

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 3 No. 118

Wednesday 15th March, 2023

Shaban 22, 1444

IsDB, LLF Financed Project Donates N100m Milk Storage Facility To Kano Marketers

Story on Page 3

NUJ Cries Out To Yahaya Bello Over Outrageous Kogi Electricity Bills

Story on Page 4



Wase Electorate Protest To INEC Office, Insist On Relocation Of Collation Centre

Story on Page 4

Biotechnology Recognition Important Tool For Global Growth - ABU VC

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria
The Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University (SNU), Zaria, Professor Kabir Bala has said that biotechnology has gained increased recognition as an important tool for global growth, with its potential impact going beyond imagination. Bala expressed this at the Biotechnology Society of Nigeria Annual

Conference held at Tanimu Balarabe Conference Hall, IAR/ABU Zaria yesterday. Represented by Prof. Junaidu Kabir, Dean Faculty of Vet Medicine, he said, biotechnology has helped in addressing many global problems such as climate change, food security, energy security and infectious diseases among others. The Vice Chancellor also

said, biotechnology in healthcare has maximized effectiveness by increasing medical personalization and individually designed treatments. "Using agricultural biotechnology, plant and animals breeding can more quickly develop plants and animals to changing environmental conditions such as drought, increased temperature, new diseases

Continued on Page 2



Theater Commander Inaugurates Special Court Martial In North East

Story on Page 5



Page 6

120 Anti-corruption CSOs To Buhari: Bawa Has Been Convicted Twice, Sack Him Now

RRS Bursts Car Snatching Syndicate, Apprehends Suspect, Recovers Stolen Cars

Page 2

Ayade Extends Cross River Teachers Retirement Age, Lifts Embargo On Promotion

Page 2

Ayade Extends Cross River Teachers Retirement Age, Lifts Embargo On Promotion

By: VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

Teachers in Cross River have cause to jubilate as the state governor, Prof. Ben Ayade announced the lifting of promotion as well as extending teacher's retirement age by five years.

He made the pronouncement during a courtesy visit by the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) yesterday.

Speaking, Ayade also announced a lift on embargo on promotion, saying teachers deserve premium welfare as moulders of leaders of tomorrow.

According to him, "teachers are the conscience of the nation, they are the moulders of leaders of tomorrow, so, for us in Cross River, teachers deserve premium welfare.

"To this end, teachers retirement age is hereby

extended by five years. Embargo has also been lifted on promotion. Similarly, all promoted teachers will henceforth, start earning salaries commensurate to their positions."

The Cross River State Governor explained that in the last eight years of his administration, he made teachers welfare a priority, including prompt payment of their salaries, pledging to clear all outstanding issues affecting them before leaving office.

Earlier, Chairman of the Cross River chapter of NUT, Gregory Olayi, described the governor as teacher-friendly and expressed gratitude to him for finding time to host them.

On his part, the Special Adviser to the governor on education, Comrade Castro Ezama said the teachers came to express gratitude to Governor Ayade for his benevolence and pro-teacher policies.

IsDB, LLF Financed Project Donates N100m Milk Storage Facility To Kano Marketers

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP), has constructed and commissioned a N100 million storage facility and accessories, for Kano Fura da Nono Cooperative Union, Kofar Wambai Market, a major dairy interest group in the state.

According to a statement signed by the Project Communication Specialist, Ameen K. Yassar, made available to our correspondent yesterday, the edifice, constructed on land belonging to the association, is equipped with cooling facilities to curtail frequent products spoilage.

Fura da Nono is a nutritious gruel prepared from fermented milk and millet balls, consumed across Nigeria, especially the northern part of the country. During the commissioning ceremony of the project, the KSADP Coordinator, Malam Ibrahim Garba Muhammad, explained that "it is part of the commitment of the Islamic Development Bank and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund, to improve the well being of the people through enhancing the dairy value chain".

"With the storage facility in place, safer milk and milk products can be guaranteed and this will lead to improved nutrition for consumers and

increased income for members of the association".

The Coordinator added that three walkways leading to the milk section of the Kofar Wambai market have been paved for better hygiene, while a shed was constructed in the area to avert exposure to heat and rain.

In addition, Malam Ibrahim inaugurated grants consisting electronic blenders, mini generating sets, cool boxes and aluminum milk collection bowls provided by KSADP to 300 members of the cooperative union, in order to promote best practices in selling milk and milk products in Kano.

The chairman of the Fura da Nono Cooperative Union, Malam Muhammad Lawan Alaramma expressed appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank and the Lives and Livelihoods Funds for initiating and financing what he described as "an unprecedented revolution in dairy products marketing in Kano".

The commissioning of the project was performed by the State Commissioner for Agriculture, Dr. Jibrin Yusuf Rurum, who was happy that KSADP is living up to its mandate and restated determination of the state government to revamp agriculture, in view of its huge potential for food security, job creation and poverty alleviation.

Biotechnology Recognition Important Tool For Global Growth - ABU VC

and other stressors". He said.

Prof. Kabir Bala who commended the efforts of scientists from the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) for the successfully developing and releasing the First GM crops in Nigeria for commercial cultivation in 2018.

In his address the Director IAR, Prof. Muhammad Faguji Ishiyaku said the institute has contributed tremendously to putting Nigeria in the map of the world.

The Director was represented by the Deputy Director of the Institute Prof. Ado Yusuf said, their germ plasm collections are housed in many of the world's most exotic gene banks.

He said, IAR were also at the forefront of using biotechnology tools to advocates the frontiers of agricultural science in the world.

Prof. Faguji Ishiyaku believes that the conference will provide a platform for experts, practitioners, among others, to share ideas and explore new opportunities over the days of the conference will lead to the development of practical and innovative solutions.

In his keynote address titled, 'Exploring Biotechnology as a solution to health, economic and security challenges in a. Post COVID-19 era Prof. Aliyu Shugaba Vice Chancellor University of Maiduguri said, the theme of the Conference is apt and timely.

Prof. Shugaba said, biotechnology has a key role in economic and development of the nation.

He said, biotechnology has keyed into agriculture, environmental and economic growth, particularly in the area of food nutrition.

Earlier in his welcome address the National President of the association Prof. Mohammed Bello Yerima said considering the crises in our economic sector today the association choose the theme of the Conference.

He said, "there is so much hunger in the land, life threatening diseases are ravaging mankind and our environment is devastated by pollution of all sorts".

The president hoped that the delineation and recommendations of the conference will have a significant impact on the future direction of business development, strategic alliances, partnering trends, product opportunities, economic growth, business models and strategies.



Ambassador Buratai at occasion recently.

RRS Bursts Car Snatching Syndicate, Apprehends Suspect, Recovers Stolen Cars

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) of the Lagos State Police Command have smashed a syndicate that specialises in car snatching, arresting a suspect.

Two cars suspected to have been stolen under gun point were said to have been recovered from the suspect.

The suspect, identified as

Dayo Jimoh, 36, according to report, was arrested while hijacking a car along Ojodu-Berger Road, with two others now at large.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Benjamin Hundeyin confirmed the incident in a statement yesterday.

It reads, "Operatives of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) have arrested one Dayo Jimoh 'm' aged 36 along Ojodu-Berger Road,

Lagos after he and two others (still at large) hijacked two vehicles at gunpoint.

"Dayo was arrested at about 0230hrs on Saturday, March 11, 2023, shortly after his gang snatched a 2003 Toyota Corolla with registration number BDG-946-GZ. The suspects arrived in a 2005 Toyota Camry with registration number KRD-958-HS which they earlier snatched at gunpoint at

Oworo, while disguising as passengers.

"While investigation is ongoing, the owners of the vehicles which were recovered, are hereby urged to come forward with proof of ownership to claim their vehicles. Meanwhile, Commander RRS, CSP Olayinka Egbeyemi have charged his men to intensify efforts to arrest the two fleeing suspects".

NUJ Cries Out To Yahaya Bello Over Outrageous Kogi Electricity Bills

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Nigerians Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kogi State Council has cried out to Governor Yahaya Bello over the outrageous monthly bills of the Abuja Electricity and Distribution Company (AEDC) in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital without, corresponding services rendered to the customers.

The council in a statement issued by the duo of the Chairman and the Secretary Comrade Adeiza Momoh Jimoh and the Ademolu Seidu Haruna respectively on Tuesday noted that this attitude started between August to September 2022, when there was a noticeable slight improvement in the electricity

supply within the Lokoja metropolis which AEDC hurriedly latched on to increase the monthly bills from the usual ₦3,000- ₦4,000 per building to ₦6,000- ₦8,000.

The union noted that by October, AEDC in its usual attitude, without putting into consideration the biting economic situation in the country and the ability of customers to pay, again increased the bill to ₦11,700.

The union said it's killing for an average family to pay N15,000 electricity bill in a country where the minimum wage is N30,000.

"Responding to the cry and barrage of complaints from members of the public, and in

fulfilling our social responsibility mandate of being the Mirror and Watchdog of the society, members of the union decided to seek enquiry with the organization as to why the rash increase of the bills are being orchestrated without a corresponding service.

To our utter dismay, no official of the AEDC in the state was willing to furnish us with information about this astronomical increase of monthly bills such that the January monthly bills rose to ₦14,700 while the latest February bill has also been jerked up to ₦15,000.

"This is even though the electricity supply has dropped

drastically between eight to ten hours a day to a miserable three to four hours a day and in most cases some areas in the state capital experience a total outage for days or weeks without any explanation from the distribution company while the bills keep on running.

"The union also observed that the AEDC flagrantly refused to make available the Pre Paid Metres to members of the public even when payments had been made but rather took delight in giving out a blanket monthly outrageous bills to its customers without even reading the metres. In light of the above, the union is calling on the Kogi State House of Assembly and particularly

Governor Yahaya Bello to immediately wade into this matter and call the management of AEDC to order as this heartless monthly increment may result in the breakdown of law and order as the saying goes that a dog that is pushed to the wall has no alternative than to bark and bite.

"The current hardship of fuel scarcity, water scarcity, constant electricity outages and the cash crunch being experienced by residents of the state should not be further compounded by AEDC's propensity of making more money to the detriment of the customers without recourse for wearing a Human face. ends.

Wase Electorate Protest To INEC Office, Insist On Relocation Of Collation Centre

By: BUHARI BUKAR BELLO, Jos

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in Wase Local Government Area of Plateau State and some of its supporters have staged a peaceful demonstration, to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), demanding that henceforth, collation should be done in the INEC office instead of the council secretariat in Wase.

The Wase LGA Chairman of the PDP, Hon. Sale Hamman, who led the procession, from Wase town to the INEC Area office, under security escort, lamented the situation which he described as dangerous to democracy.

"Following years of manipulation and subversion of Wase People's Electoral Decisions as a result of relocation of INEC Collation Centre to Wase Local Government Secretariat in Wase, we complained to the commission in writing and it agreed to do collation at its office right from now.

"But to our surprise, the commission insisted on collating election results at Wase LGA Secretariat during the 25th February Presidential and National Assembly elections and what we feared came to pass," he said.

According to him, the Wase LGA Chairman and the Deputy Speaker, Ahmad Idris Wase, of the APC, sneaked with their political thugs and unleashed acts of terror on electoral officials and agents of other political parties and coerced the INEC Returning Officer to



declare, Hon. Ahmed Wase winner of the said election.

"We therefore, write to bring to the notice of the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmoud Yakubu, the plight of the good people of Wase," he said.

He also accused the Electoral

Officer In-charge of Wase and the State Resident Electoral Commissioner of complicity, for allowing the collation at the LGC Secretariat.

"We therefore, kick against continued retention of Wase LGA Secretariat as INEC Collation Center and at the same time demand immediate

relocation of same to the INEC Office in the Area," he said.

Adamu Saluwe, a supporter, urged the umpire to be fair and just in the execution of its duties. The INEC Assistant Electoral Officer, Administration, Samson Laguna, commended the peaceful manner of the demonstration, assuring them

that the matter will be referred to the appropriate quarters for consideration.

"We are tired of electoral robbery,' we want free and fair election," LGA Secretariat is rigging venue for Hon Ahmad Idris Wase and his cohorts," Wase LGA Secretariat is an APC Office," he declared.

Southern Kaduna In Diaspora Condemns Zangon Kataf Killings

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Southern Kaduna people in diaspora (SOKAPDA) Europe, has condemned in strong terms, the recent killings of last Saturday March 12, 2023 that resulted in the loss of 17 lives and injuries to innocent citizens in Ungwan Wakili in Zangon Kataf Local Government of Kaduna State.

A statement issued by Mr. Casimir P. Biriok and Dr. Janet Nale, President and Secretary of SOKAPDA Europe, noted, "This is barely three months after the mass murder of 38 harmless villagers in Malagum, Kamuru-Ikulu and Abun (Broni Prono) in the same Southern Kaduna on or about 18th December, 2022."

SOKAPDA Europe, observed that it finds it difficult to comprehend how human lives seem to have little or no value in Nigeria in general, and Kaduna state in particular, and, therefore, condemned the wanton killing in its entirety.

It noted that these attacks are happening in the middle of elections, given this scenario, one can only assume that this is calculated to destabilise Southern Kaduna during this election period.

It added that there seems to be no empathy from the political leadership of the state, for they have not heard of any statement made by either the state or most of the political actors, by either visiting or indicating support through press releases or otherwise, the curfew notwithstanding.

A couple of days ago, the statement observed that in Lagos, a train accident killed six (6) people and it attracted sympathy and the attention of the whole state, stressing that flags were flown half mast and the governor was all over the place.

"However, 17 people were killed in Kaduna State and as at the time of writing, we have not heard from the state not to talk of a visit by the state leadership. Most of the political parties have

shown little support to either the victims or issue a simple statement of condemnation of the killings," the statement explained.

It said that it is essential to hold those who have sworn to protect the people to do the needful for them in diaspora are frustrated that in the 21st century, technology like phone tracking, geo orbits satellite, drones and old-fashion spying, among others have not been fully utilized.

"We have been told time and time without number that the best is being done. Those at the receiving end seem not to see all these efforts, for the killings seem to be going on unabated for years," the statement stressed.

The statement explained that it is also on record that nobody as far as they know, has taken any responsibility for possible negligence or dereliction of duty or responsibilities, and resigns to demonstrate they hold human lives sacred.

The statement explained

that the peaceful Kaduna State that they once knew is no more and sincerely hope that somewhere within the political class, someone will take security of lives seriously for it is absolutely too tragic that our state has become a killing field.

SOKAPDA said that it would like to take the opportunity to express their sympathy to the families of the souls that were lost during the killings, saying that may their souls rest in peace.

"Our hearts remain with all the families that they left behind. It is the only Almighty God that can console them in these challenging periods. Similarly, we sympathise with every individual who has in one way or other been affected negatively by these random killings that seem to have no end in sight. We take exception to others who are keeping quiet in the middle of all these killings. One day some will be called to answer either here or beyond," the statement explained.

NSCDC CG Orders Surgery Of Staff Involved In Accident

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Commandant General, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Dr Ahmed Audi, has ordered immediate surgery for one of the Corps' personnel involved in an accident while on official duty.

Olusola Odumosu, the spokesperson for the Commission, in a statement on Monday said the Commandant General gave the directive during a visit to National Hospital, Abuja to personally examine and assess the patient's health condition as well as the progress made with their treatments so far.

Asc II Ibrahim Adam, 40, according to the statement was among the personnel of the Lagos State Command involved in a road crash which occurred at the Giri junction, Abuja.

The statement explained, "On Friday, February 24, 2023, a day before the presidential and National Assembly elections, an accident among the personnel of the Lagos State Command involved in a road crash which occurred at the Giri junction, Abuja that resulted in the death of one of the occupants shortly

after take-off from the Corps national headquarters."

According to the statement, five of the personnel injured personnel in the accident and had been discharged after significant improvements in their health conditions.

The statement added that the CG directed the head of unit of the NSCDC Health and Medical Services, Oba Jude, who was designated to monitor and coordinate the victim's treatment, to make sure that the required attention is accorded the officer who was diagnosed to have spinal cord injury with multiple fractures.

The NSCDC helmsman explained that his major concern is to get the officers back on good health.

He noted that they are all dedicated and committed officers, saying that he noticed that there are signs and hope of more significant improvement when the proposed surgery is carried out on the personnel.

The statement according to the Commandant General was ready to pay the bills of the surgery and other associated treatments no matter how much it is going to cost, all in an effort to get them back in good health.

Oyo Guber: SDP Candidate Adopts Gov Makinde

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Few days to the governorship election, the governorship candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in Oyo State, Barrister Michael Lana yesterday, said he has stepped down for Governor Seyi Makinde in the March 18 governorship election.

Barrister Lana disclosed that he consulted widely before stepping down to support Gov Makinde and that the decision was taken alongside the House of Assembly candidates of the SDP in the state.

The SDP governorship candidate stressed, "after discussing with him, we decided that His Excellency Emeritus Engineer Seyi Makinde needs help from all capable hands within and outside the State to achieve his dreams for our State and we have resolved to assist him in doing this".

"We have therefore, resolved to inform all our supporters to vote massively for His Excellency, Engr. Seyi Makinde of the Peoples Democratic Party on Saturday 18th March 2023 and get him elected as Governor of Oyo state," he said

Barrister Lana added, "During my radio interview recently, I duly informed members of the public that whatever step I would take would be determined by the decision of all candidates, especially the

House of Assembly candidates of the SDP of which I am the governorship flagbearer.

"We have also consulted widely. We have talked with some national officers of the party and my supporters among the trade unions, traditional rulers, market associations and religious bodies.

"As you are aware, in almost all radio interviews I attended, I was asked whether, as it had become the habit of this party, I too would step down at the end of the day. Believing I was in the midst of ideologically sound members, and knowing myself as a principled person, I always answered in the negative. I believed fervently that my gospel of preaching issues and ideas would earn me the victory that the people of the state deserves"

The SDP governorship candidate noted, "we had to sit down and rethink and take a decision that will be in the best interest of the neglected and aggrieved party members, the candidates and the generality of the people of the state that we set out to serve.

"After several consultations, we resolved that the best thing for the state right now is to align ourselves with a really progressive candidate.



Barrister Michael Lana, SDP governorship candidate in Oyo State (middle) addressing the press

We have therefore resolved to inform all our teeming supporters to vote massively for Makinde of PDP on Saturday, March

18, 2023 and get him elected as governor of the state."

Theater Commander Inaugurates Special Court Martial In North East

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Theater Commander, Joint Task Force North East Operation Hadin Kai Headquarters, Major General Ibrahim Ali has yesterday, Inaugurated a Special Court Martial for the Theater Command to attend to all allegations, offences and crime committed by various officers and soldiers of the command across the North East.

While inaugurating the officials of the special Court Martial at the Theater Command Headquarters Officers Mess, General Ali also charged officers and soldiers of the theater command to live up to their professional calling, urging them to maintain decorum at all times as well as to respect the sanctity of the court. The Theater Commander also assured them that the special Court Martial would do justice to the accused persons,, saying, "Justice would equally be done to the state as well as the victims with your corporation and guidance."

General Ali further urged members and officials of the honourable court martial to be dispassionate in the discharge of their duties, while appealing to them to dispassionately ensure the speedy disposal of the cases as justice delayed is justice denied.

"I welcome you all to the Theatre Command Officers' Mess, venue for the sitting of the Special Court Martial which I convened for the trial of officers and soldiers who were alleged to have committed various offences.

"It is the tradition in the military that when an officer or soldier is alleged to have committed an offence, a court of this nature is convened to try such personnel in order to establish his guilt or otherwise.

"Members and court officials should know that the task ahead of them requires

sacrifice; bearing in mind that they are required to do justice to the accused persons as well as to the system. Thus, we should as much as possible, avoid any form of negativity that would undermine the smooth conduct of the court.

"To the lawyers in our midst, please be reminded that as ministers in the temple of justice, your professional

conduct must be top notch. You must do your utmost in assisting the court at achieving justice. I will please appeal that we all work towards the speedy disposal of these cases.

"It is obvious that members have other assignments to carry out at their various Units and also, it is expedient that the accused persons need to be relieved of the shackles that have been on their necks," Gen. Ali said.

The Theater Commander further said, "This court is convened to discharge the



task assigned to it responsibly as the service has found you worthy to do so. For the secretariat, you are all professionals, tasked with keeping accurate records and ensuring the smooth running of the court.

"I charge you to live up to your professional callings. You are to maintain decorum at all times as well as to respect the sanctity of the court. I assure you that this court would do justice to the accused persons. Justice would equally be done to the state as well as the victims with your corporation and guidance.

"Thus, this court is officially inaugurated

today, 14 March 23. So,

I urge members and officials of this honourable Court martial to be dispassionate in the discharge of their duties. I appeal to you to dispassionately ensure the speedy disposal of these cases as justice delayed is justice denied.

"Finally, as the court progresses with its activities, I pray that the Almighty God gives you the wisdom and guidance, individually and collectively, to discharge your assigned task," Gen. Ali added.



120 Anti-corruption CSOs To Buhari: Bawa Has Been Convicted Twice, Sack Him Now

By: ADO ADELEBOYE, Akure

Frontline Anti-corruption Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) numbering over 130, have resumed their call for the sack of the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Abdulrasheed Bawa, over alleged politicisation of the Commission, Disobedience of Court Orders and Infringement on Human Rights of Nigerians, among others.

The activists who were joined by over 20 Constitutional lawyers, led by Barr. Mogbojuri Kayode of the Citizens Rights Advocacy Group,

noted that the desperation of Bawa to save his face after dishonourable acts in office had taken a laughable turn, insisting that no amount of "purchased CSOs' vote of confidence" would cover the truth about the abnormalities being condoned in EFCC under its current leadership.

They spoke at a joint press conference in Lagos yesterday.

According to them, the EFCC has become so desperate to launder what they called a rapidly diminishing image of Bawa, to the extent that the Commission's spokesman laughably signed a Press Release, recently, informing Nigerians that a Civil Society Organization had passed a vote of confidence in its chairman.

"Isn't it the job of the media to see that and independently report?" they asked.

The leaders of the struggle said it was a thing of honour that, despite the immense pressure mounted on leaders of the "Bawa Must Go" protests to abandon their objective cause, over 120 of the main actors had remained resolute while more had joined in the interest of the rule of law.

The Anti-corruption activists, however, commended President Muhammadu Buhari for bailing the country out of what they described as a Judicial quagmire "by dissociating the Presidency from any act of disobedience to court orders and making the Central Bank of Nigeria comply with a Supreme Court order that extended the validity of old naira notes till December 31, 2023."

"As this is expected to ease the pain of the masses, we hereby call on the President to also wade into the seeming fixation of the EFCC on certain individuals and the desperation of the Chairman of the Commission to score cheap political goals through unwarranted media trials of non-convicted individuals in the country. He should direct Mr. Bawa to step aside until he purges himself of contempt as ruled by a High Court," Spokesperson for the Coalition, Olufemi Lawson, said in a speech delivered on behalf of the activists.

Chairman, Centre for Anti-corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, Debo Adeniran, specifically noted that his organisation had, from the outset, alerted the National Assembly to the fact that Bawa was unfit for the post of EFCC chairman, over alleged corrupt practices and his rumoured relationship with the Attorney-General of the Federation who was believed to have masterminded the travails and eventually removal of Bawa's



predecessor, Ibrahim Magu.

According to him, Bawa's alleged misconduct in office is a confirmation of CACOL's fears of his being a misfit for the position.

Adeniran, who made copies of CACOL's initial objection to Bawa's appointment available to the press, said, "Up till now, he (Bawa) has not cleared himself of all the allegations against him and he has been made to catch other people who committed offences that are not as grievous as the ones that he has been accused of. And on top of all of these, he has been behaving as if he is an authority to himself. And we are now saying that, no matter how highly placed you are, no matter how influential you are, you still are duty-bound to operate within the confines of the laws of our own country. That is the Constitution.

"Nobody is above the law. Everybody should be equal before the law. If we don't allow the rule of law to govern our society, then we are plunging our society into that kingdom where anarchy rules, where there will be chaos and where there will be no control over who does what, and that would be a disorganised society.

"This man has been convicted about two times for flagrant disobedience of court orders. The Inspector-General of Police has been lagging behind in the performance of his duty in this regard, may be because of what they believe should be esprit de corps. Gradually, other agencies would not want to obey the rule of law.

"This would only draw back the gains we have made over the years when we thought that we had struggled ourselves out of the stranglehold of the Military. This is not expected of a born-again democrat that our President now claims to be. For how long will our President allow impunity to govern our society before he knows that he has to exercise his enormous power to insist that the rule of law that he has relied upon over the years holds sway?"

"Those in authority are duty-bound to ensure that judgements of any court, even if by a drunken judge, are implemented

by the Police Force. And if the Police Force refuses to implement it, the President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. He should call them to order, instruct the Inspector-General of Police to implement the order. If the President also refuses to insist that the rule of law should be held sacrosanct, then there would be protests without end.

"We are just observing a break now as a result of the elections which we must all partake in. We will continue until the rule of law is obeyed. Everybody should be equal before the law," the CACOL chairman stated.

Spokesperson for the Transparency and Accountability Group, Ayodeji Ologun, wondered why some people, in the name of CSOs would allow themselves to be used to reinforce failure, contrary to what genuine CSOs stand for, noting that in spite of pressure from different quarters, patriotic activists refused to be bought over.

"The issue of Bawa did not start today. When he was in the Port Harcourt division of the EFCC, he had allegations of misconduct around seized property hanging around his neck. These are allegations that were not cleared because he was forced upon the agency.

"We are repeating that we are not against the fight against corruption. But if the successes of the EFCC must stay, we cannot continue to have an ignoble personality like Abdulrasheed Bawa heading that agency. So we are not just asking the incoming government not to inherit him, we are saying he should be removed from office even before the expiration of the term of President Muhammadu Buhari," he declared.

The anti-corruption CSOs maintained that the Commission had become synonymous with all kinds of scandals, saying, "There are allegations of age falsification to remain in office beyond the statutory limit of civil service regulations. An organization fighting against corruption should not be found enmeshed in such a scandal with the alleged active connivance of the Commission's leadership.

"We call on the IGP to immediately swing into action and thoroughly investigate these allegations and ensure that all culpable personnel face the full weight of the law, including their facilitators."

"We are also not unaware of some sponsored campaigns for the incoming administration to retain the services of Mr Bawa as the head of the EFCC. While we concede that it is the exclusive preserve of the President to appoint whoever is deemed fit to head the EFCC and other similar agencies of government, we cannot but as stakeholders state that Mr. Bawa has become deficient in character and as such should be the least considered by any administration determined to truly fight corruption for such a sensitive position which demands not only professional competency, but also high moral value," they stated.

The 'Bawa Must Go' protests are being led by CACOL Chairman, Debo Adeniran; Executive Director, Zero Graft Centre, Kolawole Sanchez-Jude; Chairman, Coalition Against Corruption and Bad Governance, Toyin Raheem; Executive Director, Centre for Public Accountability, Olufemi Lawson; Spokesperson for the Transparency and Accountability Group, Ayodeji Ologun; Director, Activists for Good Governance, Declan Ihehaire; and Ahmed Balogun of Media Rights Concern, among over 120 notable leaders of Anti-corruption CSOs. Over 20 vibrant constitutional lawyers have also joined the protests.

JOINT SPEECH (FULL TEXT)

Bawa's Desperation Taking a Laughable Turn; A Call On The Inspector-General of Police to Effect Court Order on Mr Abdulrasheed Bawa.

It is a well-known fact that, as credible Civil Society Organizations and activists, we came out en masse for seven consecutive days against the Politicisation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Disobedience of Court Orders and Infringement on Human Rights of Nigerians, under the outgoing Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa.

Rather than act honourably and step aside

Kaduna PDP Guber Running Mate Calls For Arrest Of Perpetrators Of Southern Kaduna Attack

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) gubernatorial running mate to Isa Ashiru, Dr. John Ayuba, has called on security agencies to go after the attackers of Unguwan Wakili in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area, for them to face the full wrath of the law.

He also suggested for a thorough investigation into the causes with a view to ensuring the restoration of permanent peace in the area.

He stated that bringing the perpetrators to face the full wrath of the law is meant to forestall future occurrences in the area and the state.

A statement issued by John Ayuba said, "I received with shock the unfortunate attack on the hapless citizens of Ungwan Wakili in Zangon Kataf LGA of our dear state, between Saturday

11th and the early hours of Sunday 12th March 2023z which claimed 17 innocent lives and left scores of others injured and displaced."

The statement noted that the round of attack is yet another sad commentary on the desire for a secure, peaceful, and united state, saying, "I, therefore, condemn in the strongest terms the attack and call on the security agencies to go after the perpetrators and conduct a thorough investigation into the causes so that they are made to face the full wrath of the law, while measures to forestall future occurrences must be adopted forthwith."

He commiserated with the government and people of Zangon-Kataf Local Government Area, particularly the Atyap Chiefdom, over the loss of loved ones and property and appeal to them to remain

calm and vigilant.

He appealed to the Federal and State Governments to direct the relevant emergency agencies to immediately provide relief materials to the displaced to forestall any humanitarian crisis in the affected areas.

The running mate prayed for God to grant eternal rest to all those killed and healing to those injured, and comfort to those who lost their loved ones in the attack.

He said that with the right and responsive leadership in the state, these kinds of challenges can be nipped in the bud and called on electorate to elect only leaders who have demonstrated the willingness and capacity to restore security, peace, unity, and progress in the state come March 18, 2023.

He assured that together with Isa Mohammed Ashiru, the

gubernatorial candidate, security remains their number one priority in creating a Kaduna State of their dream, where everyone and every section can sleep and go about their legitimate businesses without the fear of being molested, abducted, maimed or killed.



Dr. John Ayuba,

120 Anti-corruption CSOs To Buhari: Bawa Has Been Convicted Twice, Sack Him Now

in view of his status as a convicted official, Mr. Bawa has continued to act as if Nigerian laws are made differently for different Nigerians. He has continued to approach the courts to secure convictions in alleged criminal matters even when he has remained defiant to the judgments of the same courts.

To the best of our knowledge, the judgment committing the EFCC Chairman to Kuje prison for contempt has yet to be upturned by any higher court in the country. Our position therefore remains that the subsisting Court orders must be obeyed before any further actions can be considered by Mr. Bawa.

Recall that at the last town hall meeting of this Coalition, we requested through a seven-day ultimatum, that the Inspector General of Police enforce the order of the court and ensure the arrest of Mr Bawa as ordered. Today, we are here to restate that the Inspector-General of Police is duty-bound as directed by the court to produce Mr Bawa in order to ensure that he serves his prison term.

We want to, on this note, commend President Muhammadu Buhari for bailing the country out of a Judicial quagmire by dissociating the Presidency from any act of disobedience to court orders and making the Central Bank of Nigeria comply with a Supreme

Court order that extended the validity of old naira notes till December 31, 2023.

As this is expected to ease the pain of the masses, we hereby call on the President to wade into the seeming fixation of the EFCC on certain individuals and the desperation of the Chairman of the Commission to score cheap political goals through unwarranted media trials of non-convicted individuals in the country. He should direct Mr. Bawa to step aside until he purges himself of contempt as ruled by the High Court.

Furthermore, as the country looks forward to a new leadership, in the next few months, under the administration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, it is our view, as stakeholders in the Nigerian project, that priority must be given to the restructuring of several agencies in our country, key among which is the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, as presently constituted.

Today, the commission has become synonymous with all sorts of scandals, including those involving senior personnel of the commission. There are allegations of age falsification to remain in office beyond the statutory limit of civil service regulations. An organization fighting against corruption should not be found enmeshed in such a scandal with the alleged

active connivance of the Commission's leadership. We call on the IGP to immediately swing into action and thoroughly investigate these allegations and ensure that all culpable personnel face the full weight of the law, including their facilitators.

We are also not unaware of some sponsored campaigns for the incoming administration to retain the services of Mr Bawa as the head of the EFCC. While we concede that it is the exclusive preserve of the President to appoint whoever is deemed fit to head the EFCC and other similar agencies of government, we cannot but as stakeholders state that Mr. Bawa has become deficient in character and as such should be the least considered by any administration determined to truly fight corruption for such a sensitive position which demands not only professional competency, but also high moral value.

Let us also use this opportunity to remind those, who are being used to cheaply blackmail this Coalition of veteran anti-corruption CSOs that we have a history. We have pedigrees. We have credibility. We have a genuine cause we are pursuing to save the sanctity of our Judiciary - the last hope of the common man, and we cannot be bought. We cannot have an EFCC chairman who will be

sentenced every other week for contempt. That's corrosive corruption.

Right from inception, most of our Coalition partners have been collaborating with the EFCC. We have stood by the Commission when corrupt power mongers attempted to blackmail it. We have written tons of petitions to the Commission exposing corrupt public officials and have defended same severally.

It must also be noted clearly, that we are not opposed to the Commission's mandate to fight corruption, but we are opposed to the seeming politicisation of the agency under Mr. Bawa, its clear fixation on certain individuals in the society, needless media trial, corruption within the agency, and the manner in which EFCC officials act above the law by corrupting our judicial processes with impunity.

There is no greater corruption than trampling on the institutions that mediate among citizens and between them and the State.

In the desperation to launder a rapidly diminishing image of Bawa, it is laughable that, recently, the Commission's Spokesman signed a Press Release informing Nigerians that an unknown Civil Society Organization passed a vote of confidence on its chairman after our protests. Isn't it the job of the

media to see that and independently report?

The 7-day ultimatum given to the IGP to effect the Court's orders expired weeks ago. The President must direct that the EFCC boss obey court order first before appealing.

It is on this basis that we stand by our call for Bawa to go until he purges himself of clandestinely disobeying our courts.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

On aluta for justice we stand.

Signed:
CACOL'S Executive Chairman, Debo Adeniran;
Barr. Mogbojuri Kayode, Executive Director, Citizens Rights Advocacy Group;
Executive Director, Zero Graft Centre, Kolawole Sanchez-Jude;
Chairman, Coalition Against Corruption and Bad Governance, Toyin Raheem;
Executive Director, Centre for Public Accountability, Olufemi Lawson;
Spokesperson for the Transparency and Accountability Group, Ayodeji Ologun;
Director, Activists for Good Governance, Declan Ihekhaire;
Gbenga Soloki, CDHR
Ahmed Balogun, Media Rights Concern, among over 120 notable leaders of Anti-corruption CSOs.

Northeast Progressives Youths Passes Vote Of Confidence On NEDC

By; AMOS TAINA, Kaduna

A group, the Northeast Progressives Youths, has condemned the allegations made by Al-Mushahid Initiative for Transparency and Accountability, and the People's Advocacy for Transparency and Accountability that over N140bn budgetary allocations meant for the execution of some projects were mismanaged by the North East Development Commission (NEDC).

A statement issued by the chairman, Northeast Progressives Youths, Mohammed Adamu Grema, said "The attention of the North East Progressives Youth Forum has been drawn to media publications, wherein the duo of Al-Mushahid Initiative for Transparency and Accountability, and the People's Advocacy for Transparency and Accountability, gave the Managing Director of the North East Development Commission a three-working-day ultimatum, from Monday next week, to respond to their allegations, before the issue is reported to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the Nigerian Police Force, and other anti-graft agencies.

"The two kangaroos "transparency and civil society groups" have called on the Managing Director of the North-East Development Commission, Mohammed Alkali, to respond to allegations of mismanagement of budgetary allocations, amounting to N146,191,606,649.25.

"Ordinarily, we wouldn't have dignified these urban hustlers and blackmailers with a response, however, for the sake of posterity, it has become imperative for us to set the record straight and expose this mobile Civil Society Organization for who they are and to equally draw the attention of the world to the successes recorded by the Managing Director of the Northeast Development Commission within the

period of his reign."

The statement explained that the group alleges that over 140bn budgetary allocations meant for the execution of some projects were mismanaged, saying, "We expected them to have known that budgetary provision is a mere estimate and not outright availability of resources. Only a jejune mind would assume that what is budgeted for in a financial year, translates to actual release in the midst negative economic downturn occasioned by the Russia-Ukraine War and poor income from sales of crude, which is the mainstay of our economy caused by pipelines vandals."

The forum explained that with the recent creation of the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit to complement the activities of EFCC and ICPC, a single commission can't misappropriate such a humongous amount without consequences, more so that the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has Zero tolerance for corruption.

The statement added that the briefcase CSOs stated in their media statement that their action is based on a rumor they got from some residents of the Northeast that the groups also said that community members and groups in the North-East had written to them, alleging that projects which the commission was funded for had been abandoned without an account for how the funds had been used.

According to the statement, there is nowhere it was shown

that the Abuja-based CSOs traveled to the Northeast to verify such claims, which would warrant their provoking three days ultimatum and wondered when a recently assemble CSOs started receiving petitions from the public to enable them to write further petitions.

It lamented that the group rather than being resolute, resorted to pleading with the MD of the commission to respond to them, stressing that there is no serious CSO that would turn to a beggar of response from the head of agencies.

"It is our considered opinion that repeated letters emanating from the kangaroo CSOs and a final resort to media trial of the NEDC are aimed at blackmailing them into negotiation for pecuniary gains.

"We equally noticed that in their long statement, there is nowhere they made specific allegations against the Commission besides incoherently beating around the bush.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the NEDC has achieved so much in the following areas:

The Commission, in line with its strategic plan to improve access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT), established ICT Resource Centres in each of the six States in the Region which are hosted in tertiary. At least 4,000 selected youths have been trained in those centres," the forum explained. According to the forum, the commission has ensured the Establishment and

Construction of Burns Centres at FMC Yola, Adamawa, and UMTH Maiduguri, Borno States respectively. Covid 19 and other Contagious Diseases Laboratories in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States are equipped with State of the Art facilities. they equally Donated Ambulances, Ventilators, Hospital beds, and PPE among other critical medical equipment.

In other to address the issue of housing, the statement observed that the NEDC has constructed 1000 Mass Housing Units at Ngwom Town, Mafa LGA, and currently, construction of 500 Mass Housing Units is ongoing in the States of Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe respectively.

It added that the Commission has equally invested much in the construction of Roads to boost economic activities and link up communities that were isolated by terrorist elements. Below are some of the roads the commission is embarking on in Borno State, the Commission is constructing the 22.5km Jere Bowl Area Roads Network (Phase I) while in Bauchi State, NEDC is reconstructing Kirfi to Gombe Abba 53km Road and drainages /culverts on Alkaleri-Futuk Road and in Gombe State, 53km Gombe-Abba-Kirfi Road.

Other Road projects, according to the statement included the 54km Mutai-Ngalda Road in Yobe State, the reconstruction of the

Kudzum bridge on Mubi - Bama Road, 32km Garkida-Dabna Road as well as 2.5km Road at College of Education Hong, in addition to Jabbi Lamba-Belel Transborder Road in Adamawa State and reconstructed Mayo Ndaga bridge in Taraba State.

Due to the impressive performance of the Commission in various Sectors, the forum noted that the National Assembly has on different occasions, commended it for its superlative achievements and gave it clean bill of health and similar commendations also came from other private and public organizations which even conferred awards on the Commission, saying that they are not here to blow the trumpet of the Commission but if the truth must be told, within its short period of existence, NEDC has impacted positively on the lives of millions of people in the region and the number is still growing.

As youth from the region, the statement explained that they won't fold our arms and allow "Toronto CDOs" blackmail the head of the commission that is giving hope to our people through laudable interventions in the areas of provisions of shelter, water, schools, etc and collect huge sum of money to massage their ego and insatiable greed for luxury.

The forum called on security agencies to close in on these professional blackmailers to deter them from distracting the Commission from delivering on their mandate.

"According to the forum, the commission has ensured the Establishment and Construction of Burns Centres at FMC Yola, Adamawa, and UMTH Maiduguri, Borno States respectively. Covid 19 and other Contagious Diseases Laboratories in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States are equipped with State of the Art facilities. they equally Donated Ambulances, Ventilators, Hospital beds, and PPE among other critical medical equipment."

GO-CARES: Governor Inuwa's Effective Apparatus For Human Capital Development In Gombe State

By; SAFIYANU DANLADI MAIRIGA

It is about two years after the whole world was thrown into pandemonium as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global health emergency that has wreaked havoc and inflicted far-reaching consequences on the economy, basic services, food security and overall social prosperity and livelihood of the people; the effects that we are yet to fully recover from.

As the governor worriedly noted, "We saw global economies enter recessions, livelihoods disrupted and millions of jobs lost in an unprecedented manner with recovery just beginning, this makes the GO-CARES programme not only timely but essential. The Challenges of Covid-19 and the global economic meltdown have certainly made us more strategic and focused in our development drive".

In Gombe State, like in other states of Nigeria, the pandemic led to the closure of many MSEs, loss of jobs, and stalled provision of basic services in poor communities thereby increasing the population of those living below the poverty line.

In his efforts to cushion these adverse effects in the Jewel state, the governor has leveraged the available opportunities, upturning the fortune of Gombe State by improving its human capital base, thereby taking the state back on track for economic recovery and development.

As an accountant and a fulfilled businessman with enormous experience in the private sector, Governor Inuwa happened to be among the few state governors that subscribed to the Federal Government's Economic Sustainability Plan, the Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus, NG-CARES and domesticated the programme to support his people in responding to the COVID-19 crisis by restoring the livelihoods and food security of poor and vulnerable households and promoting recovery of



Medium and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in the state.

In line with the provision of the good policies of the APC-led Administration, as encapsulated in the 10-Year Development Plan of Gombe State which is in consonance with the Sustainable Development Goals No.1 of the United Nations aimed at eradicating poverty by the year 2030, Governor Inuwa formally launched Gombe State Covid-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus, GO-CARES project in July 2022.

More than 8.5 billion Naira was budgeted to support 288,700 households, farmers, small scale businesses across the nooks and crannies of the state, and since the formal flag-off, the beneficiaries of different packages of the programme

have been receiving their interventions through livelihood grants, social transfers among others.

From this amount, N3.4 billion was allotted to supporting poor and vulnerable households with grants and basic services to improve their living standard and reduce the effects of COVID-19 on them. Another N3.4 billion was allocated to support farmers with farm inputs to increase food production and enhance the performance of the food supply value chain thereby strengthening food security in the state. Under this category, hundreds of farmers have collected bags of fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides, hybrid seeds, and other farm inputs free of charge.

More so, the sum of N1.7 billion was disbursed as grants to MSMEs to support their operational activities and help them recover from the huge losses suffered during the pandemic. To ensure equitable distribution of the beneficiaries across all regions of the state, In each of the 2988 polling units of the state, a good number of men and women received 30,000 and 20,000 Naira

respectively; totaling about 24,820 beneficiaries.

Another set of 1000 youths comprising young men and women also benefited from GO-CARES facilities relating to their vocations. Facilities that include Laptop computer systems, P.O.S Devices, and Solar facilities among others.

In another sub-programme, GO-CARES assisted about 62,876 people with 10,000 Naira each every month for 2 years uninterruptedly under Labour Intensive Public Work (LIPW) package to improve resilience and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the livelihood of the especially common man.

Recently, Governor Inuwa Yahaya approved the disbursement of the sum of 450 million Naira for Go-Cares, where 9,000 beneficiaries cashed out 50 thousand naira each across all the wards of the 11 LGAs of Gombe State.

These huge interventions are meant to improve access to basic services to support economic recovery, boost food production and enhance the livelihood of the people in the post-COVID era.

The launch and implementation of the Gombe GO-CARES by Governor Inuwa is just a consolidation of the long list of social and economic interventions already embarked upon by the Gombe State Government. The Inuwa-led Administration has consistently placed a premium on human capital development; perhaps with a clear understanding that people without a financial opportunity for economic growth may just be a perfect recipe for catastrophe and disaster.

But, with GO-CARES, among other good policies and programs, Gombe State has become a model in human capital development accelerating more and better investment in people for greater equity, economic growth, and prosperity.

Safiyanu Danladi Mairiga writes from Gombe State



Adamawa Guber: Aishatu Dahiru Binani On Brink Of History

*Heralding the ascension of Nigeria's towering amazon to seat of power

*Why Fintiri mimicks her projects

*Survey gives her 70 percent margin of victory

*How her fear pushes Fintiri to go on overdrive, engage in last minute vote buying

*Real reasons why she enjoys cult like follower-ship

By; DAHIRU SANI

Adamawa State, the land of beauty is on the threshold of history as Senator Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed Binani is set to make a triumphant entry into the Dougirei seat of power as the first elected female governor in Nigeria's political annals come March 18, 2023.

Going by the pulse of the state one can say with absolute certainty and precision that Binani is only few days away from the government house as her election as the successor to governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri is a fait accompli if popular votes are the drivers of electoral victory.

Apart from former governor Murtala Nyako, no governorship candidate enjoyed an unprecedented, cult like follower-ship and the goodwill Binani is currently enjoying which made many to believe that the March 18 election is going to be a walk over as Binani makes a scintillating and spectacular outing to the Dougirei seat of power.

Her popularity was reinforced by a survey recently conducted by an independent survey firm, Democracy Watch Network (DWN) in one of the biggest vox populi ever conducted in the state.

According to Mr. Stephen Godwin head research, planning and statistics, of DWN, Binani is set to emerge victorious with about 70 percent margin of victory which is unprecedented in the history of election in the state.

He said the survey which was carried out meticulously in the course of nine months involved over 500,000 respondents across the 21 local governments of the state with 95% degree of confidence.

He noted that women, youth and the people living with disability have the greatest preference for the female candidate as 80 percent of them endorsed her ambition. They expressed optimism that with Binani occupying the driver's seat in Adamawa, they expect enhanced lifestyles, serious empowerment drive and a robust social investment packages which will save many families from the rampaging poverty currently ravaging the state.

Also corroborating DWN, a politician in Adamawa State, Sen. Ahmed Barata predicted a landslide victory for the female politician going by the avalanche of goodwill she enjoys on account of her meritorious service to the people.

"I have no doubt that the sassy, ebullient and enigmatic candidate of APC, senator Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed Binani a woman with large heart and a solid reputation of philanthropy and excellent service to humanity will trounce her male contenders especially the governor anytime any day.

"Sen. Binani, has paid her dues in leadership excellence and service to humanity; attributes that project her well above her competitors and will reap

abundantly from the reservoir of goodwill she invested for years in the people.

"Binani has brought glamour, allure and colour to the all important business of leadership. Her sojourn into the realm of public service and politics has yielded unprecedented dividends to the people. Binani has broken leadership myths of under performance, raised the bar of good governance and upped the expectations of people from those they invested their future in. This has brought a paradigm shift of enhanced performance by those we elected in Adamawa State," he said.

How destiny, people's will pushed Binani into politics

Binani's sojourn into politics is predicated by destiny and the people's prodding, two factors that conspired to push her into the game of numbers even against the will of her husband, Dr. Ahmed Modibbo at first instance.

Before she joined politics, Sen Binani was a budding young business woman who invested heavily on the people. Because of her interest to touch the lives of the people through philanthropy, she opened an NGO under whose canopy she began her massive empowerment drive in Yola South and Yola North being her immediate constituency.

Through that rare gesture, Binani was able to bring succour and relief to poor households, engaged in massive empowerment of women, youths and people living with disability, provided scholarships to orphans and other indigent students as well as ambulances to both christians and Muslims in the two local governments and many more.

Like the proverbial golden fish, Binani's giant intervention which was phenomenal in history attracted massive goodwill to her from the people who issued a fiat directing her to go into politics so as to serve them better.

But as a married woman Binani referred them to her husband Dr. Modibbo who told them point blank that his wife is not carrying out the humanitarian intervention for reward and hence he declined the request.

The people who could not allow a good opportunity to pass by remained undaunted and kept pushing till Dr. Modibbo surrendered and gave his wife the green light to go ahead because of the belief that the prodding of the people is archetypal to a national call to duty.

Infact, Binani earned her popular political acclaim and sobriquet Kiran Jama'a (call to national duty) from that happenstance. In the first instance the people prodded her to represent Yola South, Yola North and Girei federal constituency. With the support of the people she became the first female in history to represent her people at that level. After satisfactory representation culminating in massive accrual of democracy dividends never



Aishatu Dahiru Binani

witnessed before, the people again promoted her to the Senate.

After a spectacular performance at the Nigerian senate, the people also deemed it fit to again prod the amazon for a higher call of duty which translates to her phenomenal victory at the APC governorship primaries where she defeated her five male opponents comprehensively to the extent that the cumulative votes scored by the five candidates are less than her votes.

"It should be stressed here that Binani has never vied for any political office on account of her personal interest. She is always pushed by the people that is why she is in the habit of winning elections with landslides because it is the people who want her not the other way round.

"And the covenant between her and the electorate has been fulfilling and rewarding. On their parts the people willingly give her their mandates and she in return provides dividends of democracy to them.

"The reason why people asked her to vie for governorship position is due to her sturdy performance while in the senate. Despite being a senator she works like a governor by carrying out capital intensive projects like building of roads, hospitals, sinking of industrial boreholes providing empowerment packages and starter packs to hundreds of thousands of people. She has also made good laws whose impacts will outlive her.

"As a senator, she also turned Adamawa into her constituency as people from Madagali to Toungo, Guyuk to Belel recieved her support in the areas of skills acquisition, provision of empowerment

packages, farm implements and starter packs which really helped a lot of families.

"Many people thought Binani won the last APC governorship primaries because of the influence of women. That is not true. Binani won that election overwhelmingly because she is the most sought after candidate who got genuine support from men and women alike as a payback for her immense gestures.

"She will still replicate similar feat of victory in the coming governorship election more than the primaries because the people will come out en masse to vote for her on account of her goodwill, track record of excellence ebullience, empathy and higher expectations," Barata added.

Fintiri mimicks Binani's gesture, earns rebuke as people cry foul

But in his attempt to score a political point, Governor Fintiri has in a move many described as copycat, has been forced to take detour from his vow not to accord the people the much sought after "stomach infrastructure" which equates to empowerment by hastily organizing what could be described as a vote buying frenzy days after the March 11, governorship and state assembly election was postponed.

The governor according to reports has pencilled down Tuesday for the program in which no fewer than 10,000 women will receive a token of N50,000 from the governor.

But political analyst in the state who described the governor's move as an attempt to buy people's conscience rebuked him for his primitive desperation and abuse of privileges and perks of

Zulum Promotes 5 Magistrates To High Court Justices

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State has sworn in five new high court judges towards accelerating effective litigation and dispensation of justice in the state judiciary.

While presiding over the swearing-in ceremony at the Government House Council Chamber Maiduguri, the governor said as tradition demands, in the judiciary, whenever the National Judicial Commission (NJC) recommends promotion of judges, it is duty bound in the state executive to inaugurate such judges.

He also appealed to the new judges to continue to demonstrate good conduct and be loyal, as well as obedient to

constituted authorities and the government, stressing that the judiciary is the last hope of the common man in the society.

The newly sworn in High Court Judges confirmed by the National Judicial Council (NJC) include, Buna Makinta, Bukar Malgwi Umar, Mohammed Maina, Hafsatu Isah Bappah and Amina Mustapha Ibrahim.

The State Chief Judge, Borno State, Justice Kashim Zannah administered both the Oath of allegiance and Oath of Office to the five new high court judges.

He appealed to the state government to endeavour to improve on the welfare packages of the workers of the state judiciary.

While the Acting Attorney General and Commissioner for

Justice, Hauwa Abubakar, thanked the governor for his support and assistance to the ministry, while soliciting for more support to the judicial workers.

She further assured of continuous loyalty and effective performance of the judiciary workers in the state while appreciating the state's chief judge for his support and cooperation.



Zulum



Jacob Ogunseye Bags Greater Life Foundation Excellence Award

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

It was a different ball game over the weekend, as the Publisher of the Reflector Newspaper, Mr Jacob Ogunseye was given an award for excellence in recognition of his "human development and Philanthropic Achievements".

According to the president of the foundation, Mr Ogunseye has presented himself as a disciplined and selfless individual through his philanthropic efforts. Greater Life Foundation President, Mr Sinaola Jegede revealed that the award represents one its best for the people in the category.

Receiving the award in Ibadan on behalf of Mr Ogunseye, Mr Victor Okeunmi, who is a senior editor of the newspaper, described the award as a dream come true. According to Mr Okeunmi, Mr Ogunseye was delighted with his nomination and expressed readiness to work harder to

bring smiles to the less privileged in society.

Okeunmi said the award marks a new beginning, a new era as he hopes it will ginger the recipient to do more in society, he also congratulated Greater Life Foundation for the honour saying that they won't be let down.

Adamawa Guber: Aishatu Dahiru Binani On Brink Of History

office.

They urged those lucky to be involved by the superfluous empowerment to collect the package but vote according to their conscience during the coming election as vote buying constitutes a gross human rights abuse.

They recalled that due to the governor's failure to assist the people, one of his associates, Hon. Umar openly counsels the governor to direct his energy in providing succour to ameliorate the suffering of the citizens, but the governor through one of his aides Saidu Sarkin Zana excoriated and blackmailed Umar for daring to tell truth to power and even forced Umar to withdraw his statement on the strength that the governor was not happy with his submission.

Feelers from the government house indicated that after INEC shifted the governorship and state assembly election from March 11, to March 18, the governor planned a deceptive

empowerment package ostensibly to empower 10,000 women. But investigation indicated that the number is over exaggerated as the women pencilled down for empowerment are in the region of 600.

"The governor has no such plans to empower the women but Binani's serious empowerment is making him to lose sleep. So the shift of the polls offered him a window to deceive our mothers by lying that he will empower about 10,000 of them with N50,000 capital to start businesses.

"In truth, the program is a complete sham and dead on arrival. It is stage managed to deceive the women as the government does not have the capacity to compile the names of 10,000 women within a short period of time. So instead a handful number of women that may pass as mistresses, concubines and relatives to some highly placed people were quickly put together for the ruse," a source close

to the government house said.

Another fear induced action taken by the governor as a result of the Binani phenomenon is the proscription of activities of NGOs over a phantom allegation of vote buying. The rash and imperious action as expected has precipitated considerable disquiet in the state as stakeholders said such action is a crude display of power and an attempt to muscle peoples rights at will.

Feelers also reveal that the governor has few weeks ago in a futile attempt to deny Binani the opportunity to participate in the election has sought an expert motion to debar her from participating in the polls but sources said the attempt was frustrated by the judiciary which asserted her independence by refusing to tow the governor's doomed path.

Why Binani enjoys cult follower-ship in Adamawa

Binani currently straddles Adamawa political space like a colossus and

enjoyed massive goodwill from the people on account of her passion, empathy, support and down to earth posture.

She is a woman that can go to any length to fight for the development of her state and the people through direct empowerment, life changing projects and impactful laws.

A conservative estimate has it that since her sojourn into politics, Binani has empowered no fewer than 100,000 people and has addressed multi-dimensional poverty which straddles many communities.

"In the last four years, Binani has carried out a number of critical life changing projects that only a governor can attempt and touches the lives of all Adamawa citizens despite being only a senator. Such display of wit, spiritedness, valour and can do spirit was the major reason why she will win election in Adamawa State any day," Hon. Sen Barata added.

PDP Sick Upstairs - Fayose

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chieftain and a former Governor of Ekiti State, Mr. Ayodele Fayose on Monday, declared that his party is "sick upstairs now".

Featuring on Fresh FM 105.9 Ibadan live interview programme, "Situation Room" monitored by the New Nigerian, the PDP Chieftain said with the outcome of the February 25 polls, it is glaring that the battle in PDP has just started.

Mr Fayose stressed that it will not be possible for the PDP National Chairman, Dr Iyiocha Ayu to lead any meeting of the party with the loss suffered by the party at the last election. The former governor

pointed out that PDP as a party with its present leadership has lost the election even before it was held going by the prolonged internal crisis rocking the party.

Mr Fayose maintained that prior to the February 25 election, PDP as a political party had been so fragmented and divided into factions as a result of the failure of its leadership to manage the party.

According to Mr Fayose, going by the outcome of the Presidential election, it is glaring that Senator Ayu can no longer lead the party and should quit for the reorganization of the party.

He however, declared that PDP is the party to beat in the March 18 governorship and the House of Assembly elections across the

country.

On the February 25 Presidential election won by Asiwaju Bola Tinubu the former governor of Ekiti State disclosed that in his own opinion, the election was credible, free and fair.

Mr Fayose who likened the February 25 polls to that of 1993 won by late Chief MKO Abiola which according to him was equally credible, free and fair, said Nigerians should commend President Muhammadu Buhari for having a credible free and fair election going by the outcome of the elections in some parts of the country.

Advising those not satisfied with the results of the election to without wasting time accept it in good faith and allow the country to move forward, said to show that the

election was credible free and fair, President Buhari lost his Katsina state to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Presidential candidate while the President elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu also lost in Lagos state as well as in Osun state.

Mr Fayose stressed that if it was to be in the past, there was no way the Mr Peter Obi of Labour Party could lead Asiwaju Tinubu in an election in Lagos state, and that it was glaring that everybody won where they are loved.

"As far as I am concerned, the February 25 election that brought Tinubu as President elect was credible, free and fair. If Buhari can lose Katsina to Atiku and if Tinubu can lose Lagos and Osun states, what are we now saying", he said.

Electoral Act Violation: Handover Case Files To INEC For Prosecution, IGP Usman Directs CPs

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Inspector-General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba has directed Commissioners of Police in charge of State Commands to ensure that investigations in all cases of violations against the 2022 Electoral Act during the February 25th 2023 Presidential and National Assembly electioneering process are swiftly concluded and the case files forwarded to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for prosecution.

Usman gave the charge in a statement by the Force Public Relations Officer CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made available to journalists on Monday.

In a bid to ensure all-inclusive election security management and accord Nigerians benefits, leverage of active participation, to achieve free, fair, and credible Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly elections on 18th March, 2023,

According to the release, the IGP tasked Strategic Police Managers to engage stakeholders in their respective jurisdictions through town hall meetings and other viable avenues, in a bid to ensure all-inclusive election security management and accord Nigerians benefits, leverage of active participation, to achieve free, fair, and credible Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly elections on 18th March, 2023,

The Inspector-General of Police has therefore urged well-meaning members of the public to collaborate with the Police and other law enforcement agencies tasked with election security management, to ensure a hitch-free security architecture for all and sundry particularly the electorates, accredited observers, INEC officials and materials so that all citizens can exercise their franchise without molestation, harassment and security threats.

Eight Guber Candidates Endorse Governor Inuwa For Second Term

**Call on supporters, party members to follow suit*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As preparations for gubernatorial and state assembly elections reach it climax, the reelection bid of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has received major a boost as eight governorship candidates from the opposition parties in Gombe State endorsed his candidacy, pledging their support and allegiance towards his success in the forthcoming election.

The State Chairman, Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC), who is also the gubernatorial candidate of Zenith Labour Party, Muhammad Gana Aliyu made the pronouncement while addressing newsmen at his office in Gombe.

He explained that the endorsement was made after a long and careful deliberation on the achievements of the present government under the leadership of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya.

"We arrived at this logical decision after carefully assessing Governor

Inuwa's general performance especially in the areas of peace, security, education, health, infrastructure and humanitarian services across the state", he said.

The IPAC Chairman explained that the gubernatorial candidates who unanimously endorsed the Gombe State Governor and the APC Candidate are: Muhammad Gana Aliyu of Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), Sulaiman Abubakar Sunusi of National Rescue Movement (NRM), Sadiq Abdulhamid of Boot Party (BP) and Adamu Muhammad of Action Peoples Party (APP).

Others are Sulaiman Jibrin of Action Democratic Party (ADP), Adamu Aliyu Danmakka of African Action Congress (AAC), Kelmi Jacob Lazarus of Social



Gov Inuwa Yahaya

Democratic Party (SDP) and Muhammad Bello Abubakar of Allied Peoples Party (APP).

The candidates called on their supporters to vote for Governor Inuwa Yahaya to enable him consolidate on his developmental drive for sustainable growth.

The eight gubernatorial candidates who willfully granted their endorsement

to the governor are among the 13 candidates who signed the peace accord organised by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC Gombe State in collaboration with Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security, ICCES on February, 15th this year.

Oyo APC To Makinde: You Can't Get Tinubu's Attention Through Use Blackmail

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) on Monday, asked Governor Seyi Makinde to forget about currying the President elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu's support in the March 18 governorship election.

Oyo APC in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan by its Publicity Secretary, Comrade Wale Sadare, declared that the President elect is comfortable with the choice of Senator Teslim Folarin as the party's governorship candidate in the state and will support him.

The party stressed that Senator Folarin as the party's governorship candidate, "is the person the President elect, Asiwaju Tinubu would work with to uplift Oyo State" and that Gov Makinde should forget about the alleged claim that he had an agreement of partnership on the ongoing general election with the President-elect, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, "For the avoidance of doubt, Sen. Tinubu is abreast of happenings in Oyo State's political space and he is comfortable with the choice of Sen. Teslim Folarin as the next governor of the Pacesetter and the person with him he would work to uplift our dear state." he said

Oyo APC added, "again, we make bold to ask whether it is Gov. Makinde who caused Oyo to be the state which gave Sen. Bola Tinubu the highest number of delegate votes at the APC presidential primary last year.

"We also put it to the governor and his sympathizers to bring out any media material or document in which he (Makinde) mentioned Tinubu as his choice presidential candidate before the declaration of poll results by INEC even as they have not produced the agreement they claim Asiwaju signed with the G5 governors."

It further accused Governor Makinde of an alleged, "overt and covert but futile efforts geared towards creating false impression about being instrumental to the emergence of Sen. Tinubu as the President-elect with a view to positioning himself for a soft landing at the next poll coming up this Saturday".

Oyo APC maintained, "rather than respond to the challenge which we threw last week on this same subject matter, Gov. Makinde has continued to hide behind a finger by sponsoring some misguided individuals to spread the fake news about a purported agreement between the President-elect and the five aggrieved PDP governors referred to as G5. Gov.

Southern Kaduna Killings: No Arrests Made Since 2016, SOKAPU Alleges

By; AMOS TAUNA,
Kaduna

The Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU), has alleged with concerns that since 2016, when the killings took turn for the worst in the area, there is no evidence that any culprit has been arrested and prosecuted.

Mr Luka Binniyat, SOKAPU's spokesman, in a statement stated, "SOKAPU condemns in no small terms the carnage visited on Unguwan Wakali by enemies of peace and humanity. In more than the 200 invasions of communities of Southern Kaduna, in which thousands of lives were wasted and no less than 245 communities displaced all as a result of herdsmen and bandits attacks, no form of assistance has been rendered to survivors by Kaduna State government."

They called on the international community to help put pressure on both Kaduna and the Federal Government to bring the killers to justice and to provide the IDPs

with essential needs.

"We are also calling on our youths to exercise restraint in the face of these provocations and give full cooperation to security agents while keeping vigilance over their communities," the forum pleaded.

According to SOKAPU, last Saturday, 11th March, 2023, between 8 and 9pm, marauding armed herdsmen laid siege on Unguwan Wakili, in Atypa Chiefdom, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area (LGA), in Southern Kaduna killing 17 persons and escaping into the night, saying that the ever busy Kafanchan - Saminaka Express way cuts the town into two halves, because of its accessibility to other parts of the state, Unguwan Wakili has become rather cosmopolitan.

The statement explained that earlier on that Saturday, according to reports reaching SOKAPU, herdsmen caused a skirmish at the main checkpoint on the eastern entrance of the village when they rode provocatively on four

motor bikes in pairs in a manner that drew the suspicion of the Mobile Police (Mopol) manning the check point, stressing that one of the riders was shot on the leg during the altercation and the rest fled on foot, leaving behind their bikes as one Mopol was shot from a stray bullet by his colleague.

The statement added that the retreating herdsmen later cornered an isolated farmer returning to Unguwan Wakili, pursued him into a harvested yam farm and butchered him to death, pointing out that as tension became high that Saturday evening, the Mopol were promptly replaced by a contingent of the military who have an operation camp on the fringes of the village bordering Zangon Kataf town.

It further explained that though the signs were very ominous that the killers would return at night, there appeared to poor vigilance on the parts of the villagers and those sent to protect them, saying that the herdsmen came around 8pm when most

households just had or where preparing supper.

It said rattling gunshots sounds from the southern end of the town took everyone off guard, explaining that from that angle they invaded the village, the checkpoint taken over by the military was not more than 600m away.

By the time the killers left, the statement explained that 16 persons lay lifeless, while one later died of her wounds in the hospital, bringing the dead toll from the invasion to 17 in Unguwan Wakili on Saturday.

Of those killed, statement stated that an Igbo woman and her two children were among those killed, saying that compiling the profiles of the murdered victims is still ongoing as not all were natives of Unguwan Wakili.

The statement lamented that as usual with such invasions, no arrest has been made but instead, the Chairman of Zango Kataf LGAs, Mr Francis Zimbo, has slammed a 24-hour curfew on Unguwan Wakili and immediate environs.

All Hands Must Be On Deck To Reduce Fire Disasters In Nigeria - NEMA DG

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

All hands must be on deck to reduce fire disasters and all associated human and material losses across Nigeria and beyond. Government agencies, corporate organizations, private businesses and individuals should endeavor to leverage on insurance companies to safeguard and protect their properties and businesses as a form of risk transfer in case of fire and other unforeseen disaster incidences.

Director General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mustapha Habib Ahmed expressed this in a statement he personally signed and made available to our correspondent on Monday March 13, 2023.

"As part of our responsibility to save lives and safeguard properties, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) deemed it necessary to call on all stakeholders including State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs), Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs), all tiers of governments, Fire Services, Health Services, Town Planning authorities, Security Agencies, Rescue Services, Communities, NGOs, CBOs, Schools, Markets, Factories and the media to help generate and disseminate the right awareness and prepare the public for necessary responses to fire disasters. "Efforts should aim at measures and procedures for averting fire outbreaks, early detection and timely response to save lives and minimize damage and economic losses," he said.

He explained that the main goal of NEMA and its partners is to save lives and properties and no effort and resources committed is too much or too little in this regards. Hence he said, NEMA has noted with concern the

recurrent fire incidents in the past few days, which have affected some communities and markets. "It is on record that the unfortunate incidents have been characterized by complete razing down residential buildings, markets and other public buildings thereby leading to loss of lives and livelihoods.

"Fire, like any other disaster has been part of human existence, but the frequency and impacts of this in recent weeks has necessitated a serious concern and call for action by all stakeholders including communities and individuals to address the rising losses from the disaster.

"In December last year, I had the cause to alert the public on the dangers of fire disasters during the dry season. As with the onset of the dry season, the present onset of the rain season is also characterized by typical windstorms that easily propagate combustible matter in form of dry vegetation and agricultural wastes constitute a strong driver to fire outbreaks," he said. He pointed out that the best firefighting technique is prevention.

"The best way to prevent a fire is to create awareness and develop a culture of safety and resilience among authorities, communities and individual members of the public," he stressed.

While reiterating collective efforts towards the management of fire disasters in Nigeria, he said, "NEMA in the past few weeks has been responded to some of the incidents in providing relief supports to the affected persons. Furthermore, I have directed all NEMA Zonal and Operation Offices to work with the State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) to conduct joint assessments in communities affected by the disaster for consideration and supports from the Federal Government."

Vote For All APC Candidates Across 36 States, APC-IG Tells Nigerians

By; JABIRU A.
HASSAN, Kano

One of the most formidable All Progressives Congress (APC) support groups, that has among its members so many professors and professionals from different fields of discipline, lawyers, medical doctors, engineers, accountants, auditors, journalists, lecturers, to mention but few, APC Initiative for Good Governance (APC-IGG) has called on the Nigerian electorate to vote for APC in the forthcoming gubernatorial and state houses of assembly elections scheduled for March 18, 2023.

In an interview with the National President, Ambassador Musa Muhammed Tsoken, disclosed that, "APC-IGG

would continue to work selflessly towards the success of All Progressives Congress at both levels like what we offered during campaigns and recently concluded presidential election". He stressed.

Ambassador Tsoken announced that APC-IGG has fully recognised the services rendered by many prominent personalities across the six-geo political zones in Nigeria and those who contributed immensely towards the success of APC, citing example of his Excellency, Senator George Akume, who is a grassroots politician of high repute.

In his words, "Akume served as a proficient civil servant to the rank of permanent secretary, and his remarkable services to his people earned him to be voted by the people of

Benue State where he served two terms of eight years as governor, three terms as Senator, just like the President and Vice President Elect, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Senator Kashim Shettima. "Currently, Akume is the present Minister of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, who the APC-IGG recognises as an active supporter and a dogged fighter for democracy."

He added that Akume has done great service by giving tremendous contributions for Tinubu in his state and the recent powerful message tagged: "THE PATRIOTIC VOICE OF NORTHERN CHRISTIAN MINORITIES" which captured the mind of many Christians to vote for Tinubu, most especially in Benue State and many



Musa Tsoken

other state across the country.

Ambassador Tsoken also, called for replication of the same gesture on Saturday March 18, 2023. He called on the national chairman of the All Progressives Congress to wade into the party's crisis that is currently happening in Taraba State to provide a conducive atmosphere that would pave way for the party's victory in Saturday's Governorship and House of Assembly election in the state.

Kogi Govt Sensitizes Key Sectors Of Economy, Market To Accept Old Notes

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Apparently disturbed by the bluff Kogites called the threat of prosecuting erring individuals who refuse to accept old currency notes, officials of the Kogi State Government and stakeholders in the financial sector have stormed the streets of Lokoja to sensitize the people on the need to accept them as ruled by the Supreme Court.

Addressing a throng of Okada riders and market women under the Ganaja Flyover in Lokoja on Monday, the State Commissioner for Information and Communications, Mr Kingsley Fanwo congratulated Nigerians over the Supreme Court judgement, saying the people can now use both the old and new naira notes simultaneously till December 31, 2023.

"We have met with the banks and they have agreed that they will accept old naira notes as deposits. So we urge all Okada riders, Keke riders and market men and women to accept the old naira note" the information manager said..

According to him, the state government is grateful to the banks for their cooperation and commitment to the ruling of the Supreme Court of Nigeria stressing that it is criminal to reject old naira notes after the judgement.

To ascertain the level of compliance, Kingsley Fanwo assured his

addressees that the government was poised to monitor compliance with the government directive.

In the same vein, the State Security Adviser, Commander Jerry Omodara (rtd) harped on the need for Kogites to cooperate with the State Government in her bid to ease the current financial strains occasioned by the current cash policy. He said his office will work with security agencies to ensure compliance.

In his remarks, Mukadam Asiwaju Idris Asiru said the banks are already accepting old notes as deposits, urging the people to take advantage of the cooperation of the banks.

He also said he has already gotten the commitment of the banks to load their Automation Transaction Machine (ATM) with old and new naira notes to ease the cash flow in the state.

The representatives of the major banks in Lokoja also assured the people of the readiness of the banks to accept old naira notes as deposits. They said the directive took effect on Monday morning, urging customers to freely accept old naira notes.

The sensitization train visited all transport unions, fuel stations and major markets in Lokoja. They also assured the people of sustained sensitization on radio and other media of communication. Ends.

CMMRC Cautions Clerics, Community, Traditional Leaders On Inciting Preaching



By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

Head of the forthcoming gubernatorial and State assembly Elections slated for March 18, 2023 across the nation, the Conflict Mitigation Management Regional Council (CMMRC), has called on religious, community leaders and traditional rulers to be mindful of their utterances toward their follows.

While addressing journalists during a press briefing at IMC Kaduna, CMMRC in collaboration with Community Initiative to Promote Peace (CIPP), disclosed that the safety of the citizens in the state is paramount, considering reactions by various institutions that are over heating the situation surrounding the elections ahead.

Member of the CMMRC, Malam Ibrahim Isa Kufena, and secretary Jama'atul Nasrul Islam (JNI), pleads with all religious and Community leaders to all ensure peacefulness by not using the elections to instigate crises as they make reference to 2011 were thousands of lives and properties were lost.

He said, "power belongs to God and He gives to whoever he wants to give, so if any of their candidate

loses elections, they should be able to accept it by not going around to burn somebody's house because that will not change the elections results hence what has happened has already happened.

"The youth should make sure that they're not being used, while parents should be able to know the limits of their children as we hope for a peaceful elections.

"We are tired of having election crisis in Kaduna State, we should not do anything that will put the lives of Nigerians into problems. The INEC, police and other security agencies should be fair and sincere."

Similarly, Reverend Ma'aji Caleb, member of CMMRC and secretary of CAN Kaduna State, expressed gratitude to God for witnessing yet

another period of election, saying it's a period that everyone is expected to exercise his right, everyone has got his political party of choice as the Nigeria constitution has given that freedom of expression and identification.

He added that, times of elections are times of making friendships not enemies, everyone is expected to go out and choose the candidates of his choice, a candidate that one feels his going to bring development, unite the people and a candidate that everyone feels he's going to be fair to the people irrespective of domicile.

"We want to call on our people to refrain from playing politics of bitterness, ethnicity, faith because time of elections should never be seen as a time of do or die affairs,

rather they should be time of reaching out to convince people. Elections will come and go, but we will still remain the same people and the relationship will still be there.

"We want to canvas that our place of worship must remain places that are sacred and places that are meant for sacred services. We should refrain from making inciting comments that will instigate our people towards negative behavior, rather we should engage in relationships and maybe perhaps preaching and teaching that will bring us together for the purpose of unity and developing our communities, our states and our country," he said. According to the Reverend, they will be advocating that whenever people see something negative, let them speak out, perhaps it will help in dealing with vise's that has the tendency of setting issues backward.

"Let us see each other has human beings, we are one and each other keepers, we have responsibilities toward each other and whenever we see something that has the tendency of cheating on one another, we have to speak out in other to arrest the issue." He charged.

"We are tired of having election crisis in Kaduna State, we should not do anything that will put the lives of Nigerians into problems. The INEC, police and other security agencies should be fair and sincere."

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

CORPORATE OFFICE:
AHMADU BELLO WAY
KADUNA

Advert e-mail: joenibro@gmail.com || joe_ibro@yahoo.com
FOR ADVERT BOOKING AND PLACEMENT:
Kaduna: 08033118023, 08028784378
Lagos: 08033257282, 08117876009

ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Police Neutralizes Armed Bandit, Recovers AK47, Rounds Of Ammunition

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kaduna State Police Command in its uncompromising commitment to ensuring the security of lives and property in the state, has neutralized one armed bandit and recovered an AK47 rifle loaded with two rounds of live

7.62 X 39mm ammunition.

A statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Muhammed Jalige, said that the feat was recorded, following credible intelligence received.

"On the 13th March, 2023 Operatives of the Command attached to Operation

WHIRL Punch (OPSWP) acted on a received credible intelligence indicating that on the same date at about 0645hrs armed bandits on a nefarious mission had blocked Galadimawa - Tumburku road of Giwa Local Government Area.

"The Police Operatives who were led by DPO Kidandan

swiftly mobilized to the scene, engaged the bandits in a gun duel and countered their heinous raid which forced them to scamper in disarray into a nearby bush with possible varying gunshot wounds," it explained.

According to the statement, the Commissioner of Police, Kaduna State Command CP

Y.A Ayoku psc(+), mni, while commending the efforts of the operatives, assured members of the public that the command shall continue to be resilient in its determination towards ensuring that criminal elements are denied the space to carry out their villainous activities.



They Sell the Needy For a Pair of Shoes

By Owei Lakemfa

I WOKE up at the weekend to a letter by Professor Ibrahim Adamu Yakasai of the Bayero University, Kano. He had on February 25, 2023 performed a civic duty as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Returning Officer for the Tudun Wada/Doguwa House of Representative elections.

He had announced with his professorial authority that Ado Doguwa of the All Progressives Congress (APC) polled 39,732 votes to defeat his closest rival, Yushau Salisu Abdullahi, of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), who polled 34,798 votes. Now, in his letter, he makes a different declaration: that the previous verdict he declared was false, but that he had to do so because his life and those of other electoral staff were endangered. He said the collation area was under siege and he was "completely traumatised, hopeless and confused".

Yakasai's story is not an isolated one. Elections in Nigeria amount to a war in which no prisoners are taken. In the 2023 elections, the Presidential candidates had to sign peace accords twice.

Yakasai's case is not half as dramatic as that of his fellow Professor, Ibeabuchi Izuchukwu Innocent of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), who in the 2019 Imo West (Orlu) Senatorial Zone was detained by thugs for days until he was sober enough to declare out-going Governor Rochas Okorocha elected a distinguished senator. "Nigerians are today in a state of penury and economic suffocation primarily because the Buhari regime is an albatross round our necks. Even after two separate Supreme Court orders that it loosens the noose round our neck by allowing the old N1,000 and N500 notes to circulate side by side with the largely unavailable new currency notes, it arrogantly, contemptuously and mindlessly ignores both the courts and the cries of the people. The impression it gives is that there is a hidden agenda to force Nigerians to revolt."

In declaring the contentious results live in the presence of security agencies and the mass media, Professor Innocent declared his innocence in the unfolding drama as he told the world: "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."

The announcement of his alleged victory

was all Okorocha needed to move on and complete the process of his coronation as a senator. So, as it was in the 2007, 2015 and 2019 elections, so is it in 2023; so may it be in the 2027 elections unless we drastically change the system, including the electoral contraption that is designed to fail, a reign of executive and legislative impunity and lawlessness, and, a return to federalism, constitutionalism and the sovereignty of the people over all powers. In our elections, people are killed and maimed, not that the process demands human sacrifice or human blood, but because being in power is the best business investment with huge returns. For many in power, it is the time to reap bountiful harvests with no thought for the people they govern. That is why there is so much desperation to marry and cling to power until death do them part; that is why a man after spending eight years as governor, would desperately want to become a senator, and then a Minister, and would not mind ending up as a member of a State House of Assembly. Even with that, since he does not want to appear to be too greedy, he also may have his wife, children, concubines and relatives placed in high appointed or elected offices.

This reminds me of the case in a trade union two decades ago. The internal auditor discovered a misappropriation of funds by the three principal officers. They were removed at an organ meeting. The internal auditor who is an officer way down the line of constitutional succession felt at the meeting that since he uncovered the conspiracy, he deserved to be upgraded to the post of acting president. The other officers acquiesced and a motion was passed. The deputy president of the union who constitutionally should have become the acting president, did not protest. Rather, he requested to be appointed the acting treasurer so he can participate in signing the union's cheques. He was so obliged.

Like the many politicians in the country, he did not mind to be side-stepped and the union constitution violated; in fact, he lobbied to be downgraded from substantive deputy president to acting treasurer just in order to sign the cheques and partake in the renewed looting of the union's funds. The then President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, stepped in and appointed me the Secretary of the NLC Committee to restore order and

sanity into the union by getting the union's National Executive Committee (NEC) to reverse itself and return the union to normalcy and constitutionalism.

Many Nigerian politicians are not contented with just eating the snail; they also crush and swallow the shell. For the dividends of

democracy, many politicians introduce cosmetic changes and live by it "for their lies have led them astray". The handful of politicians who introduce or want to positively change things have to swim against the tides, be removed, bruised or ostracised.

Nigerians are today in a state of penury and economic suffocation primarily because the Buhari regime is an albatross round our necks. Even after two separate Supreme Court orders that it loosens the noose round our neck by allowing the old N1,000 and N500 notes to circulate side by side with the largely unavailable new currency notes, it arrogantly, contemptuously and mindlessly ignores both the courts and the cries of the people. The impression it gives is that there is a hidden agenda to force Nigerians to revolt.

To check the regime's reckless drive towards an avoidable catastrophic crash like the Lagos driver who last week consciously drove a fully loaded bus on the path of an oncoming train, many Nigerians, including governors, bankers and the conscientious, are rallying. Bankers, perhaps the most conservative



professionals, in the absence of either a regime or Central Bank directive, went last week to put the old notes back in circulation by dispensing them. Already, some state governments like those of Ekiti, Bayelsa, Abia, Kaduna and Kano have announced that the old currency notes remain legal tender and should be accepted by the populace and the banks. So, what we are witnessing is not only a revolt by some governors and bankers, but the actual establishment of a parallel economy. Once the populace can break the strangle grip of the Buhari regime, we would be able to survive him and his gang.

As the politicians squabble over who was elected and who was not; who is to be elected and who should not, the populace is gasping for breath. In all these, I am reminded of the Lord's vow that for three transgressions of unrepentant leaders, he would not "revoke the punishment; because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes – they that trample the heads of the poor into the dust of the earth, and turn aside the way of the afflicted..." Amos 2:6-7.

Ambassador Abba Rimi Honours Bronze-medallists Flying Eagles

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Ambassador of Nigeria to the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi has honoured the Flying Eagles who scooped the bronze medals in the just-concluded Africa U20 Cup of Nations tournament in Egypt. Ambassador Rimi received the entourage of the Nigeria U20 boys at the town hall of

the Nigeria Embassy in Cairo, Egypt on Saturday.

The diplomat expressed satisfaction with the performance of the team during the tournament while congratulating players and officials for successfully qualifying for the forthcoming FIFA U-20 World Cup finals in Indonesia.

Rimi further charged the Flying Eagles to make Nigeria proud in the global

tournament slated for May 20 to June 11. Responding, NFF General Secretary, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi, represented by Chief Technical Officer and former international player, Garba Lawal commended the Embassy for the support rendered to the team throughout its stay in Cairo, which helped in steering the team to third place and a ticket to the FIFA World Cup.

Also speaking, Flying Eagles Head Coach, Ladan Bosso assured the Nigerian Embassy officials that the team is motivated to do better at the World Cup. A total of 21 players and 10 officials of the Flying Eagles received a plaque of honour from the diplomat for representing the nation creditably in Egypt.



The players at the reception.



Head Coach Bosso (left) with Ambassador Rimi during the reception.

Minister Charges NFF To Prepare Flying Eagles To Win FIFA World Cup

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Hon. Sunday Dare has tasked the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to adequately prepare the U-20 boys, Flying Eagles, to challenge for the FIFA U-20 World Cup trophy in Indonesia in a few weeks.

Hon. Dare threw the challenge to the NFF and Head Coach Ladan Bosso at a reception hosted for the Africa U20 Cup of Nations bronze medallists at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja on Monday.

"You have returned from Egypt with the bronze medals and the FIFA World Cup ticket, and a few other prizes, but the FIFA World Cup is in a few weeks and I want you to focus your mind on winning it for Nigeria for the first time. I understand Ghana is the only African country that has won the FIFA U20 World Cup. If

Ghana can win it, why not Nigeria?

"I am happy about your performance in Egypt because you were able to come from a position of adversity – a depressing loss to The Gambia in the semi final – to fire on all cylinders to defeat Tunisia for the bronze medals. That is the spirit that the Government and people of Nigeria want you to take to the World Cup. We are on the same page with the NFF on adequate preparation of our National Teams for matches and competitions, and I believe they will provide you with good-enough preparation for the global finals in Indonesia."

Head Coach Bosso praised the Minister for his fatherly love, encouragement and support for the team since hosting the team to a similar reception after it won the WAFF U20 Championship in Niamey 10 months ago.

"We are always encouraged by your inspiring and motivating words, and the length you go to simply to support the team and our dreams. I told you after the victory in Niamey that our target was doing well at the AFCON in order to earn a FIFA World Cup ticket. Now, just as I told the Nigeria Ambassador to Egypt in Cairo on Saturday, I want you to know that our fresh target is doing very well at the FIFA World Cup," Bosso said. All players and team officials were at the reception, bar Belgium-based Ahmed Abdullahi, who is back at his base in Europe.

Also at the reception were the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Alhaji Ismaila Abubakar; Director of Federations and Elite Athletes Department, Dr. Simon Ebhojiaye; Chairman of the IMC, Hon. Gbenga Elegbeleye; Chief of Staff to the Hon. Minister, Alhaji Abba Abdullahi



Yola; NFF's Director of Communications, Ademola Olajire and; NFF's Head of International Competitions, Dayo Enebi Achor.

The Flying Eagles will go on a

short break before reconvening for the phased preparations for the FIFA World Cup, taking place in Indonesia, 20th May – 11th June.

Kwara Falcons Suffers 2nd Defeat At Basketball Africa League

By: MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI in Dakar

Nigeria's reigning Basketball Premier League champions, Kwara Falcons have lost their second game at the ongoing Basketball Africa League (BAL) Sahara Conference taking place at the magnificent Dakar Arena in Senegal.

The Nigerian team unlike in their first game, were very resilient as they lost by just four points, 78 to 74 in favour of Stade Malien of Mali.

All the four quarters of the game were keenly contested except the third where the Falcons fell short, trailing at some point with about 20 points before rallying in the 4th quarter to close the deficit but was a little too late for



the Nigerian champions. Coach Baba Jibril of the Kwara

Falcons said the team is learning fast and there is significant

improvement from their last game.

Tunisia on Wednesday.

"We are learning very fast and you can see significant improvement in this game compared to our last game. We are still very hopeful to clinch a ticket to the playoff finals in Rwanda from the remaining three games," Jibril stated. Nigerian born NBA Academy Africa graduate and Washington State University star, Rueben Chinyelu played for the Stade Malien scoring 10 points in total to help the Malians defeat the Falcons.

In other games played, REG of Rwanda recorded their second consecutive win by beating ABC of Cote D'Ivoire 80-73.

Kwara Falcons will face the BAL defending champions, US Monastir of

**Minister Charges
NFF To Prepare
Flying Eagles To
Win FIFA World Cup**

Story on Page 23

We Have Lost Confidence In Prof Mahmud Yakubu Led INEC - National Youths Alliance

**Says Yakubu should explain how INEC spent over N400bn on polls*

**Calls on EFCC, ICPC to investigate INEC boss*

By: MIKE ODEH JAMES

The leadership of the National Youths Alliance has passed down a vote of no confidence on the leadership of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), led by Professor Yakubu Mahmood and the conduct of the February 25 Presidential and Legislative Polls.

In an interactive session with media men in Abuja, the National spokesmen of the group, Comrade Obande Gideon while appraising INEC's conduct of the February 25 Election, said that President Muhammad Buhari took time to package a well designed electoral process aimed at bequeathing credible election to the nation, however, the INEC chairman sabotaged the process.

Comrade Obande added that the INEC boss derailed the process by deliberately

refusing to allow the transmission of the results electronically and on real time in order to allow the servers to be tampered with.

The national spokesperson went further to accuse Prof Mahmood of embezzling over N400 billion allocated to the electoral body for conduct of election, insisting that the electoral umpire's boss should explain how he spent the said amount.

"Prof Mahmud Yakubu is the biggest obstacle to Nigeria's electoral voyage to free and fair elections. He promised Nigerians a credible election but reneged on the promises.

"We are calling on Prof Mahmud Yakubu and his resident electoral commissioners to explain how they spent over N400 billion given to them to conduct the 2023 general election.

"In the same vein, we are calling on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commissions (EFCC), Independent Crimes and Related Commissions and other anti graft commissions to call Prof Mahmud and commissioners to explain the rumours that INEC servers were about to be hacked, hence the refusal of INEC to upload the results of the Presidential elections.

"We are also calling on the anti graft agencies to investigate how Prof Yakubu the N400 billion allocated to the electoral commission," the group said.

In the same vein, Comrade Gideon said that the National Youths Alliance has lost confidence in INEC's ability to conduct a credible gubernatorial election and legislative polls coming up by March 18. Apart from rejecting the result of the

February 25 Election, the group said it would approach the courts with the aim of making sure that all the irregularities allowed by INEC are corrected

Comrade urged the youths to come out en mass to vote for their choice of candidates during the gubernatorial and legislative election, adding that, if they do not come out, the electoral body would allocated phantom figures to parties it favours.

"We are calling on the youth to come out massively next Saturday and vote for parties of their choice. Youth should also make sure that after voting, to snap results collated.

"Failure to come out massively and vote would only give INEC operators the leverage to allocate humongous and phantom votes to parties that it favours," they warned.

I'm Contesting Governorship To Improve Oyo State - Folarin

**Berates PDP Deputy National Chairman*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship candidate in Oyo State, Senator Teslim Folarin on yesterday, declared that he is contesting governorship seat to improve the situation of things in the state.

Senator Folarin in a statement through his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Com. YSO Olaniyi, while reacting to comments by the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Deputy National Chairman, Ambassador Taofeek Arapaja on the Saturday governorship election.

The APC governorship candidate specifically said he is contesting the election to improve the security, education sector, agricultural sector, health sector, empowerment and employment of the youths and women, to grow Oyo State economy,

He maintained that as at present, he remains the most experienced public administrator and closest to the grassroots among all the gubernatorial candidates contesting the Saturday polls in the state.

"I am contesting governorship seat of Oyo State to holistically

improve security, education sector, agricultural sector, health sector, empowerment and employment of our youths and women, to grow our economy, welfare of civil servants and pensioners, to ensure local government autonomy, urban

renewal and rural developments, clean environment, wealth creation and lots more", he said Senator Folarin added, "with due respect to other candidates, I remain the most experienced public administrator and closest to the grassroots, having

represented Oyo Central Senatorial District for three terms with verifiable track records of achievements and toured 351 wards of Oyo State on countless occasions".

"I am contesting governorship seat of Oyo State to holistically improve security, education sector, agricultural sector, health sector, empowerment and employment of our youths and women, to grow our economy, welfare of civil servants and pensioners, to ensure local government autonomy, urban renewal and rural developments, clean environment, wealth creation and lots more".

Senator Folarin maintained, "I've capacity to do better than the current administration in the State led by the outgoing governor Seyi Makinde".

Berating the PDP Deputy National Chairman comments on Fresh FM 105.9 FM Ibadan, Senator Folarin described his comments on him and others on the March 18 polls as that of a frustrated politician.

"I am a democrat, civil and responsible statesman in Oyo State. Therefore, I won't respond to blackmail, propaganda and irresponsible

attacks from any politician. However, I want to confirm to the people of Oyo State that Mr. Taofeek Arapaja is under intense pressure following gale of endorsements in my favour and continuous exoduses hitting the ruling PDP and other opposition parties in the state"

Senator Folarin maintained. "no amount of blackmail, propaganda and irresponsible attacks from Mr. Arapaja and his co-travellers can save Engr. Seyi Makinde and other PDP candidates from the imminent defeat on March 18th elections. The assurance is that the Almighty God and the downtrodden masses are behind Itesiwaju Ipinle Oyo 2023 project"

"On a final note, I urge the good people of Oyo State not to give in to cheap blackmail, propaganda and irresponsible attacks. I have capacity to deliver masses-focused governance as Executive Governor when elected. Besides, let us take full advantage of Tinubu-Shettima Presidency by voting en-masse for APC this coming Saturday. A vote for APC is for Itesiwaju Ipinle Oyo" the statement concluded.

