the accident in a release made available to journalists. According to the release, "Investigation revealed that the 40ft containerised truck had a break failure and crushed the SUV car from the rear. "LASTMA officials led by Zone 5 'Bravo' Ige

Omolaja confirmed that no any casualty was recorded during the accident. "He confirmed further that Lasema Response Unit (LRU) has been contacted for immediate evacuation. "The LASTMA General Manager Mr Bolaji Oreagba appealed to motorists particularly truck owners and drivers to always ensure that their vehicles are in good condition before embarking on any journey

across the State. "Mr. Oreagba however confirmed that the Agency today alone recorded 5 different container truck accidents at different locations across the State. "Today alone the Agency recorded 5 different container truck accidents at Ketu inward Mile 12, Ojuelegba bridge inward stadium, under the bridge by Lasuth, Ago Palace Road and Oke-Alfa bridge inward Jakande Estate.



Scene of the accident

## Masari Markets Katsina APC Guber Candidate To Decampees, Others

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Governor has enjoined members of the opposition parties who decamped to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and other patriotic card carrying members of the party to educate the electorate in their respective areas on the qualities and capacity of Dr. Dikko Umar Radda in providing good leadership. Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari made the appeal at separate meetings with a gathering of women mobilized by a popular politician, Hajiya Jari Yar'adua and a group of members of National Rescue Movement (NRM), led by the candidate for the seat of House of Representatives for Kankia -Kusadalingawa Federal Constituency, Kabir Umar Mai Rawani. Governor Aminu Masari

emphasized that continuity is required for the electorate to enjoy the laudable programmes which have improved the lives of the common man in different ways. He therefore, encouraged the politicians not to allow people of their respective areas to make any mistake in the choice of visionary people to lead them. Speaking separately, Hajiya Jari Yar'adua and the candidate for the seat of House of Representatives under NRM, Kabir Umar Mai Rawani promised to embark on massive mobilization to canvass for support in favour of Dr. Dikko Umar Radda and other candidates fielded by the APC during March 18th Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elction. Kabir Mai Rawani however, said the decision to dump their parties towards the right path identified with the ruling APC.

## 2nd Term: Remove Your Name From Rebuilt Adogba Central Mosque Or Lose Our Votes, MURIC Warns Gov Makinde

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) on Saturday, asked Governor Seyi Makinde to immediately remove his name from the rebuilt Adogba Central Mosque, which his administration demolished in 2020, or risk a protest vote in next Saturday's election. MURIC Executive Director, Prof. Ishaq Akintola in a statement, said the governor was wrong to have renamed the Adogba Central Mosque, Iwo Road, Ibadan, after himself and that the mosque's original name must be maintained. According to MURIC, Gov Makinde has no moral right to name the mosque after himself, because it was a replacement of the original mosque which was demolished by his administration. "Our attention has been drawn to the name of Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State which has been conspicuously printed on the newly rebuilt Adogba Central Mosque, Iwo Road, Ibadan. It had better not be. It is an insult on the

corporate dignity of the Muslim community of Oyo State in particular, and the entire Muslim Ummah in Nigeria", he said. Prof Akintola added, "Makinde has no moral rights to name the mosque after himself because it was a replacement of the original mosque which was demolished by him. MURIC advised the governor to effect the change before the gubernatorial election on Saturday to avoid protest vote". "We demand that Makinde remove his name from that mosque. It does not belong to him. It is an attempt to rewrite history. Adogba Central Mosque was built for the Organisation of Tadomunul Muslimeen by the Saudi-based Haramain Islamic Organisation,". The MURIC Executive Director stressed that the mosque was demolished by the Gov Makinde administration despite protests by the Muslim community, alleging that the demolition was one of Makindes's anti-Muslim actions. "He (Makinde) threatened to pull down

Olore Mosque, turned Bodija Muslim praying ground to a recreation centre and bulldozed Adogba Central Mosque. To date, we are not aware of a single church that Makinde demolished. MURIC warned in November 2019 that Makinde should leave Muslim mosques alone but he went ahead with the demolition and promised to rebuild it. He stressed further, " the governor has rebuilt the mosque in another location but he renamed it after himself. We are shocked to our marrows. What audacity! It is desecration of our place of worship. "We cannot worship Makinde. We will worship Allah alone. It would have been right if he had not destroyed our mosque ab initio. But now we can still ask him 'Where is our mosque?' It is highly immoral. His action also lacks tact. "Makinde can only be justified to name the mosque after himself if the money spent on its construction belonged to him personally. He needs to prove that to us but he has not. He used our common patrimony. That money belongs to the tax

payers of Oyo State. It is not Makinde's money. "Therefore, he has no moral rights to name the mosque after himself. It is daylight robbery. It is abracadabra: the more you look, the less you see. Makinde has robbed Peter to pay Paul. "We say capital 'NO' to 'Makinde Central Mosque'. It is a rogue nomenclature. Our mosque is 'Adogba Central Mosque.' Engr Seyi Makinde has no mosque. "Apart from the immoral angle, the governor has exhibited ulterior motive. Even the timing of the completion of the mosque was calculated to coincide with the 2023 electioneering period. Seyi Makinde has played on the intelligence of the Oyo State Muslim community. "Unfortunately the governor does not know that the Muslims are not pleased with his action. The best advice we can give him at this point is to remove his name from the mosque and replace it with the original name of the mosque which he destroyed, viz, Adogba Central Mosque," Akintola said.

# Kaduna PDP Requests Release Of Arrested Members

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

The Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) in Kaduna State, has strongly condemned and rejected what it termed the blatant abuse of power used by the state All Progressives Congress (APC)-led government, saying the harassment is because the APC-led government in the state is staring defeat in the coming elections.

While addressing newsmen during a press conference on Thursday at the Kaduna PDP secretariat, the state Chairman, Hon. Hassan Hyat said that as a matter of urgency in view of the act of deliberate harassment and intimidation that PDP members are experiencing in the state, they find it necessary to hold a press conference.

He added that, it is compulsory for them to draw the attention of Nigerians and the international community to the undemocratic acts of harassment against PDP members in state, as the APC-led government would be held responsible if anything happens to their members currently in detention.

According to the state Chairman, the Assistant Campaign Director in charge of their broadcast department, Hon Saidu Adamu, has only been released on bail after being arrested by the DSS since March 7, 2023, while two other members, Talib

Mohammed Lawal and El-Abbas Mohammed have been arrested and currently in detention.

He said, "we have it on good authority that directives have been given by the state Governor, Malam Nasir el-Rufa'i to security agencies in the state to arrest members of the PDP campaign management team. Already trumped up cases have been prepared for each of the members.

"We recall that on 30/01/2023, we had cause to write a petition to the Commissioner of Police when 14 of our members were randomly arrested in Kudan Local Government Area. We wrote another petition on 01/03/2023 asking the Police to be mindful of plans by the APC to incite the public through the use of some Islamic clerics.

"We ask for either the immediate release of those arrested, or charged to a competent court so that the needed legal process can start. Doing otherwise would amount to an infringement of their fundamental human rights and a clear misuse of state power," Hyat said.

Meanwhile, the Kaduna State Chairman requested the security agencies in the state to stay neutral in all the electoral processes, as that would help the state to stay peaceful before and after the March 18 Gubernatorial and state Assembly Elections.

"Information reaching us is that the APC Government in Kaduna



State has drawn up lists of people to be picked in various local government areas in order to cripple the PDP. This is very unbecoming of an elected governor who is on oath to be fair to all.

"The desperation of the serving APC governor and its gubernatorial candidate is such that they are moving from one local government to another, threatening the remaining traditional/ward heads and civil servant with dismissal should they fail to deliver their polling units to APC," he alleged. Meanwhile, Hon. Hyat called on EFCC and other anti-corruption agencies, security agencies alike to take the necessary action by arresting trailer loads of rice, noodles, spices, etc being sent to various local government areas in the state to influence the poor voters.

"This is pure vote buying which is against the law. APC government in Kaduna State has never donated items either during Sallah, Ramadan fasting, Christmas or Easter to the masses of Kaduna State, why now?"

"We call on the good people of Kaduna State to remain resolute and focused. Do not sell your future and the future of our children and the unborn for a morsel that will not last more than a day. The time to chase out this satanic regime is now. PDP is the solution," he said.

Hon. Hassan Hyat urged the state party members, well-wishers and the public to remain calm and law abiding, hence, these are several acts of calculated harassment that the APC government has initiated against their members.

# Be Non-Partisan To Ensure Credible March 18 Polls In Akwa Ibom, Rights Group Urges INEC

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Akwa Ibom State has come under scrutiny of alleged complicity in electoral fraud, with rights group urging the Commission to be neutral and non-partisan in the Governorship and State House of Assembly polls billed for March 18, 2023.

Speaking to journalists in Uyo on Sunday, the Akwa Ibom State Director of Center For Human Rights & Accountability Network (CHRAN), Otuekong Franklyn Isong said that, to sustain the existing peace enjoyed in the state, INEC must ensure neutrality, and guarantee free, fair and credible March 18 polls. He said that the call become necessary going by what the group witnessed in the state during the Feb 25 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

CHRAN State Director, who, in collaboration with other Civil Society Groups, Professional Bodies and Trade Unions in Akwa Ibom, also hinted of a plots by some politicians in the state to import thugs from neighbouring states to mar the March 18 elections to favour a particular political party and its candidates.

To avert violence before and during the March 18 election in the state, the Rights Group called on security agencies in the state to be on alert especially around the riverine areas and border communities in the state.

"Going by our observations in the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, the INEC was culpable and complicit in the electoral fraud and malpractices witnessed in the elections. INEC was a contestant instead of being a non-partisan electoral umpire. INEC provided the platform for the politicians who carried out rigging in large scale and electoral fraud in the polls.

"We wish to call on the INEC in Akwa Ibom State to be neutral and non-partisan in the Governorship and State House of Assembly polls billed for 28th March, 2023.

"Worrisome to us, is the fact that our intelligence network, however, reveals that some politicians in Akwa Ibom State are perfecting plots to import

political thugs, as well as real and/or fake security personnel from neighboring states, particularly, Rivers, Abia and Bayelsa into Akwa Ibom State with the intention to subvert the votes and wishes of Akwa Ibom people during the Governorship and State House of Assembly Elections billed for Saturday, 18th March, 2023.

"We hereby call on the Nigeria Police and other law enforcement agencies to be on alert, and rise to the occasion of ensuring that the State remains peaceful while Akwa Ibom people go out en masse to elect the Governor and State House of Assembly Members of their choice come Saturday, 18th March, 2023.

"We urge the security agencies in the State to pay serious attention to our riverine and bordering communities before, during and after the elections.

Urging the politicians on the state not to see election as a do-or-die battle, Isong said, "We appeal to the political class, particularly, the governorship candidates and their supporters not to approach the forthcoming elections with the "do-or-die" spirit, but with the spirit of sportsmanship.

"No political office is worth the blood of any Akwa Ibomites. At the end of the elections, only one person will occupy the Office of the Governor of Akwa Ibom State and Akwa Ibom people will be the winners." Isong added.

Recall during the Feb 25 Presidential and National Assembly elections, CHRAN whose civic responsibility is to deepen democracy in Nigeria may Akwa Ibom State, had mobilized its members across the State as observers. Some members of CHRAN joined sister and partnering civil society groups to monitor the election around the entire 31 local government areas of Akwa Ibom State.

The CHRAN also set up a Situation Room at its office in Uyo, where reports were received through a toll-free line and its social media platforms. In most cases, observer reports were accompanied with photographs and video clips. The State Director, Otuekong Isong told journalists.

# Four Injured As Suspected Thugs Attack LP Campaign Convoy In Southern Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Labour Party governorship campaign convoy of Hon Jonathan Asake in Kaduna State was attacked by thugs on Friday in Gidan Waya, Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

A statement issued by James Swam, Media Aide to Jonathan Asake said, "Four youth were injured in the process, including two boys and two girls while no vehicle was damaged."

The incident happened



Asake

when the campaign convoy was passing through Gidan Waya during Friday prayers on its way to Godogodo and other towns as the campaign team toured the local government.

After the first three vehicles in the convoy made their way through the old tyres used to demarcate the road, thugs started throwing stones, big sticks and other harmful objects at the long convoy.

It took the timely intervention of the security personnel attached to the candidate to forestall crisis.

## Group Appeals To Tinubu To Consider Loyalty, Competence In Forming Cabinet

The Tinubu Shettima Diaspora Network (TSDN), an All Progressives Congress (APC) support group has appealed to Sen. Bola Tinubu, the President-elect to consider loyalty, commitment and competence in selecting those that will form his cabinet.

Dr Uche Paul Ogbonnaya, the group's Director-General made the appeal in an interview with newsmen in Abuja yesterday.

He noted that there were great Nigerian brains in the Diaspora within the APC, willing to come back to the country to contribute to its development if given the opportunity.

He, therefore, advised that loyalty and dedicated party members within and outside the country should be considered in every political appointment because they had worked for the party and the country generally.

Ogbonnaya said this is critical to ensuring that Tinubu's promise of upholding the party's reward system during the campaigns is kept.

He added that now that the election is over, the president-elect should begin shopping for those that would work with him as ministers and other cabinet members to enable him to hit the ground running after his inauguration on May 29.

Ogbonnaya, however, noted that having Mr Ade Omole, the Director of Diaspora, APC

Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) as the country's next Foreign Affairs Minister, would not be out of place.

He said this is especially because Omole had paid his dues as a loyal and dedicated party man in the APC, in Nigeria and in the Diaspora community.

He described Omole as an experienced diplomat and administrator of resources with executive experience in varying fields spanning management roles in Hewlett Packard, JP Morgan Investment Bank, and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) among others.

"Professionally, Omole is a United Kingdom Defence Ministry NSV-certified Senior Consultant with over 30 years of experience in the International Project Management Industry.

"Having Omole as the country's next Foreign Affairs Minister will be having a round peg in a round hole.

"Recognised as one of Nigeria's Diaspora Icons by the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) in 2022, Omole is grounded in crisis management and in delivering value-based programmes.

"He is professionally and educationally qualified with a distinction Masters' Degree in Law specialising in conflict resolution and a Masters' degree in IT to serve as Foreign Affairs Minister," Ogbonnaya said.

He added that with a chain of other degrees and certifications, Omole had been involved in leading



Prince Ade Omole, Director of Diaspora, APC Presidential Campaign Council (PCC)

strategic development assignments, international transition projects and public sector-focused projects.

Ogbonnaya noted that ahead of the Feb. 25, presidential election, Omole travelled the world to campaign for Sen. Bola Tinubu, the president-elect, because of his excellent relationship with the international community.

He added that being a worthy ambassador for Nigeria over the years in the Diaspora, Omole liaised with Members of Parliament and congresspersons across the board and had a good rapport with Nigerians abroad.

"He is a visionary and goal-oriented techie-savvy executive with demonstrable experience in planning, diplomacy, developing and implementing cutting-edge bespoke initiatives to

address governmental and business issues," Ogbonnaya said.

He added that the APC PCC Director of Diaspora had been a leader of the party for years in the Diaspora and had headed and been part of its several committees, and was a founding leader of the party in the Diaspora.

He recalled that Omole was a member of the APC 2019 Presidential Campaign Council, Diaspora Directorate and APC 2019 Presidential Campaign Council, Communications Directorate.

"He was also the coordinator, of the Diaspora United Kingdom 2019 for President Muhammadu Buhari Presidential Support Committee and Assistant Secretary, APC 2022 Accreditation of Volunteers, Diplomats and Diaspora, Observers among others," Ogbonnaya said.

## Tragedy: Youth Protest As Councilor Is Burnt To Death In His Car In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

There is political tension in Okposi Achara Community as gunmen shot a ward councilor and set him ablaze with his car around 11:00pm on Saturday.

The youth in the area went on rampage to protest the killing yesterday.

A close source in the area, explained that the councilor whose name was given as Ugwu Ogbonnaya (AKA SPACO) was murdered at Okposi Court area and was set ablaze in his car by unidentified gunmen on Saturday night, while returning from his shop, a drinking joint in Okposi.

Reacting to the incident, the Chairman of Ohaozara Local Government Area, Hon. Chinonso Ajah, condemned the gruesome murder of the ward councilor, saying that he will deploy every legitimate means to unravel those behind the killing and ensure they are brought to book.

He described the late councilor as a peaceful and easy going person who does not associate with any form of violence, stating that no political ambition worth the blood of an innocent citizen.

"I condemn in its entirety the Murder of my dependable Councilor and

will deploy every legitimate means to unravel the hands behind this mayhem in my local government and ensure they are brought to book.

"No form of contest of any sort or nature is worth the blood of Innocent citizens of our land. Our land forbids it and that has been the protective sage for our people right from the ancient times.

"We know Hon Ogbonnaya Ugwu (SPACO) to be easy going, soft spoken and accommodating as he barely would be associated with any form of violence. These traits of his makes it more painful to know he was gruesomely murdered by unknown faces."

Also, when contacted for her reaction, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Ebonyi State, Mrs Onome Onovewakpoyeya who confirmed the incident, said that it happened around 11:00pm on Saturday night, adding that investigation is ongoing to unravel those behind the crime.

"For now we can't say who is responsible, but we got news of the death and investigation is ongoing. It happened yesterday at after 11pm, but was reported this morning," she said.

## 24-hr Curfew Declared As Terrorists Attack Southern Kaduna Community

Ungwan Wakili that led to the Fulani man being shot alongside one police officer.

According to him, "The situation later escalated in the evening, when a group of youth went for fishing and were attacked as one person was butchered to death by suspected terrorists."

According to him, the situation has been brought under control with the presence of security personnel in the area.

Meanwhile, a 24-hour curfew has been imposed on four communities by the Zangon Kataf Local Government Council chairman, Francis Sani, with the sole aim

of preventing further breakdown of law and order in the area.

A statement by Special Assistant (Media) to the Executive Chairman, Yabo Chris Ephraim on Saturday's night said, "A 24-hour curfew has been imposed on Ungwan Juju, Mabuhu, Ungwan Wakili and Zangon Urban with immediate effect. This is to allow men of the Nigerian Army to restore peace on that axis.

Confirming the incident on phone to our correspondent, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Muhammed Jalige said that security forces are on top of the

situation.

He explained that from the briefing he received from the Area Commander, trouble started a couple of days ago, when a boy rearing cattle was murdered.

"We have been trying to manage the situation while investigating the sad occurrence before trouble broke out," he said.

On the number of casualties recorded, DSP Jalige said that a joint security team will be combing the bushes in the area Sunday afternoon to search for bodies, if

any, as well as apprehend the suspects that were responsible for the killings.

"We are on top of the situation and all the hoodlums responsible would be rounded up," he assured.

According to him, but for the timely intervention of joint security personnel coordinated by the Area Commander, the terrorists would have had a field day.

"Repelling the hoodlums was a tedious task for our security agencies, but they were successful as the terrorists scampered away from the scene," he said.

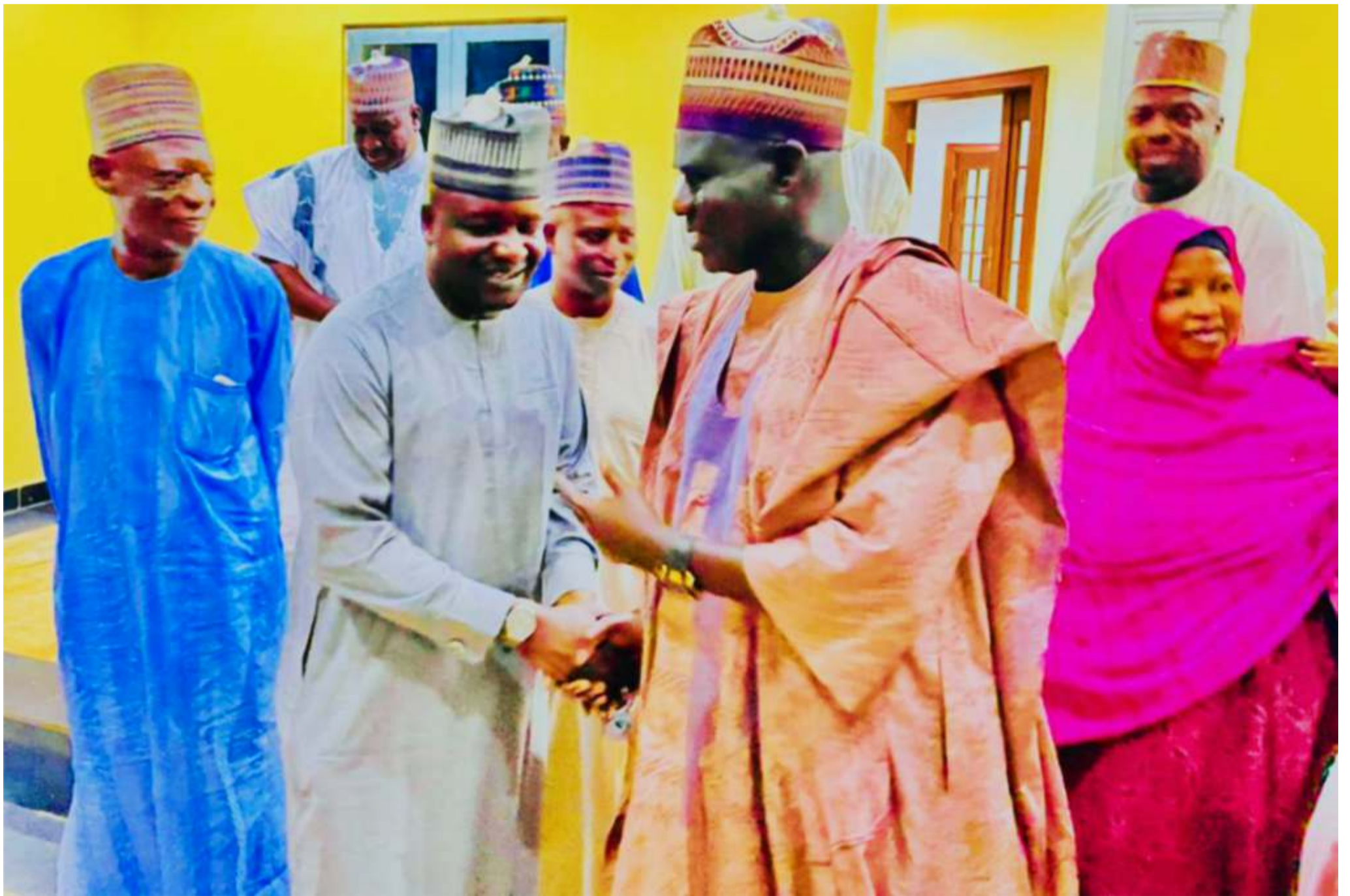
# Borno Dep Gov Leads Biu APC Stakeholders To Buratai

**By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**  
The Biu All Progressives Congress (APC) stakeholders, led by the Borno State Deputy Governor His Excellency Umar Usman Kadafur and Biu APC Leaders and Elders visited the former Chief of Army Staff, Amb Lt Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai CFR (rtd) Beteran

Biu at his country home in Biu Local Government Area of Borno State. The stakeholders appreciated his contributions to the APC during and after the campaigns leading to the emergence of Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu as President-elect and Senator Kashim Shettima as Vice President-elect.

They also appreciated him for his contributions in bringing the Nigerian Army University to Biu and many other development efforts in Borno State and the country at large. In his response, the General turned politician, urged them to unite and ensure the success of the Borno State APC

Governorship Candidate Prof Babagana Umara Zulum and all the APC State Assembly Candidates. He assured that the APC Government under Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu come May 29, 2023 will fulfill all the campaign promises of development, peace and security.



# Join Us In Freeing Our Nation From Slavery, Ambassador Bin Abbas Tasks Nigerian Youth

## *\*To launch National Youth Alliance*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While hinting on launching a movement termed, "National Youth Alliance", the Special Adviser Youth to His Excellency, former Vice President and People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate in the 2023 presidential elections, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas has tasked Nigerian youth to brace up and free Nigerians from slavery.

Ambassador Abbas expressed this in a statement he personally signed and made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Saturday March 11, 2023.

"I call on you all to join us in this crusade. It is centered on the freedom of our great nation Nigeria from the hands of those holding us in perpetual slavery over time.

"How long shall we stand beside and look at them Mortgaging our collective Interests?" He queried.

According to him, the time is now for all to support the Redemption Project.

"The future of our democracy is sacred and sacrosanct. Let's come together and secure our future and that of unborn children," he said.

He said that he is making the Clarion Call, while reflecting on the need to ensure a better future for Nigeria.

"I watched with heavy sense of consternation the complacency of our generation regarding practical involvement in



Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas

our nation's politics and governance.

"Much has been said about youth takeover, tomorrow belongs to the youth, youth are the leaders of tomorrow and so on.

"The salient question is this, how prepared and ready are the youths for this noble course and tasks?" He queried.

According to him, "many of us are too complacent, prefer to settle for stipends rather than take the bull by

the horns.

"In countries like France, United Kingdom etc, youth are the arrow heads in politics and governance. In South Africa, the likes of Honourable Julius Malema is making a serious case for the nation's younger generation.

"Unfortunately, Nigeria's Younger Generation appears caged, impoverished and

brainwashed with lies and ridiculous baiting, imprisoned mentally and psychologically. Reason for the prevalence of those who enslaved our fathers in the system.

"Myself with other patriots cut across ethno religious and political divides have been working assiduously to ensure both mental and psychological redemption of our generation," he revealed.

## Kano 2023: PDP Support Group Endorses Gawuna's Candidature

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

People's Democratic Party (PDP) Support Group popularly known as Credible Candidates (C2) has thrown its weight behind governorship bid of Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna, saying Kano State will prosper under the flag bearer of All Progressives Congress (APC).

In a statement, National coordinator of of the group, Dr. Jamilu Auwalu Adamu eulogized leadership virtues of Gawuna, adding that Kano State would benefit from the current deputy governor at helm of affairs as elected Number one citizen of the nation's Centre of Commerce.

Adamu disclosed that the group with the strength of over 11 grassroots mobilizers in each 3,500 polling units in all the 44 local government areas in the state could make electoral impacts in any contest.

He explained that the group deployed its electoral muscles in favour of PDP's candidate Atiku Abubakar in the just concluded February 25 Presidential election.

Adamu however expressed disappointment over the attitudes of PDP chieftains in Kano as the reason he severed relationship with the party and decided to work for success of APC in the forthcoming gubernatorial election scheduled for March 18.

He expressed confidence in ensuring electoral triumph of Gawuna at the poll next week.

"I can assure you that due to wide support base and masses mobilization ability of Senator Danburam Abubakar Nuhu who is our patron and leader the APC's victory in the forthcoming governorship poll is assured.

"It is only a matter of time before Gawuna is declared winner of the election because of the state-wide support he enjoys, including that of our group which has

instructed all mobilizers across all 44 LGs in Kano to swing into action by effectively work for the victory of Gawuna.

"We have seen in him an individual with the midas touch of continuing the infrastructural and human development legacies of Ganduje.

"He has been a loyal, committed and effective deputy to the present administration in the state.

"He has also been instrumental to remarkable achievements of the Ganduje's administration all through and is enjoying undiluted patronage and support from citizens of the state.

"We therefore, urge our teeming supporters and mobilizers to ensure the victory of Gawuna as next duly elected governor of Kano State.

"We are now rigorously working round the clock in earnest mobilizing serious votes within 8 metropolitan and 44 LGAs for Nasiru Gawuna.

"Also, we have just launched a giant project tagged 'C2 Votes for Gawuna' to be completed by Friday 17th March, 2023 midnight.

"We strongly believe Nasiru Gawuna is the only Credible and best for the job as an incumbent APC Deputy Governor in the state and having worked as Chaiman Nasarawa LGA and in various capacity as commissioner with all governors of Kano State since 1999, including senator Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, Senator Ibrahim Shekarau, and Abdullahi Umar Ganduje.

"He pledged to build on their legacies, respect for Culture, Norms and Values, Constitution, Civil Servants, Politicians, business entrepreneurs, retirees, elites, Imams, men and Women, local government autonomy among other ingredients of good governance," he assured.

## March 18: Katsina NNPP Dep Guber Candidate Endorses APC

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Alhaji Muttaqa Rabe Darma, running mate to Alhaji Nura Khalil, the governorship candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) in Katsina State, has endorsed the All Progressive Congress (APC) candidate, Dr. Dikko Radda, for the seat.

Alhaji Rabe Darma endorsed the APC candidate in Katsina, saying, Dr. Dikko Umar Radda's victory would boost development in the state.

According to him, the state is in need of someone with the capacity to govern with sincerity and honesty. "Dr Dikko Radda has the capacity, the qualifications and experience to move the state out of the woods; we

need to attain our goals," Darma said.

He called on NNPP supporters to back the APC candidate in the March 18 election.

Responding, Dr Umar Radda appreciated Alhaji Muttaqa Darma for the support towards his victory and success of the APC in the election and pledged to run an inclusive government if elected.

Reacting to his deputy's

action, the Gubernatorial Candidate of the NNPP, Alhaji Nura Khalil described it as a betrayal.

"I am not aware of any alliance. Such action would not discourage me from pursuing the bid to become the governor of Katsina State," Alhaji Nura Khalil said.

"It is disappointing that my running mate and other NNPP officials want to sell the party," he said.



Gawuna

# Slain Fishermen: Zulum Visits, Supports Bereaved Families In Dikwa

**By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri**  
Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, on Friday, visited families of over 30 fishermen killed by Boko Haram insurgents on Wednesday at Mukdolo village in Ngala Local Government Area (LGA), some kilometers away from Dikwa. Zulum was in Dikwa town where the fishermen lived and from where they

went fishing at Mukdolo before they were ambushed. Dikwa town, headquarters of Dikwa Local Government Area is located within Borno Central. Dikwa was once occupied by Boko Haram around 2014 as a stronghold before it was liberated by the military, rebuilt by government and reoccupied. Governor Zulum met all bereaved families of the slain fishermen at the

palace of the Shehu of Dikwa, Alhaji Ibrahim Ibn Ibrahim El-Kanemi. "On behalf of the government and people, I am here to extend our sympathy to you over the killing of our brothers who had gone to earn a living", Zulum said. He added, "I urge you to take solace from the Almighty Allah, as He alone can take life. We pray that their souls shall rest in eternal peace".

Governor Zulum presented relief materials to each of the deceased families to support them during the mourning period. He assured of continuous assistance to the families left behind by the victims. The Shehu of Dikwa, on behalf of the families and bereaved communities, expressed gratitude to Governor Zulum for the visit.



# NSCDC Apprehends 9 Suspected Fake Currency Syndicates, Recovers Large Sum Of Dollars, Naira Notes

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

At least, nine suspected notorious fake currency syndicates have been arrested by operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) over alleged possession of fake dollars and naira notes.

The suspects were said to have been arrested during two separate operations in Nasarawa and Plateau states, following credible intelligence by operatives attached to the Commandant General's Special Intelligence Squad.

A large sum of both fake dollars and naira notes were said to have been recovered from the suspects.

The Director of Public Relations of the Corps Olusola Odumosu in a statement said all the suspects are assisting the agency to further its investigation.

While giving a breakdown of the arrest, he said, "Acting on credible Intelligence, the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps' Special Intelligence Squad (CG's SIS) in a clandestine operations, arrested two syndicates alleged to be involved in offences ranging from criminal conspiracy, cheating, obtaining by trick (OBT) and production/distribution of counterfeited US Dollars (USD) and new Naira notes into the society.

"One of the groups arrested which consisted of four male adults were caught in possession of fake sixty-four thousand, eight hundred US dollars (\$64,800) and four hundred and seventy-five thousand naira (N475,000) notes, while fake notes of N1.5m was also seized from the second group consisting of five male adults.

"The names of members of the syndicate arrested with the sum of N1.5m are; Dantala Omale, 'M', 30yrs, Plateau State, Musa Abdullahi, 'M' 24yrs, Plateau state, Audu Abdulazeez, 'M', 56yrs, Gombe State, Umar Hassan 'M', 46yrs, plateau state and Mahammadu



Badaru Yakubu 'M' 30yrs, Nasarawa State.

"The arrest was effected when one Dantala Omale was lured to Nasarawa from Plateau state and picked up by the squad on the 22nd of February, 2023, with fake new naira notes of N412,000.

"The arrested suspect confessed getting the fake notes from Musa Abdullahi, AKA Baballe which led to the arrest of Abdullahi on 22nd of February, 2023 at Namu area of Quapan LGA in Plateau state in possession of N49,650 old naira notes.

"After a thorough interrogation, Abdullahi confessed that he usually gets his supply of fake currencies from one Audu Abdulazeez, AKA Dan-Gombe, who the squad arrested on the 3rd of March 2023, at Plateau Express service motor park in Jos, Plateau State, at about 11:20 a.m with N350,000 fake newly redesigned Naira notes.

"The effort of the squad to arrest all members of the syndicate paid off when Abdulazeez confessed to giving one Umar Hassan the fake notes. When Hassan was apprehended, he was in possession of N20,500 and he also confessed to his involvement in the crime and that he regularly transact with one Mohammadu Badaru Yakubu, who was also arrested close to the old CBN office in lafia town, at about 3:10 p.m on

March 5, 2023 with fake N2000 of the new Naira notes.

"Further investigation however, revealed that the group operated within and around Plateau, Nasarawa, Bauchi & Gombe states.

"Members of the second syndicate arrested with the exhibits of \$64,800 and N475,000 are; Jonathan Dakogol, Abbas Ibrahim, Isa Ukashatu and Aminu Isa.

"Isa Ukashatu and Jonathan Dakogol were arrested with fake \$64,800 and N475,000 at Akurba of Lafia LGA, in Nasarawa State after being lured to deliver the money to a client.

"Upon arrest, Dakogol volunteered and led the CG'S SIS operatives to Kurgwi area in Quaan'Pan LGA, Plateau State, where one Aminu Isa who was alleged to be a herbalist was also arrested.

"Isa also led the Squad to the arrest of one 62 years old Abbas Ibrahim in Quaan'Pan LGA, Plateau State who had collected \$30,000 fake US Dollars from him.

"All suspects at the point of arrest were found in possession of fake dollars and the newly redesigned Naira notes ranging from N500 to N1000 denominations respectively and had also confessed to being involved in the business for over five years.

"The Commandant General, Dr. Ahmed Abubakar Audi, mni,

OFR, commended the CG's SIS for a job well done and described the criminal gangs as economic saboteurs destroying the country through the perpetration of financial crimes and defrauding of innocent citizens.

"He stated that their arrest is a good omen for the country because it helped to stop the distribution and influx of fake currencies into society which could have caused great setbacks to the economy.

"He charged the squad leader, DCC Appollos Dandaura, and his team to intensify efforts for more arrests by launching their dragnet further into every nook and cranny of the country in order to fish out other dangerous criminal elements and syndicates perpetrating heinous financial crimes at the detriment of the nation.

"He warned all criminal syndicates to desist from this venture and get other legitimate means of survival or face the wrath of the law because NSCDC and other security agencies will fish them out no matter their hiding places.

"The arrested suspects are still assisting the Corps with useful information for further investigation and would be handed over to the appropriate authority for prosecution after the preliminary investigation is concluded. Meanwhile, a manhunt has been launched for other fleeing members of the syndicates".

## 2023 Elections: Lagos NUJ Cautions Members On Security, Reportage

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos State Council has urged its members to be cautious in the course of election reporting.

The council gave the advice in a statement jointly signed by the duo of Comrade Adeleye Ajayi, Council Chairman and Secretary, Tunde Olalere, made available to New Nigerian Newspapers in Lagos.

According to the statement, "We are all conversant with the ethics of journalism and as the various versions of the elections approach, the union solicits that we should all exercise caution in our reportage.

"We should be authentic in our reportorial duties and shun fake reports.

"The safety of members is also paramount. Hence, we should be security conscious of any environment we find ourselves during elections," the union said.

Further more, as journalists and being the fourth estate of the realm, we should ensure we publish unbiased reports.

The union, however, said that the security operatives should also accord journalists free access to coverage of events and results as they unfold.

It noted that in case of any hitch or harassment, any affected member should not hesitate to call the situation room of the NUJ National Secretariat as well as any official of the state council for an amicable solution.

The union wished every member a hitch-free election coverage

## Banditry Commission Of Enquiry: Katsina Govt Engages White Paper Drafting Committee

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government is to assign a white paper drafting committee to study report on the findings of the commission of enquiry into the recent Bakori/Kankara banditry Attack.

Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari confirmed this when he received the report of the commission led by Justice Abbas Bawale Abdullahi at Government House.

The governor appreciated the commission for the job done, adding that the attack was carefully planned and executed saying that it was not for

rustling or kidnapping but a revenge mission.

He however, said government would take measures to ensure it's the first and last in the state, the North West and Nigeria in general.

Earlier the chairman of the commission of enquiry Justice Abbas Bawale Abdullahi of the state high court assured that the recommendations contained in the report would be useful to even the neighboring states and the federal government in tackling security problems.

He then thanked the state government for giving them the mandate to investigate causes of the attack leading to the killings.



# Two PDP Chieftains Bag 3 Years Jail Over N142m Election Bribe Scam

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two Chieftains of the Opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in Bauchi State, have been sentenced to three years imprisonment for offences that bordered on conspiracy and money laundering to the tune of N142, 460,000.00 (one hundred and forty two million, four hundred and sixty thousand naira).

The duo, named Saleh Hussaini Gamawa and Aminu Umar Gadiya were convicted by a Federal High Court presided over by Justice Hassan Dikko, on March 2, while ruling on the two count charge brought against the defendants by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The Head, Media & Publicity of the Commission Wilson Uwujaren made the disclosure in a statement made available to journalists on Saturday.

According to Uwujaren, "The defendants were first arraigned on June 4, 2018 and re-arraigned on October 16, 2018 on a two count charge for allegedly receiving over N142million to influence the outcome of the 2015 presidential elections in Bauchi State.

"Count one of the charge reads, "That you, Saleh Hussaini Gamawa and Aminu Umar Gadiya, all members of the Finance and Funds Disbursement Committee of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) 2015 General Elections, and in such capacities sometimes in March, 2015 in Bauchi State within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court did agree amongst yourselves to commit an offence, to wit; Conspiracy to accept cash payment exceeding the threshold provided by law, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(a)

and punishable under Section 16(2) (b) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2012( as amended) now No.1, 2012".

"Count two reads, "That you, Sale Hussaini Gamawa and Aminu Umar Gadiya, all members of the of the Finance and Funds Disbursement Committee of the peoples 'Democratic Party (PDP) 2015 General Elections, and in such capacities sometimes in March, 2015 in Bauchi State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did accept cash payment of N142,460,000.00 ( One Hundred and Forty Two Million, Four Hundred and Sixty Thousand Naira) from the Directorate of Finance, Bauchi State PDP Campaign Organization exceeding the required threshold of cash payment, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1, 16(1)(d) and punishable under Section 16(2)(b) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended) now No.1, 2012"

"The defendants had pleaded not guilty to the charges, setting the stage for the case to proceed to full trial. In the course of trial, the prosecution presented one witness and tendered documents marked as Exhibits A1, A2 and A3. Both defendants testified in their respective defence.

"At the close of evidence, the final written addresses were filed, exchanged and adopted on January 17, 2023, with the prosecution asking the court to convict the defendants as charged. The defence, on the other hand, submitted that the evidence presented against the defendant by the prosecution was not credible and urged the court to discharge and acquit the defendants. Justice Dikko then reserved judgment for March 2, 2023.

"In the well-considered judgment that lasted more than three hours,

Justice Dikko reviewed the facts of the case and the submissions of counsel and arrived at the conclusion that the prosecution proved the cases against the defendants beyond reasonable doubt on count one and convicted them as charged. He however discharged and acquitted the 2nd defendant on count two".

According to justice Dikko, "the fact that the defendants in this instant case endorsed exhibit A1, A2 and A3 to receive cash to the tune of N142,460,000.00, well in excess of the legal threshold designated by law, there can be no other conclusion but that the defendants conspired to so commit the offence and I am satisfied beyond reasonable doubt. It is rather astonishing that in the defence of the count, the defendants completely disregarded the damaging evidence of exhibits A1, A2, and A3, lying right before the Court. I therefore find the 1st and 2nd defendants guilty of conspiracy as charged in court one and are accordingly convicted".

On Count two, he said, "I have relied almost entirely on Exhibits A1, A2 and A3, and a close scrutiny of the Exhibits demonstrates that the 1st defendant, Saleh Hussaini Gamawa received N105, 840,000.00 in Exhibit A1, N27, 650,000.00 in Exhibit A2 and N8, 970,000.00 in Exhibit A3, summing up to N142,460,000.00, all in the presence of, or witnessed by the 2nd defendant Aminu Umar Gadiya.

The content of these documents leaves no one in doubt as to who received the money, that is Saleh Hussaini Gamawa (1st defendant) who is a natural person from the Bauchi State PDP Campaign Organization (Director of Finance) which is not a designated financial



Some of the suspects nabbed with fake currency

institution, and for the purpose of payment to participants during the National and Presidential Elections.

"The offence under Section 1 of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2012 is one of strict liability. The fact of the payment or receipt of cash in excess of the threshold alone is sufficient to ground a conviction as can be noticed in the exhibits before this court and again, I am satisfied beyond reasonable doubt. Consequently, I find the 1st defendant guilty of the count and is accordingly convicted. The 2nd defendant is hereby discharged and acquitted on this count".

In his allocutus, the 1st defendant urged the court to be lenient and temper justice with mercy.

"I have a large family which includes the family of my elder brother who turned blind and cannot fend for his family; they look up to me for sustenance, since the beginning of this case neither the political party nor the Government came to my rescue, thus I urge the

court to forgive me", he stated.

The 2nd defendant also pleaded for leniency, arguing that he is a retiree and had not benefited from the money.

Before sentencing the defendants, Justice Dikko acknowledged their pleas for leniency but insisted that they must be punished to serve as deterrent to others.

"I consider your pleas that you have family who will suffer in your absence thus I will be lenient, however your offences must be punished appropriately to deter others in the society from perpetrating same."

He consequently sentenced the 1st and 2nd defendants to 2years imprisonment at the Bauchi Correction Service or a fine of N3,000,000.00 each in lieu of imprisonment on count one; while the 1st defendant bagged a further 2years imprisonment or a fine of N3,000,000.00 in lieu of imprisonment on count two.

## Oyo Guber Polls: Gang Up Mounts Against Gov Makinde, PDP

BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

With less than a week to the March 18 governorship polls, there are strong indications of possible coalition of political parties against the incumbent governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde's reelection bid in Oyo State.

New Nigerian investigations revealed that as at present, top politicians in the state with some political parties are now busy fine tuning a repeat of the 2019 coalition of parties which produced Governor Seyi Makinde in the last election.

In one of the recent moves, a former governor of the state and the Osi Olubadan of Ibadaland, Senator Rashidi Ladoja while addressing Oyo State PDP chieftains including a former deputy governor in the state, Alhaji Azeem Gbolarumi in his Ondo Street, Bodija residence hinted of the fresh coalition against the ruling administration in the state.

The former governor said that as at present, the Social Democratic Party, Labour Party are into the coalition while other political parties in the state have signified their intentions to join in the coalition.

Specifically, the former governor who attributed the colossal loss of the Oyo State

PDP National Assembly candidates in the February 25th elections to the alleged posture of Gov Makinde towards the election stressed that in the next few days to the governorship election, the coalition will be firmly on ground,

High Chief Ladoja at the forum cited the example of Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State who he said came into office barely six months ago and delivered all positions contested for during the last elections to PDP in the state while Gov Makinde on his part allegedly left the PDP candidates to their fate.

The former governor who offered prayers for the success of Senator Teslim Folarin tasked his followers and PDP bigwigs in attendance at the forum to mobilize people and deplore all in their capacity in support of all APC candidates during the governorship elections, saying, "I'm urging you to go out on Saturday, and do it the way we used to do it, and please don't leave any stone unturned towards ensuring victory for Senator Teslim Folarin, he's the one that deserves our loyalty and support".

Speaking on the coalition, Oyo state Chairman of the the Social Democratic Party, (SDP), Hon Michael Okunlade while

addressing members the party said there is the need for coalition of political parties to correct the wrongs in the state and that in line with this, SDP has agreed to a coalition with the APC and its candidate in Oyo state.

"We believe that to right these wrongs, there is need for us to form a virile coalition with a party that can dislodge this administration that has shown itself to be lacking in development. That is why, after many meetings with major stakeholders even outside of our party, we arrived at Sen. Teslim Folarin of the All Progressives Congress, APC", he said.

The SDP Chairman added, "our decision is not based on anything than the development of our dear state. He has the record. He is not someone who would promise what he won't do. He is as straight as that. All these said, I like to enjoin all of us to go out en masse and vote for our house of assembly candidates. The support is just for the governorship, and it ends at that".

Oyo state Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) however berated the planned coalition of political parties particularly his latest endorsement by eleven deregistered political parties, saying, it was not only laughable but a self mockery.

PDP in a statement by its Oyo State Publicity Secretary, Engr Akeem Olatunji said the hard reality is already downing on APC and its governorship candidate ahead of the March 18 election leaving him to contend with the overwhelming pressure that has already set in on him.

"It was such a very laughable thing that the governorship candidate of the APC in Oyo state ahead of next Saturday's election was getting endorsed by dead and non exciting political parties. Indeed, we know and understand the traumatic impact of contesting against a more popular, performing and generally accepted candidate as Governor Seyi Makinde because the emotional and psychological pressure that usually come with such is better imagined moreso, when your chances of winning are very slim", he said.

Engr Olatunji added, "however, we urge Folarin not to drain himself with his overtly desperate approach to this election because it is only God who gives power to whoever He wants and since He has entrusted Makinde with this responsibility, Folarin should try his luck again in 2027 when governor Makinde would be completing his second term of office because there is absolutely no vacancy at the Agodi Government House till then."

## Close Ranks In PDP To Avoid Repeat Of Feb 25 Defeat In oyo State - Oyelese

*\*Denies discussion with Folarin, APC*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chieftain in Oyo State, Elder Wole Oyelese has tasked the party leaders in the state to close ranks to avoid repeat of February 25 experience in the governorship and House of Assembly elections.

Elder Oyelese gave the charge in a statement to refute insinuations that he was in discussion with Senator Teslim Folarin and the All Progressives Congress (APC) on the March 18 governorship election.

The former Minister emphasized that despite the differences that may exist between individual PDP members, the overall survival of the PDP and electoral victory of its candidates in the March 18 election should be paramount for now.

He maintained that all PDP leaders in Oyo State should ensure that they

deliver their respective wards and Local government areas to the PDP, saying, his relationship with the PDP, "is like that of a nursing mother to her child and that it would be wrong for him to work against a party he helped to nurture to maturity in Oyo state".

Elder Oyelese said, "as a true party man and one of the founding fathers of PDP in Oyo State, it is not in his character to pull down a house he has helped in building," and that he fully understands the implications of such an action of working against ones political party.

On the purported discussion with Senator Folarin and the All Progressives Congress (APC), Elder Oyelese said the rumour was, "far from the truth", saying, as preparations for the 2023 gubernatorial and House of Assembly elections in the state are in top gear, there are campaigns, plans and strategies being

mapped out by various parties and their candidates to ensure that they carry the day in the elections.

According to the former Minister, at no time did he hold any meeting with any political party or group for the purpose of the forthcoming elections or any other issue for that matter, adding that he was not involved in the much publicized meeting between some PDP members and the APC candidate Senator Folarin, saying, "this could be nothing but far from the truth".

"In a swift reaction to such stories and insinuations in some tabloids to the effect that a former Minister of Power and Steel, Elder Wole Oyelese is into consultations with the All Progressives Congress (APC) over the forthcoming gubernatorial and state Assembly elections, this could be nothing but far from the truth", he said.

The former Minister added, "our observations have revealed that as the election day draws near, visitations and consultations have been on the increase across party lines by the gladiators. One of such visitations being widely circulated and discussed on the media space is the courtesy visit to the Ikolaba residence of Elder Oyelese by the APC governorship candidate Senator Teslim Folarin".

Maintaining that there was nothing strange or unusual about the visit, however quickly dispelled rumours of his involvement with any political party or group in a coalition against the PDP, saying, "Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin is his brother and political son, and for this reason, he had to attend to the surprise visit by the August visitor who is always welcome in his house any day".

## UN Condemns Killing Of Over 30 Civilians In Borno By ISWAP

By; SADIQ A BUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The United Nations has strongly condemned the reported ambush and brutal killing of more than 30 civilians in Mukdolo village in Ngala Local Government Area in Borno State on Thursday. Several people were also reportedly injured, and others are still missing following the deadly attack allegedly carried out by an armed group.

A statement issued and signed by Ami Weru, Head Public Information, OCHA and made available to journalists in Maiduguri, said, "On behalf of the United Nations, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish the injured who are recuperating speedy recovery."

"The victims of this heinous attack were fishermen and farmers eking out livelihood in a very insecure

environment. They included both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community members from the neighbouring Dikwa Local Government Area.

"This deeply shocking attack is another horrific reminder of the real threats of violence and insecurity that IDPs and other people affected by more than 13 years of the non-international armed conflict in the region continue to face daily in their struggle to survive. The village of Mukdolo had been abandoned prior to the attack due to the activities of non-state armed groups.

"I remind all parties to the conflict to adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law to protect civilians from harm.

"I also call on state authorities to speedily investigate this crime and swiftly bring the perpetrators to justice."

## Train-Bus Collision: Nigerian Railway Advises General Public To Always Observe Caution Signs

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

The management of Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has advised the general public to observe caution signs along railway corridors in order to avoid being hit by train.

NRC gave the advice in reaction to an accident which occurred on Thursday, when a bus carrying passengers collided with a Mass Transit Passenger Train (MTT) coming from Ijoko, Ogun State to Iddo Railway Station in Lagos on Thursday. The accident happened at Shogunle Level Crossing, Ikeja, Lagos State.

"The Corporation is and will continue to appeal to all and sundry to please ensure restraint and strictly observe caution signs and instructions from officials when approaching railway level crossing and completely stop their vehicles as directed to do so by the level crossing keeper and officials to ensure seamless movement of trains and safe crossing of motorists as well as pedestrians," the corporation stated in a news release issued on Thursday by its Deputy Director, Public Relations, Mr. Yakub Mahmood.

NRC sympathized with families of the victims of the accident. The corporation pointed out that it has put in place level crossing control and management procedures necessary for preventing accidents by deploying mechanism and level crossing staff that work at level crossings across the country to prevent accidents.

"We must also be aware that Railway has the right of way in any city that has the benefit of train services, hence Railway track must be kept free from walking and trading at all times," Mahmood said in the Press release titled, "Vehicle Collides With Train." He explained that all level crossings are manned 24 hours and that the management of NRC will not relent in its corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of advising drivers and pedestrians to always comply strictly to instructions given by the railway staff at level crossings.

"Meanwhile, we will continue to collaborate with Federal Road



Prince Sefiu Oyebola-Adeyeri

Sefiu Olawale Oyebola-Adeyeri has hailed Oyo State Government and Iseyin kingmakers for the painstaking and rigorous process applied in the selection of a new monarch.

Speaking during a telephone chat from his New York base, Prince Sefiu said there is the need for all contestants to the throne to maintain peace and cordiality while awaiting the outcome of the selection process.

The contestant to the Aseyin stool maintained that the rigorous process nonetheless, the outcome of the selection would favor the community, as the approach of the kingmakers to introduce transparency procedures like open interview of contestants would give sense of belonging to all royal house involved.

"We were all living witnesses to the process that produced some of our fore-bearers as Aseyin, it has always been rigorous and rancorous, but with the approach

used by the kingmakers this time around, we are sure of a smooth and pleasant experience", he said.

Prince Sefiu added "Iseyin people at home and abroad should please support the kingmakers with prayer so they may succeed to have a smooth and rancor-free process, I am a contestant to the throne and I am happy they have thrown the process open."

The contestant to Aseyin stool called on the people of Iseyin to support the kingmakers with prayer as their decision will have a long-term effect on the town in the areas of human and societal growth.

He promised to use his developmental and leadership skills in management of people and resources to elevate the status of Iseyin among other Yoruba communities.

Prince Sefiu Olawale Oyebola-Adeyeri who has worked with many organizations in Nigeria before relocating to America was born on the 6th April, 1969 to the Oyebola-Adeyeri Royal family and has positively impacted the lives of his people in Iseyin community through various philanthropic efforts.

## NNPP Gubernatorial Candidate, Hunkuyi Expresses Fears Politicians Using Sentiments In Kaduna



Suleiman Hunkuyi,

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Senator Suleiman Hunkuyi, the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) gubernatorial candidate in Kaduna State, has expressed concerns that candidates are using religious and tribal sentiments to woo electorate in the March 18 governorship election in the state.

He also blasted some religious bodies for endorsing some governorship candidates, describing the scenario as a bad omen to the future of democracy, if not checked, saying that using religion or tribe in a complex state like Kaduna for electioneering is dangerous to democracy. Speaking to newsmen in Kaduna on Saturday, the gubernatorial candidate advised eligible voters to shun divisive politics and vote for a credible candidate that will move the state forward in all spheres of life.

He explained that he believes in an inclusive government that would carry everybody along irrespective of age, religion and tribe when elected as governor, stressing that it was the only way to ensure sustainable peace in the state.

He believes that it is a plan to deceive the electorate by claims and counterclaims by the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

in the state that their candidates were endorsed by some clerics.

According to him, "I think you are aware of a letter by the Kaduna State's Christian Association of Nigeria's chairman, which endorsed the PDP governorship candidate. We also have an audio where some Muslim clergymen have also endorsed the candidate of APC for the governorship election in Kaduna State."

He wondered where do the people go from where a governor that would emerge after the polls will be tagged a governor for Christians or a governor for Muslims in a metropolitan state like Kaduna.

The gubernatorial candidate appealed to the voters to reject candidates adopting religion or tribal sentiments for purpose of canvassing for votes in the forthcoming election, believing such candidate do not mean well for the people.

He stated that he does not expect any sensible person whether citizen or resident of the state to be carried away by religious and tribal sentiments, saying that with the state known as the centre of learning.

He alleged that he is more experienced and knowledgeable in terms of the complexity of the state than other candidates vying for the position of the governor of the state and dismissed allegations that he was also running on a Muslim-Muslim ticket.

## Supreme Court Affirms Lawal As Zamfara PDP Governorship Candidate

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Supreme Court has affirmed Dauda Lawal as the authentic governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Zamfara State.

Lawal's affirmation is coming over a week to the March 18 governorship election scheduled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the state.

In a unanimous judgment, the five-man panel of Justices dismissed an appeal brought against the

nomination by another governorship aspirant, Dr Ibrahim Gusau.

In the lead judgment delivered by Justice Adamu Jauro, the Supreme Court upheld submissions of the Counsel to Lawal, Damian Dodo, that his client was legally and lawfully nominated in line with the provisions of the law.

Justice Jauro upheld the judgment of the Court of Appeal Sokoto, which had on January 6, this year, endorsed the second primary election that produced the candidate.

Lawal had in the primary election polled 442 votes to emerge victorious over Dr Ibrahim Gusau and other aspirants.

Justice Jauro held that a Federal High Court in Gusau which nullified the primary elections twice had no jurisdiction at the time it adjudicated upon the suit instituted by Dr Gusau.

The Court of Appeal Sokoto Division had in June 6 upheld the primary election which produced Dr. Dauda Lawal, as the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the March 11, 2023,

governorship election in Zamfara State.

The first PDP governorship primary election held on May 25, 2022, was challenged at a Federal High Court in Gusau and was nullified.

The High Court in its judgment ordered for fresh primary election which was conducted on September 23, 2022, but was also quashed by the same court for irregularities.

Not satisfied with the High Court decision, Dr. Dauda Lawal Dare, Adamu Maina-Waziri, the Chairman Primary



Lawal

## Katsina Govt Signs MoU On Nutrition Services

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the provision of a community based package of nutrition service for women and children in the state.

Dr. Umar Bindawa, the state's Project Coordinator of Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigerian Project (ANRIN), disclosed this during a courtesy visit to the Emir

of Katsina, Alhaji Abdulmumini Kabir-Usman, said the aim was to improve the healthcare of women and children.

According to him, the project was aimed at addressing malnutrition among children and other related challenges for pregnant and nursing mothers.

He explained that through the project, women and children would be reached at home and provided with the needed assistance, particularly in the area of malnutrition.

Vitamin A for under-5

children, iron folic acid for pregnant and nursing mothers, and also enlightenment for the women on exclusive breastfeeding would be provided.

He further called for more concerted efforts from all stakeholders to achieve the set objectives of the project in the state, especially by cooperating with their officials.

According to Bindawa, the one year contract for the provision of nutrition package was between the state unit of ANRIN and Africa Youth Growth

Foundation (AYGF)

Responding, the Emir commended the effort, and assured them of all the necessary support to achieve the set objectives of the project across the state.

According to him, the objectives of the project can only be achieved if traditional and community leaders were involved in the exercise.

He called on the state government to provide public hospitals with all the necessary equipment, saying they are lacking the required facilities.

# Governorship Election: CAN, JNI Caution Against Inflammatory Statements In Kaduna

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Kaduna State chapters of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and the Jama'atul Nasir Islam (JNI), have appealed to all religious preachers of the Christian and Islamic faith to resist the temptation of using sacred altars and pulpits to carry out unhealthy politics of promoting one party or candidate.

A joint statement issued on Friday by Rev Ma'aji Caleb Bawa and Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Kufena, secretaries of CAN and JNI respectively, said, "We need to always remember that our followers even within the same Church or Mosque may belong to different political parties. Hence, there is a need for Imams, Pastors, and other

leaders of faith to remain apolitical and neutral.

"Importantly, all religious leaders in Kaduna State must ensure strict adherence to the teachings of the Holy Books by promoting peaceful coexistence. It is our duty to create an understanding of the need for people to go out and cast their votes in a peaceful manner as prescribed by the law."

The statement urged religious preachers outside Kaduna State to refrain from making inflammatory remarks or sermons that could be instigative to the peace-loving people, stressing that rather, they should concentrate on addressing the issues in their states of living and service.

"As leaders of faiths, it is worthy to remind all that we are

accountable to our Creator Who has graciously recruited us to serve Him and thus we will be rewarded in accordance with our actions and words," the statement opined.

The two religious bodies stated that the time has come again when, as a people, they would freely decide their common destiny as far as leadership of the state in the next four (4) years is concerned.

The statement observed, "We sincerely wish to take this time to appreciate all citizens for the way we conducted ourselves in the last Presidential and National Assembly elections. Our peaceful conduct and enthusiasm are worth commending. Indeed, the outing showed an incredible political reawakening, the kind that our

nation, Nigeria, needs, to prosper."

The two religious bodies lamented that a few days to the gubernatorial and State Assembly elections, the political atmosphere is overheated even much more than they experienced in the run-off to the February 25, 2023 elections, stressing that it is sad to note their revered calling and places of worship are being used for politics by some religious preachers as some have commonized the Holy place meant for Holy Service, campaigning for candidates and parties and issuing out unholy messages.

"While we acknowledge the importance attached to this coming election, it is not healthy for our dear State that places of worship be used for political

campaigns and endorsement of candidates. We the religious leaders of both the Jama'atul Nasir Islam (JNI) and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) have consistently cautioned against the use of religion for promoting political parties and candidates. We cannot, therefore, allow the noble credentials of our faiths to be subverted by a few religious clerics," the statement explained.

It then appealed to all religious preachers of the Islamic and Christian faiths to resist the temptation of using sacred altars and pulpits to carry out unhealthy politics of promoting one party or candidate above the others.

The two religious bodies urged both Christians and Muslims to pray to God Almighty to have peaceful and credible elections

## We Support Continuity In Jigawa State - Mai Unguwa Jaga

The Jigawa State Chairman of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga has disclosed that their reasons for supporting continuity in the state, remains for the development of agriculture at both dry and rainy seasons. He stated this in an interview with our correspondent, JABIRU A HASSAN in Dutse, where he said that agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Jigawa State since inception..

Excerpts:

The 2023 gubernatorial elections is fast approaching and you remained solidly behind the reelection of All Progressive Congress (APC), what is your reasons for supporting Continuity?

First of all, let me thank the Almighty Allah for giving me this opportunity to have an interaction with Nigeria's famous newspaper which was founded by late Ahmadu Bello Sardauna of Sokoto (may his soul rest in peace). Secondly I am also happy to express our support to continuity in order to continue benefiting from the government's agricultural development programmes in Jigawa State.

Furthermore, we have seen how our dynamic Governor, Muhammad Badaru Abubakar includes agriculture into his blueprint in which the state's agricultural systems remain beneficial to farmers and for developing the farmers economy at both dry and rainy seasons, which is a landmark achievement.

Can you state some of the achievements brought in by Badaru administration in agricultural sector across Jigawa State?

Although there is not much time that would allow me to reveal everything, but the farmers are aware that Badaru-led administration has done commendable work that has boosted profitable farming across Jigawa State and we received a helping hands that facilitate our farming activities in all crops value chains.

It is gratifying to state that agriculture received a boost from the present administration and we are certain that his successor, Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi would step into the shoes of His Excellency, Governor Muhammad Badaru Abubakar because his policies are built on solid background that would bring progress to agriculture and farming occupation.

In your previous interaction with this newspaper, you talked about the issue of flooding in Jigawa State, which is taking another dimension and becoming a threat to food production, are you satisfied with how the government is taking measures to reduce the menace of flooding in your state?

This is an interesting question and I am sure the flooding is frightening the people of Jigawa State, not only farmers, because homes and other infrastructure are often affected by the flood. But what the Jigawa State Government has done would reduce the severance of the issue and we are grateful that the Badaru administration has done well in this respect.

Our association has called for the intervention and the government has also listened to our appeal and waded into the matter of flooding. The government first constituted a committee to assess what happened across the state, inaugurated a committee that raised funds for assisting those who suffered from the flooding and brought experts from Netherlands to ascertain how the flooding would be tackled in future.

The All Farmers Association of Nigeria under my leadership is working selflessly to ensure that our teaming members benefit from all provisions from government, agricultural development partners and the non-governmental agencies that are working in the state on agricultural projects, which is another

landmark achievement recorded.

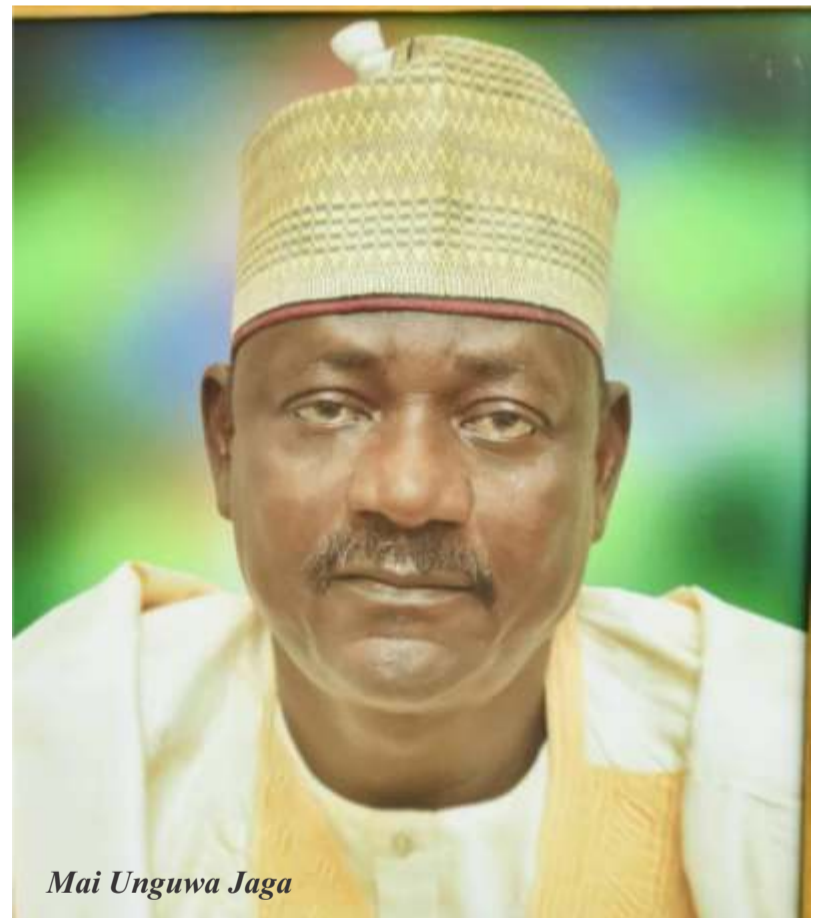
Do you expect more support from the incoming administration as a farmers association despite the succession of governance?

That is why we canvassed our support for Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi, the current deputy governor of Jigawa State and our gubernatorial candidate under the platform of the All Progressive Congress

(APC). We are satisfied that his agenda includes agricultural development. And we would support the government that promotes our occupation like Dan Modi whom we believe would give us maximum consideration in his administration.

President Muhammadu Buhari paid a working visit to Jigawa State where he laid foundation for the progress on many agricultural development projects, how did you ascertain this development?

That is the reason why we support continuity because what president Buhari has done in Jigawa State is a clear indication that his successor would build on his foundation. I am of the opinion that



Mai Unguwa Jaga

our next leaders would not neglect what their predecessors have laid the foundation, therefore, we are ready to vote leaders that are also set to give us the best.

Thank you sir for giving us your time despite your tight schedule as a member of the APC Campaign Council in Jigawa State?

I am happy to have a time with the New Nigerian Newspapers, Nigeria's oldest news medium and we recognize its content, which remains neutral without bias in its reportage. I call on all the farmers to vote for Malam Umar Namadi under the platform of APC on March 18 as rescheduled by Nigeria's electoral body.

## Drama As ADP Suspends Kaduna Guber Candidate, Sani Sha'aban Indefinitely

**By, AUSTINE A G B O EMMANUEL, Kaduna**

The leadership of Action Democratic Party (ADP), Kaduna State chapter has suspended its gubernatorial candidate, Alhaji Sani Sha'aban over an alleged antiparty activity.

Acting Chairman, Kaduna ADP, Alhaji Umar Isah who made this known during a press conference held in Kaduna on Friday, said the party lost confidence in him, since the day he chose to campaign against its presidential candidate.

Umar said, "It may, however, interest you to note that since the emergence of Hon. Sani Mahmud Sha'aban, the party assumed it has found a worthy candidate to fly its flag, the gubernatorial candidate constituted a campaign team and we assumed that it was the beginning of seriousness to contest for the gubernatorial seat in Kaduna.

"Since, this earlier development as stated above, Hon. Sani Sha'aban has not been forthcoming with his dealings with the party and members of his campaign team. He has not kept to agreed arrangements that were put in place to galvanize the campaign activities in the state for the ADP and the gubernatorial candidate.

"His disregard for the party and the campaign team he constituted, has created division in the party, forcing prominent members and elders to either abandon the ADP or adopt nonchalant attitude, which is causing the party dearly of its support gained within the short while. It is unfortunate that few months to the general elections, the party has remained virtually invisible at a time of heightened campaign and mobilization of voters.

"This most unfortunate situation is caused by the disinterested and nonchalant attitude of Sani Shaaban, who has

shown utter disregard to the party's Leaders and due process. The invitation and subsequent disinvitation from the BBC Hausa debate was an eye opener and raised alarm for the party, which led to the party further investigating and checking with INEC on the status of uploading Hon. Sani Shaaban's name on their portal.

"Efforts to follow up and ensure that his name is uploaded on the INEC portal did not yield positive results, we have not been able to ascertain the status of his candidature.

"The candidate alone, knows why he keeps saying he is running for the gubernatorial seat, knowing fully well that his name is not on the portal and keeps organizing little campaign gathering, but all is a hoax, the party and campaign team has been following him, but to the party's dismay he has continued to undermine the party and his campaign team.

"We therefore, found ourselves in very difficult situation, such that up to now, we have been unable to commence serious campaigns due to lack of seriousness, preparedness and commitment on his part.

"INEC handed the agent tags for both presidential and gubernatorial elections to me as the state chairman, of which I released the tags for Zone 1 to Hon. Sani Shaaban to distribute and cater for the agents but to my dismay after the elections, the agents held on to the tags, saying they have not been paid by the gubernatorial



Sani Sha'aban

candidate, fortunately I still have in my possession the Zone 2 and 3 tags, which he keeps insisting I hand over to him, but with the way he handled the agents and the tags for Zone 1, I did not release the tags to him for which he has orchestrated this turn of events.

"To my surprise, I was told sometime yesterday from unconfirmed reports that I have been suspended, as at the time of this press release, I have not been served any letter by the National Party, but a copy has been given to the gubernatorial candidate which he and his people have been circulating on the social media. I know the national chairman to be an experienced party man, a man of due process who stood for the just concluded Presidential elections 2023.

"There is a due process for suspension or removal of a state chairman according to the party's constitution and it must be a decision of the National Working Committee subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee. It is doubtful if this due process was followed. Gentlemen of the press above are some of the happenings with others which for want of time cannot be exhausted in one press conference,

which has led to the decision by some of the exco here to clarify what is in the media space.

"I therefore, wish to inform members of the party, the public, all our supporters and associates that the Party hereby suspends Hon. Sani Shaaban from the party indefinitely and he should forthwith desist from parading himself as the gubernatorial candidate of the ADP. Thank you all and may Allah bless us all," he said.

The chairman clarified that Sha'aban was made to be the replacement of former party candidate, Yusuf Jibrin and his running mate, John Solomon, but all efforts to upload his name on INEC portal proved abortive, adding that they are going to be on the ballot, come March 18, 2023 with the original candidates on the portal.

It would be recalled that Sha'aban, a gubernatorial aspirant of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and son-in-law to president Muhammadu Buhari, resigned his APC membership in Nov. 28, 2022 after the Federal high court sitting in Kaduna, said it lacked jurisdiction to entertain his case filed against the gubernatorial candidate of APC, Senator Uba Sani.

## Tinubu's Daughter Storms Kaduna For Uba Sani, Tasks Electorate On Continuity

**By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**

The daughter of President Elect, Chief Folashade Tinubu Ojo (Iyaloja General of Nigeria) yesterday, solicited for the support of Kaduna market and business women for their support to vote All Progressives Congress (APC)-led government in Kaduna for consolidation and continuity.

She expressed this when she visited Kaduna State to solicit for women's support in the forthcoming gubernatorial election for Uba Sani and Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, at a town hall meeting held at Musa Yar'Adua Hall in Kaduna.

She said her purpose of the visit to the state is to appreciate the women for their support for APC during the last presidential election and also to preach the gospel of peace in regards to next governorship and House of Assembly polls.

She said, it is important for

the development to continue in Kaduna State by voting for APC from the bottom to the top and top to the bottom.

She said, "APC led government has to continue in Kaduna by your votes on Saturday, your businesses will flourish and development will continue in the state". According to her, "Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai has done a lot in infrastructural development, giving the state a new look shape, I urge you to come out en masse and vote for continuity.

"You have to continue to preach the gospel of APC, until 18th of March, I assure you, when you vote in APC, we will come back to dance while I appreciate you all".

She pointed out the empowerment for women for business development and housing project, whereby, they will buy and spread the payment for fifteen years, while they are living there and paying their mortgage.

## North West Border Communities Congratulate President Elect, Running Mate

**By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

Border Communities in North-West Nigeria have congratulated Nigeria's President-elect, Ahmed Bola Tinubu and his Vice, Kashim Shettima on their victory at the just concluded Presidential election on Saturday February 25, 2023.

A statement from the chairman of the group, Alhaji Bashir Mohammed Leader, said the group is proud of their success at the elections and urged them to work for a better Nigeria.

According to Bashir Leader, "The hard earned victory of Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his running mate, Kashim Shettima, at the 2023 Presidential

election is a testimony of their acceptance and trust by all Nigerians to lead our country to the promised land.

"We the border communities are particularly grateful for this victory as we have all worked hard to achieve it. I want to assure all people that the Tinubu/Shettima Presidency will bring a new lease of life as the president elect have promised to carry the sector along during our engagement with him."

He urged all border Communities in Jigawa, Kano and Katsina states to support the APC Government of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Kashim Shettima so that Nigerians can all benefit from the government in order to move the country forward.

# Ensure Victory For PDP In Guber Polls, Kaduna Central Senator Elect Tasks Supporters

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Senator elect for Kaduna Central, Lawal Adamu, popularly known as Mr. LA has tasked his supporters across his constituency to make efforts in ensuring a resounding victory for the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the gubernatorial and State Assembly elections, rescheduled for March 18.

He gave the charge when he received Mr. LA Support Group who were on a condolence and congratulatory visit to his office in Kaduna yesterday.

He stressed that for now, their priority is to win the gubernatorial and State Assembly election, tasking all to ensure the Ashiru/Ayuba ticket emerges at the March 18 polls.

Mr. LA who was speaking while responding to their speech, Lawal said that the masses hopes lie on those elected, hence, they will do their best in representing them well.

"Most importantly, we are praying to the Almighty Allah to guide us, let this seat be a blessing to the people of Kaduna.

"Let our generation be different. Let this be a turning point for others to follow," he said.

He described Sabon Tasha in Kaduna metropolis, as his favourite, while reminding them to guide him on how to intervene in their deplorable roads condition after the inauguration, so that there will be intervention.

He thanked them for roles played in ensuring the victory of PDP in the last election.

"Each and every one of you has played a role and it is much appreciated," he said.

Earlier, leader of the delegation, Ovyeh Ishaya said they were there on condolence visit as well as to congratulate him on victory at the polls

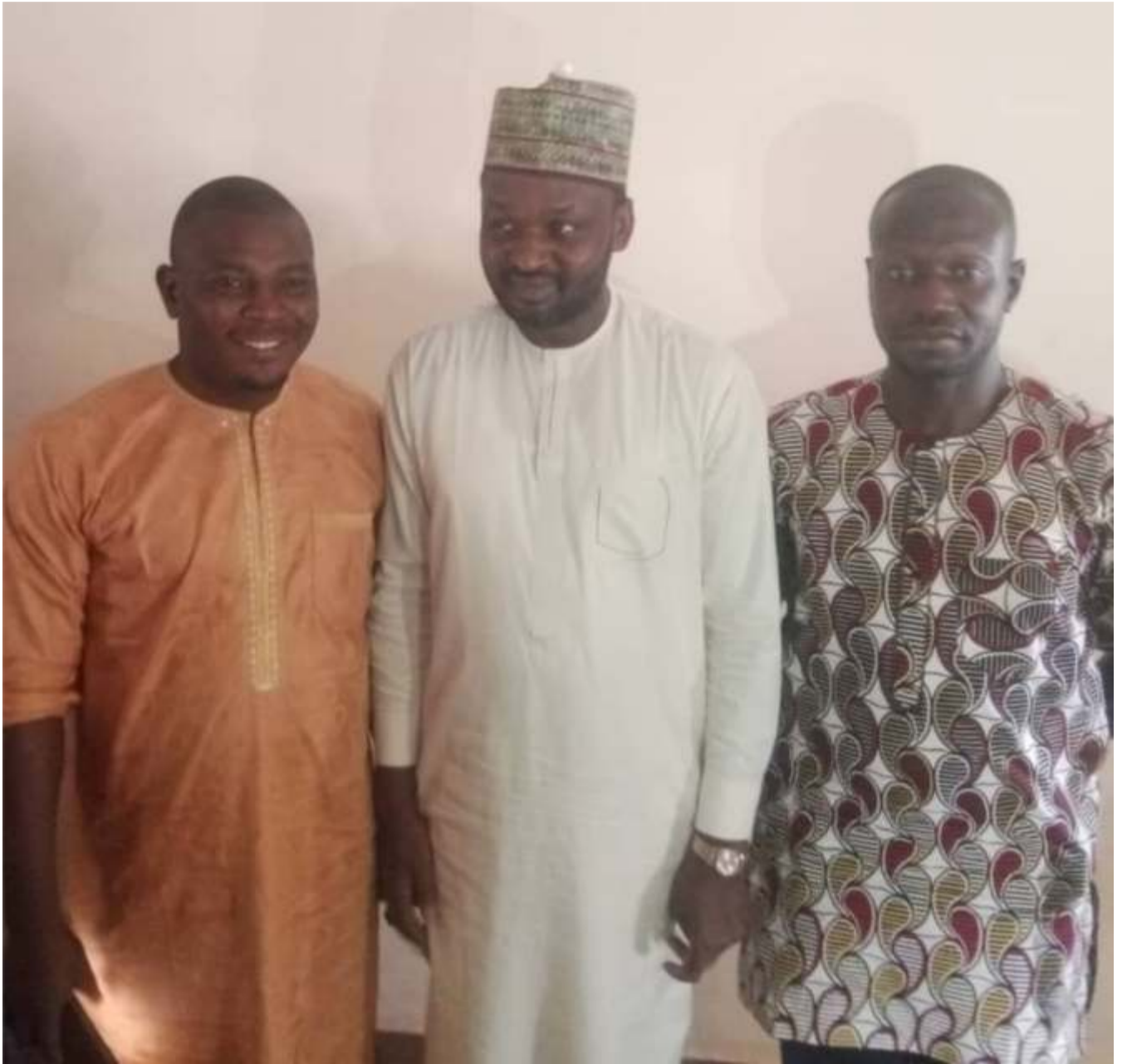
He commended his resilience and doggedness in fighting for his mandate to the Supreme Court, where he was affirmed authentic PDP Candidate for Kaduna Central.

The visitors told him that roads in Sabon Tasha are deplorable, tasking him to intervene when he gets into office.

They informed him that he is loved by the people, hence the confidence reposed on him should not be in vain.

They urged him to be accessible to all his constituents.

He was also advised to operate a robust constituency office, where constituents can be engaged positively.



# Sokoto Politics: Between The Rich And Poor

By: GARBASABON BIRNI

The political amphitheatre of Sokoto has never been so divided as it is now. The people have become much wiser after the bad deal they received from the People's Democratic Party (PDP) led government for eight years.

As reasonable humans, the citizens of Sokoto have dealt with the capitalist administration of Aminu Tambuwal/Attahiru Bafarawa, who are more interested in reaping where

they did not sow by milking the state dry through sponsoring irrelevant tour to foreign lands and going for medical tourism at the expense of the generality of the people.

While on the other hand, they are also looking back with nostalgia the leadership of Distinguished Senator Aliyu Magatakardan Wamakko, who is inarguably the only leading statesman single handedly shouldering the people. In their darkest moments, Aliyu provides

light, where there is hopelessness and dissolution, Magatakarda provides hope.

Now, the die is cast, Magatakarda the lover of the poor, has his ardent student as a candidate, Ahmed Aliyu on one hand, while duo of Tambuwal/Bafarawa have presented the Ubandoma/Sagir Bafarawa as their candidates.

The people of Sokoto are not happy with Tambuwal/Bafarawa for they see them as continuation of their suffering

and oppression in the hands of PDP. They are running the party like personal estate.

Enough is enough, say the people of Sokoto State. There must be a change of baton and capitalist projects of Tambuwal/Bafarawa must be stopped and the party with the love of the common man must be made to lead.

*Garba Sabon Birni, of the Sokoto Progressives' Like-minds, sent in this piece.*



Governor Aminu Tambuwal and Attahiru Bafarawa in a warm handshake.

# How CG Isah Idris Jere Helped In Conduct Of Free, Fair, Violence Free Election

**B**y; MIKE ODEH  
JAMES & MADA  
IBRAHIM

In recent times, the Nigerian Immigration Service under the current Comptroller General, Isah Idris Jere, has taken a turn for the better.

The paramilitary organization has become more efficient, dedicated, and professional in its approach to national issues, especially in the run-up to the 2023 general election in the country.

One particular aspect in which in which Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) excelled was in curbing the menace that foreigners would have poised to the country during and after election.

Before the coming of the new Comptroller General, Isah Idris Jere, Nigeria was known for numerous cases of foreigners participating in the electoral processes and also involvement in post election violence. These were the cases in the 2011 and 2015 Presidential polls.

However, on assumption of office, the Immigration boss gave directives that each state commands must ensure that all illegal aliens should be fished out while those that posed security threats to the nation's democratic processes be given particular emphasis.

The Comptroller General did not give directives alone, but committed resources, his integrity and personal efforts and it paid off.

Shortly before the election, in order to prevent aliens from interfering in the country's electoral process, the Nigeria Immigration Service under Jere seized 6,216 permanent voter and national identity cards from migrants in 21 border states nationwide.

Sources said that 2,393 voter cards and 3,823 National Identity cards were seized from persons believed to be in unlawful possession of the documents.

The states where the items were seized include Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Edo,



*Isah Idris Jere*

Jigawa, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara, and three others.

Similarly, in order to reduce the incessant cases of foreigners interfering in Nigeria's election, the NIS arrested 516 non-Nigerians in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State in the month of February.

Liman Kila, Kaduna NIS comptroller, said the illegal immigrants were from Niger Republic, Togo, Senegal, Cameroon, and Chad.

Days later, the Command struck again with the massive arrest of about one thousand illegal migrants in the same state.

Previously, a sting operation netted over 303 illegal migrants in Uyo and Akwa Ibom.

The Comptroller of Immigration Service, Akwa Ibom State Command, Mrs.

Francisca Dakat, explained that out of the 303 apprehended, 285 were adults and 18 were minors.

According to her, the mop-up exercise was in line with the service directives that non-Nigerians should not partake in the forthcoming general elections.

Dakat stressed that before the exercise, the command had carried out a sensitization workshop for all non-Nigerians resident in the state.

She commended the Comptroller General of NIS, the State Government, and other security agencies for their support to ensure the success of the mop-up exercise.

Not done with the general cleanup of illegal aliens in the Northwest and South South of the country, the Service (NIS) also arrested and paraded 32 Chadians and one Togolese in their hideouts in Odeda Local

Government Area of Ogun State, South West Nigeria.

The NIS on Saturday paraded the immigrants at its office in Abeokuta, the state capital.

Speaking at the event, the state controller of immigration, Jibrin Yakubu, said the immigrants have no valid travel documents or means of livelihood.

The controller, who described the immigrants as a security threat to the country, said they were arrested when officers stormed two of their hideouts in the local government area of the state.

In Bayelsa, CG Isah Idris Jere sanctioned Operation Saukan Shahu or the Eagle Has Landed which led to the arrest of 44 Nigerians, 35 togolese, 20 Beninese and 6 Ghanaians.

Sunday James, the state NIS Comptroller, while addressing newsmen in his office in Yenagoa, declared that the operations followed the laid

down acceptable ECOWAS protocol and United Nation rules of engagement and respect to Human rights.

He said the operation however led to the proper documentations of illegal migrants and migrants in the state with 89 expired travelled documents renewed by the arrested illegal migrants," the other illegal immigrants have been guaranteed by their home countries of quick documentations. And the data base of the NIS is more robust from the operation."

Result of the directives and action from CG Isa Idris Jere has led to the noticeable absence of cases of foreigners in Nigeria's polling booths in the March 25 Presidential and Parliamentary poll.

Secondly, there haven't been any case of foreigners caught in the act of violence during the polls as well.



# Tinubu's Daughter Storms Kaduna For Uba Sani, Tasks Electorate On Continuity

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The daughter of President Elect, Chief Folashade Tinubu Ojo (Iyaloja General of Nigeria) yesterday, solicited for the support of Kaduna market and business women for their support to vote All Progressives Congress (APC)-led government in Kaduna for consolidation and continuity. She expressed this when she visited Kaduna State to solicit for women's support in the forthcoming gubernatorial election for Uba Sani and Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, at a town ha meeting held at Musa

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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

### TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

### TECHNICAL DATA

#### 6 COLUMNS

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

### POLITICAL RATE

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

### LOOSE INSERTS

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

### SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

# Nigeria: Divided In Flesh, United In Spirit

By: HASSAN GIMBA

This was first published on 20/08/2018, but it is still relevant, more so now that the presidential election held on 25/02/2023 has exposed our weaknesses.

Outsiders, especially foreigners and Nigerians in Diaspora, may think that the bubble could burst any time soon and Nigeria could go to war with itself. They may well be forgiven for thinking so, especially if social media is their only means of gauging what obtains in Nigeria.

In the Nigerian social media space, battles are fought 24/7. Politically, those who stand with President Muhammadu Buhari are at daggers drawn with those who think the apostle of "change" should be changed. Those who want Buhari to give way are also rooting for their various heroes. Muslims and Christians do not see eyeball to eyeball while at the same time contending with intra-religious quarrels.

In that 'war front', the three major ethnic groups are battling one another and the minor tribes are fighting everyone. The citizenry sees the security agents as enemies; the security agents view everyone with suspicion. Even traders see their customers as awuf seekers; conversely, the customer sees the trader as a fleece.

Politicians see the electorate as one who seeks to take advantage of his sheepish following, but the ordinary man looks at the politician as one who has monopolised his rights. Even the husband views his wife as one who noses into his affairs and the wife always suspects the husband of hiding things from her.

The employee is full of envy for his oga who "eats" from his sweat, even if it is the oga who sweated to buy the Keke NAPEP; the oga suspects his employee is keeping what should have come to him to buy the new cloth he saw on his back.

This mutual suspicion ranges from the harmless and hilarious to the most dangerous in which insults and curses are hurled back and forth and even the gods are invited to release their wrath to deal with "enemies".

Religious and tribal stereotyping to the outright request for Armageddon to fall on Nigeria is what one normally encounters on social media.

There is a total lack of respect and decorum. But do all these reflect what we, Nigerians, truly are, think or wish for one another? No, not all.

We are among the most desirous of peace and development among the nations of the world. Most Nigerians are miffed that we are where we are despite the abundance of human and natural resources the God of creation has blessed



Adogba Central Mosque in Ibadan

us with.

Nigerians know that many countries of the world have taken, borrowed our resources or copied our templates and are now miles ahead of us. Many of our sons and daughters have gone to foreign lands and excelled. For instance, the designer of many models of Ford vehicles we cruise in is a Nigerian. The developer of GSM's 3G and 4G is a Nigerian. Nigerians have discovered or improved on theorems and theories in foreign lands. Nigerians have broken records in foreign schools and have achieved great breakthroughs in medicine, engineering, architecture, etc.

Nigerians are proud of these beacons of light and hope, not minding their tribes or religions, but they at the same time cry, "Why can't we do it here?"

While giving vent to their frustrations over Nigeria's seeming lack of direction, those with little control over their emotions can invariably descend to gutter language. For others, it is due to low intelligence. Such persons are not able to think up ideas that would bring solutions. For them, it has to be rofo rofo at the expense of truth.

However, by and large, Nigerians love one another and rejoice with one another in happiness and sympathise with one another in sadness.

I was impressed by the volume of sincere, heart-touching condolences that poured my way on social media when I lost my wife in March this year. Show of sympathy from both Christians and Muslims, the majority total strangers who I do not know from Adam and Eve.

When Chibok girls were kidnapped, even though politics and religion played a powerful role in its condemnation, Christians and southerners stood against it. I saw southern Christian mothers



**Hassan Gimba**  
*Monday*  
*Column*

crying and calling on

the government of the day to do something about it.

The other parts of Nigeria stood with the North East during the siege of it by Boko Haram. Though, again, due to politics, religion and regionalism, the North West is not receiving such concern, even from the North East that it (the North West) "hated" the then ruling party for its travails.

This means that while issues of national pride, such as sports and academic achievements, unite us as one, politics, religion and ethnicity are what push us to reach for each other's jugular.

The challenge before us as a nation, especially our leaders who use them to promote their interests, is to divorce them from our governments.

We need to understand that Nigeria is practising a system of government that is neither Islamic nor Christian – in other words, secular. Having a Muslim or Christian as president does not make the country Islamic or Christian. This is why a Muslim leader does not sign a file with bismilLahir Rahmanir Rahim just as a Christian president will not start with In Jesus' name. Any sort of favouritism based on religion or region is entirely due to the selfish interest of the leader who had sworn to govern without any form of discrimination.

Many a Muslim leader has enriched his Christian girlfriend, her family and friends while his fellow Maimuna is surviving by selling akara and groundnut by the roadside. Many Christian leaders have empowered their Muslim girlfriends, families, and friends while Cecilia is eking out a living by selling recharge cards and bread by the roadside. But when canvassing for votes that would

confer on them the licence to dip their itchy fingers into the public till, they wear their Abayas and cassocks and run back to the gullible citizens who will kill in the name of false piety. If only Nigerians would see through them, the better for all. Even our religious leaders have wormed themselves into the hearts of those in the corridors of power and have swarmed all over our politicians due to the lure of lucre.

People always want their own in office and this is because leaders have always been partial, and not abiding by their sworn declaration to serve without fear or favour. Giving appointments and contracts to kith and kin in the guise of trust. A leader will shamelessly say he trusts certain tribes over others.

People always want "theirs" in office because leaders have become partial, not abiding by their sworn declaration to serve without fear or favour. Therefore, with "theirs" in power, rights to state patronage become "theirs".

The village of a leader is "taken" care of. It gets more than a reasonable share of appointments and projects are sited there; it more or less becomes the "doyen" of villages in the community.

If our leaders were to abide by the constitution governing the country, treat citizens as one, be fair to those who vote for or against them, not allow their governments to turn into a clan of family and friends and allow justice to take its course on any that contravenes the law of the land, the average Nigerian would clamour less to have his own in power. When that is achieved, the intrinsic fellow feeling in us will show up and glow.

*Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.*

# Elections with Guns to the Head: Reversing Judiciary-Induced Democratic Regression

By Jibrin Ibrahim

**M**Y big story this week is that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has reversed itself, saying that there is no winner in the February 25 National Assembly elections in Doguwa and Tudun Wada federal constituency of Kano State. It would be recalled that INEC had earlier announced Hon. Alhassan Doguwa, incumbent Member representing the federal constituency and Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, who contested on the All Progressives Congress (APC) platform, as winner of the election. After reviewing the facts of the matter, INEC on Tuesday, removed Doguwa's name from the list of Reprs-elect, attributing the development to irregularities in the electoral exercise. The commission had said he was declared winner of the election by the Returning Officer under duress.

This followed the arrest of Doguwa in connection with the violence which broke out in the federal constituency during the collation of the election results, leading to the death of two persons when a secretariat of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) was set ablaze allegedly on the order of the embattled lawmaker. The police arraigned the ranking lawmaker at a Magistrate's Court in Kano, which remanded him in prison. Nigerians were shocked when Doguwa was granted a N500 million bail and released from detention in time to apparently repeat such acts in the elections that were scheduled to hold tomorrow but subsequently rescheduled for next Saturday. How could someone charged for murder in an election be released just days later and in time to repeat such action for another election. When the story of Nigeria's democracy is told, the judiciary would occupy one of the most despicable roles.

Professor Ibrahim Adamu Yakasai, the Returning Officer for the election, in a letter to INEC written on 27th February 2023 had explained clearly that the results he declared in favour of Ado Doguwa were false, read under duress and fear for his life.

He had the courage to admit this and correct the error leading to the decision of INEC to cancel the said results and announce new elections would be organised for the constituency. My fear is that Doguwa would go to court and a judge would declare that the law does not say results announced under duress are invalid. We have seen that before. This time, I hope Nigerians would not accept such an outcome should it occur.

"In most of such cases of signing results under duress, the judiciary has chosen to play dumb by ruling that the law says the results read by the returning officers stand and have thereby sided with forces that were raping basic democratic precepts. There is however a strong sentiment in Nigeria today that there must be accountability and sanctions for people who violate the principles of free and fair elections and seek to hide under legal technicalities."

Let us recall. To convince the presidential election petition tribunal sitting in Abuja to nullify the April 16 general election that brought President Goodluck Jonathan into power, the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) presented evidence that its supervisory agent in Cross River State, Mr Bassey Okon, was compelled to sign a distorted final result of the presidential poll in the state at gunpoint (Vanguard, 15 September 2011) and it was dismissed. Another example was that of Professor Ibeabuchi who before reeling out figures at the district collation centre in the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Office in Orlu, Mr Ibeabuchi, a professor, said he was being held "under duress" to announce the results:

"My name is Ibeabuchi Izuchukwu Innocent, a professor at the Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO), the returning officer for Imo West (Orlu) senatorial zone... My area commander; my P.Os; the party agents here present; members of the press; ladies and gentlemen. I have been held hostage here for days so I'm trying to ease off and take my life home back to my children and for the sake of that I am calling

these results under duress." (Premium Times, 25 February 2019) the returning officer said.

There was also the case of the returning officer of Orumba North LGA, Dr. Michael Otu, who stunned stakeholders at the Anambra State governorship election collation centre on Sunday when he denounced the result he signed. He accused the electoral

officer that was supposed to work with him of collaborating with some people to scuttle the election results in the area. He stated this while delivering his report to the State Returning Officer, Prof. Florence Obi, at the ongoing election result collation. He said there was no election in the entire local government area. He said a crisis fomented by policemen led to his signing the result under duress: "I signed a report I didn't believe in. I signed it under duress. I was teargased... I could not even go out to ease myself. They were monitoring me up and down. At a point, I saw that my life was in danger, so, I have to sign the results they prepared (PM News, 7th November 2021).

In most of such cases of signing results under duress, the judiciary has chosen to play dumb by ruling that the law says the results read by the returning officers stand and have thereby sided with forces that were raping basic democratic precepts. There is however a strong sentiment in Nigeria today that there must be accountability and sanctions for



people who violate the principles of free and fair elections and seek to hide under legal technicalities.

Such stories have tended to create the basis to completely delegitimise Nigerian elections because they are so scandalous and anti-democratic that they become what Nigerians remember about the elections. When one looks at the 25th February elections in Kano for example, the trending story is about Ado Doguwa, the murders and declaration of results under duress. The reality of the Kano elections was that it went very well in over 90% of the polling units, there was neither violence nor fraud. Normal elections are not a great story so all that recedes to the back of people's memories and they remember the violence.

At the national level, what we remember is that failure in posting presidential elections on the IReV portal. The fact that BVAS machines were successfully used to accredit voters in most polling units has disappeared as the story of the elections in spite of its importance in providing

legitimacy to the process.

YIAGA Africa, which did a parallel vote tabulation count, said in its report that the figures for Imo and Rivers States appeared questionable and did not tally with their estimates and projections. This means the numbers for the 34 other states and FCT were in their findings fairly accurate.

Nonetheless, for many people, the whole election was a sham and should be cancelled. My concern is that when we carry out fairly good elections, we do not see our success as a few trees block our sight of the forest. If the judiciary does its work well and we begin to see accountability for actors who brazenly violate electoral rules and procedures, it would reassure Nigerians and place them on the path of beginning to see relative success when it happens.

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

# My mother Was a Woman

By Owei Lakemfa

I AM blessed because I am blessed by women. This Wednesday, March 8, I received messages from some women wishing me a happy International Women's Day. They know I am not part of their gender. But they are aware that I support, speak and fight for gender equity, equal rights and justice for all irrespective of class, race and gender. One of the earliest such messages I received came from the Cuban Ambassador Clara Pullido.

She dotes on some of us like a mother hen protecting her beloved ones.

She sees herself as a daughter of Africa. Her Master's Degree was in Ghana where she studied Nigeria's political history and she has been Cuban Ambassador to the African Union, Ethiopia, Algeria and now, Nigeria. She advocates on women and their role in emancipating humanity. It is through her I met the female ambassadors and diplomats from Asia, Europe, Caribbean and Latin America that I have come to know.

"The struggle against Apartheid in South Africa was long and bloody because the regime was supported by powerful countries like the US and United Kingdom. As the repression grew and men were targeted, women stepped forward with the famous Women's March of 1956. In that march, the women adopted a South African proverb: "Wathinta Abafazi Wathinta Imbokodo", which meant: "You strike a woman; you strike a rock."

This 2023 Women's Day, to me, was a particularly sad one as I watched with sorrow many petty traders in the streets, almost all of who are women, turned destitute because the Buhari administration's currency policy has made cash so scarce that they barely have customers. Things are so bad that even to buy a small packet of biscuits, some pepper or an orange on the streets would require cash transfer which in many cases, gets stuck. So, their perishable goods have perished; some rotting in the farms. So many have become impoverished, and needless to state, the vast majority of these victims of the inept and thoughtless implementation of a new currency change, are women.

However, these adversities and a climate of impunity and violence has not stopped women from being courageous and standing their ground. When during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections of February 25, political thugs invaded a polling station in Surulere, Lagos and stabbed Mrs. Bina Jennifer Efidi, they must have assumed they had discouraged her and other voters from casting their ballot.

They were mistaken; they had taken on a woman who they assumed is fickle. But

after her wounds were treated, even with blood trickling down her face and in her blood-soaked T-shirt, she returned to the polling station, daring the thugs, and casting her vote. Mrs. Efidi has become the symbol of resistance against street thugs and political violence in Nigeria.

Efidi reminds me of the resistance of Rosa Parks, the African-American lady who on December 1, 1955 in racist Montgomery, Alabama, refused to give up her seat for a Whiteman. Her resistance violated the segregations laws then in place. She was arrested for civil disobedience, detained and fined. But she refused to bow. Her resistance inspired the Blacks' one year boycott of the city's bus service, and the November, 1956 ruling that under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the American Constitution, bus segregation is unconstitutional.

The ongoing mass protests in Iran was triggered by the killing of Jina 'Mahsa' Amini, a lady arrested on September 13, 2022 for allegedly not properly wearing her hijab. She was allegedly beaten and died three days later while still in police custody. Women spearheaded and sustained the protests. The religious police took on the wrong gender and got dissolved.

There are lots of conflicts in the world and women, who tend to take care of the family, including their husbands and children, suffer a lot. But where the men are intimidated by forces of oppression and repression, women in many cases, step forward. For instance, in the ongoing Israeli genocide against the Palestinian people, many women have become involved, including engaging in physical combats with Israeli soldiers who come to effect the demolition of Palestinian homes to give way for illegal settlements. One of the most famous is Khalida Jarrar, a 60-year-old Palestinian lawmaker whose last stint in Israeli prison was two years ago. She had been jailed at least four times on the nebulous charge of belonging to 'a terrorist organisation' which is what Israel calls all organisations that reject genocide in the Palestine.

During her last imprisonment, she lost her 31-year-old daughter, Suha Ghassan Jarrar, a human rights activist. But she also began the education of Palestinian women prisoners. By last year, seven of her protégées in Israeli jails were enrolled for degree programmes. Jarrar's conviction is that: "Education is liberating for women, because it helps them expand their knowledge, strengthen their personality, and gives them a degree of independence to face society and its problems, as well as helping them find work after leaving prison."

"I imbibed my pro-women culture from my mother, Ebibo, who, as an illiterate



petty trader, ensured the education and wellbeing of all her children. She taught us contentment, humility and service to all irrespective of religion, race, ethnicity and gender. On Tuesday April 3, 2023, which would be the tenth year she departed, I will observe a special prayer and thank her that she was my mother."

But the most famous woman of Palestine origin is Al Jazeera's Shireen Abu Akleh whose coverage of the region for 25 years became authoritative. She gave the Israeli authorities who could not fault her professionalism so much sleepless nights that they decided to kill her. On May 11, 2022, in Jenin, an Israeli marksman took her out. Even the United States (US), which traditionally covers Israeli atrocities, admitted the Israelis killed her. Its report "concluded that gunfire from IDF (Israeli Defence Force) positions was likely responsible for the death of Shireen Abu Akleh". Cornered, Israel admitted that she was "accidentally hit by IDF gunfire" but would neither allow its troops nor the marksman interviewed or brought to justice for murdering the 52-year-old journalist.

The struggle against Apartheid in South Africa was long and bloody because the regime was supported by powerful countries like the US and United Kingdom. As the repression grew and

men were targeted, women stepped forward with the famous Women's March of 1956. In that march, the women adopted a South African proverb: "Wathinta Abafazi Wathinta Imbokodo", which meant: "You strike a woman; you strike a rock."

The leaders of that march on the Union included Helen Joseph who gave up all her privileges of being a White woman to fight for social justice; Lilian Ngoyi, the first woman member of the African National Congress National Executive Council; and Albertina Sisulu who later led the largest coalition that saw the back of Apartheid.

They were followed into battle by formidable women, the most famous being Winnie Mandela. The Apartheid regime found too late that when "You strike a woman; you strike a rock". This is a truism that many regimes across the universe are yet to learn.

I imbibed my pro-women culture from my mother, Ebibo, who, as an illiterate petty trader, ensured the education and wellbeing of all her children. She taught us contentment, humility and service to all irrespective of religion, race, ethnicity and gender. On Tuesday April 3, 2023, which would be the tenth year she departed, I will observe a special prayer and thank her that she was my mother.



# Vice President Elect, Shettima Pays Condolence Visit On Sheikh Gumi

By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Vice President-elect, Senator Kashim Shettima yesterday, paid a condolence visit on Sheik Ahmad Abubakar Gumi at his Kaduna residence to

commiserate with him over the death of his mother, Hajiya A'ishatu Dammu Gumi, who died at the age of 84.

His Excellency Kashim Shettima was received by the Deputy Governor of Kaduna

State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, alongside the Speaker of Kaduna State Assembly, Rt Honourable Ibrahim Zailani and other senior Kaduna government officials.

## Katsina Govt Approves N2.6bn Contract For Road Dualization Of Kofar Soro-Kofar Guga

By: SULAIMANAHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Executive Council has approved contract of dualization of the road from Kofar Soro to Kofar Guga round about in the metropolis at the cost of over two point zero-six billion Naira.

The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport, Engineer Abdu Usman confirmed this while briefing newsmen on the outcome of the meeting presided by Governor Aminu Bello Masari.

Engineer Abdu Usman remarked that the project with the completion period of eight months was intended to reduce traffic congestion along the road.

The Permanent Secretary also said the executive council had approved the award of a three kilometer Jibiyar-Maje-Tashar-Aibo to Niger Republic boarder road already started under the NEWMAP programme.

According to him, the project initially awarded at the cost of over nine hundred and sixty one point four million naira had already had fifty percent of it covered by the NEWMAP, adding that State Government would complete the remaining fifty percent of the road project.

He said savings made from the fifteen kilometers covered had been proposed to be used on the execution of additional road projects in Katsina metropolis.

They include Mangal Juma'at Mosque T-junction to Abattoir quarters and Obasanjo drive road both to be constructed at the cost of over three hundred and eighty nine million naira.

The council meeting he said also approved the ratification leading to the upward of two ongoing projects to include GRA Fly-over Bridge and Kafur-Gurai road.

In the meantime Katsina State executive council has approved three hundred and sixty seven million naira for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Musawa Dam.

Commissioner for Water Resources Alhaji Musa Adamu Funtua revealed this while briefing newsmen after the council meeting presided by Governor Aminu Bello Masari.

The Commissioner remarked that, the project would cover raising the broken embankment, Dam reservoir and over head tank among others.

He said the council had also approved the award of contract for the upgrade of quality control laboratory and Administrative block at the Ajiwa water works.

The Commissioner said the project would cost the State Government over seven hundred million naira.

Other projects approved by the executive council include replacement of rusted and broken pipelines among others.

Similarly, the executive council has granted approval for the tertiary institutions owned by the State Government to use their internally generated revenue in providing exit package for the retiring principal officers.

They include Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Bursar and Chief Librarian in case of University and Provost, Rector, Bursar and Chief Librarian for the Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, Isa Kaita College of Education and Yusuf Bala Usman College of Legal Daura.

Special Adviser to the State Governor on Higher Education Dr. Bashir Usman Ruwan Godiya made this known at a news briefing after the council meeting.

He said all the affected officers would also go with their official vehicles on auction. The briefing was coordinated by the State Commissioner of information Abdulkarim Yahaya Sirika.

## Egypt 2023: Podium Finish For Nigeria As Flying Eagles Hammer Tunisia 4-0

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

FIFA World Cup-bound Nigeria eased to a four-goal victory over Tunisia's Young Carthage Eagles on Friday to claim the bronze medal at the 17th Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt.

It was clear from the first few minutes that the seven-time African champions had shaken off the lethargy from their lone goal semi-final defeat to The Gambia on Monday, which upturned their dreams of an eighth continental title for Nigeria.

Ibrahim Muhammad, whose rocket accounted for one of the two goals that sank Mozambique in the group phase and shot the Flying Eagles to the quarter-finals, put the Tunisians to task by scoring only nine minutes into the clash at the mammoth Cairo International Stadium.

Belgium-based forward Ahmed Abdullahi increased the yoke on the North Africans with the second goal barely after the re-start, and Jude Sunday made it three for Nigeria only two minutes after, to put daylight between themselves and the Young Carthage Eagles.

Man-of-the-match Jude Sunday rounded off a blistering afternoon and good day in the office for the Flying Eagles with a fourth goal in the 90th minute.



MVP: Star-boy, Jude Sunday who scored a brace for the Flying Eagles on Friday.

## Bauchi FA Sacks Chairman

By: AYO OJEDOKUN Lagos

The Executive Committee members of Bauchi State Football Association has passed a vote of no confidence on the Chairman of the association, Patrick Pascal even as they announced his removal from office and appointed the 1st Vice Chairman, Alhaji Adamu Umar Madachi as acting chairman pending when election will be held.

According to a letter sent to the Secretary General of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and signed by four out of the five Executive Committee members namely; Adamu Umar Madachi Vice Chairman, Usman Abbas Shehu, Kabiru Yusuf and Abdulazeez Yusuf, they accused him of flagrant abuse of office which violates Article 17(1), Article 3 (1-2), Article 20(5) and Article 3(1-3) of the statutes of

Bauchi State Football Association noting that they're not aware of any formation or election of Local Football council across the 20 Local Government Areas of the State which he purportedly organised without the consent or approval of the committee as enshrined in the statutes of the FA.

According to them Article 31(1-2) stated that a General Assembly of the FA shall be held every year with members of the Executive Committee informed in writing at least seven days before the meeting but in disregard of this statutes, the chairman unilaterally and in violation of the said article convened a congress and constituted an illegal electoral committee without the consent of the state Executive Committee members which made the congress and the electoral committee null and void.

They further explained that Article 20(5) states that the State FA shall be composed of 9 persons; three from each of the Senatorial zones made up as follows Chairman, Vice Chairman and seven ordinary members who will all be elected by the Annual General Congress but in the case of Bauchi State, they have only five members and all efforts to fill the vacant positions proved abortive as the Chairman refused to call for bye election which contravenes the Article.

On the Goal Project building which is supposed to be under the control of the FA, they accused the chairman of turning it into his personal Guest House where fees are paid by guests in a short or full time basis without the consent of the Executive Committee members.

The Committee members further explained that a competition is always

organised in the state by the chairman and the Secretariat staff without recourse to the state Executive citing a case in point as that of Professor Sulaiman Bogoro Unity Cup which he later changed the sponsorship to one Naval Officer but unfortunately, members of the Executive Committee were not aware of the nature of the sponsorship but later discovered that the chairman used the state FA funds to sponsor the competition and renamed it Bauchi State Football Association Unity Cup without the approval of the Executive Committee members.

The members while also accusing Patrick Pascal of not deeming it fit to call for any Executive Committee meeting since election in June 2019 neither did he set up any single standing committee to run the affairs of the state FA demanded a full account of the COVID-19 Palliatives grant sent to the State FA by the NFF.

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Finish For Nigeria  
As Flying Eagles  
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## Be Hopeful For A Better Nigeria, Olubadan Tells Nigerians

**By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**  
The Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun on Sunday, said Nigerians should be hopeful for a better Nigeria after the current hardship in the country. Oba Lekan Balogun stated this while speaking at his Alarere residence on the occasion of his first year anniversary on the throne of Olubadan. The royal father tasked that in doing this, there is the need for Nigerians to bear with the government as everything is being done to ensure that the current hardship is addressed. Oba Balogun in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan by his Personal Assistant

(Media), Oladele Ogunsola acknowledged the current hardship in the land occasioned by the Naira redesign policy. The Olubadan stressed that it was the resilience of Nigerians that has been the sustaining power of the country, adding, "I salute our people for their resilience and perseverance which are anchored on hope for a better and greater future". "Nigerians don't give up and that's why we always get out better and stronger of any situation however tough or difficult it may be. We are going to realize that bright and beautiful hope just with a little bit of patience", he said. Oba Lekan Balogun added, "the

last month presidential election which was held peacefully across the country with a winner declared already was a function of our hope in the country and it is certain that the hope would not be a misplaced one". The Olubadan emphasized further, "let's add prayer to our resilience and perseverance for divine direction for our leaders". On his first year on the throne, the Olubadan expressed thanks to God for His grace upon him, his members of family and the entire Ibadanland, stressing that God has been very kind and wonderful to him in the last one year which has been very peaceful to a very large extent. Oba Lekan Balogun also praised

members of the Olubadan Advisory Council for their support and cooperation in the last one year asking for more of such in the interest of the ancient city. "My members of Council have been wonderful in terms of support, cooperation and understanding without which it would have been difficult to have an eventful last one year as we have had. "I also appreciate the role of Mogajis, especially on the twin issues of security and land grabbing. I must acknowledge their efforts in those two areas. The reports I hear from time to time are heart-warming and I can't thank them enough. As I

often say, the moment we stepped out to hold traditional titles, we have all submitted ourselves to the service of Ibadanland and it is my prayer that we will all be rewarded for our services by the owner of the land. "I cannot forget to extend my gratitude to the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes' (CCII) and the generality of the people of Ibadanland, both at home and in the diaspora for their love and support so far. I thank all immensely for the past as I solicit for more of such support and cooperation as we journey ahead in our quest for better and more prosperous Ibadanland".

## Dangote Graduates 50 Trainee Truck Drivers

**By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna**  
The Dangote Articulated Truck Driving School has graduated 50 trainees who have passed through a specially designed and rigorous educational curriculum.

The articulated truck driving school at Obajana in Kogi State is Nigeria's first and only accredited truck driving academy.

The school was commissioned last year by the former Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Dr. Boboye Olayemi Oyeyemi, who described it as a significant step towards taming the menace of auto crashes involving articulated trucks in Nigeria.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the Divisional Director Transport (DDT), Mr. Ajay Singh, said the new Batch C graduates have only qualified and graduated from classroom instructions, and will now be exposed to practicals through attachments for an additional six months.

Mr. Singh expressed assurances that the school will not only bring down the rate of crashes involving articulated vehicles but will also positively impact other road users.

The Director said the ultimate objective was to achieve zero accidents for all subsidiaries in the Dangote Group.

On his part, the Manager, of Dangote Articulated Truck Driving School, Dangote Cement Transport (DCT) Obajana, Mr. Daniel Marcus Akuso said the intensive training was carried out in collaboration with the FRSC and Fantique Driving Training Centre of South Africa.



The drivers

According to the Manager of the school, the three months training programme has helped change the orientation of the trainee drivers.

"This is the only articulated truck driving school in Nigeria where the students are paid stipends, trained, tested, certified, licensed, and employed. Our products are not only for Dangote Cement but for all

subsidiaries of the Dangote Group in Africa," Mr. Akuso said.

Speaking, Deputy Road Commandant, (OC Instructor) of the FRSC attached to Dangote Driving School, Engr Mukhtar Umar said his agency plays a significant role in the training and certifying old drivers and newly recruited trainees.

"We teach them defensive driving, road

signs, responsibilities of the driver, driving culture, and then certify them," Engr Umar said.

The Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) Professor Idris Bugaje had said that the NBTE was partnering the Dangote Cement Plc in the execution of the school's programme.