

New NIGERIAN

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Guber Polls Fallout: Zamfara Govt Imposes Statewide Curfew

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

The Zamfara State Government yesterday, declared a statewide curfew over wanton destruction and vandalism of government and public property and assets in the state

A statement by the

Zamfara State Commissioner for Information, Ibrahim Dosara indicated that the statewide curfew will be from 8 pm to 6am until peace is restored According to the statement, reports available to the government indicate that lives were lost, houses and

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**Election Victory:
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Unflinching Support To Gombe Governor



**Kwara Gov Leads Victorious APC Candidates
On Thank-you-visit To Emir Of Ilorin**

*I'm proud of your success at the polls, Emir tells Gov



L-R: Mutawalli of Ilorin Dr Alimi Abdulrazaq; Turaki of Ilorin and Senator-elect Mallam Saliu Mustapha; Senator Sadiq Umar; Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly Rt Hon. Yakubu Salihu Danlandi; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; Emir of Ilorin Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari; Deputy Governor Mr Kayode Alabi; Etsu Patigi Alhaji Ibrahim Umar Bologi II; and Olofa of Offa HRM Oba Mustau Muhammed Gbadamosi; during a courtesy visit by newly elected public officers to the Emir of Ilorin's Palace, in Ilorin, yesterday.

ADC Guber Candidate Congratulates Uba Sani, Kaduna Governor-elect

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following the official declaration by the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of Senator Uba Sani the gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as Governor-Elect in the just concluded general elections held on 18th March, 2023, his rival of the opposition African Democratic Congress (ADC), Senator Caleb Zagi has expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the election, describing the process as transparent, free and credible, while also congratulating the Governor-Elect and his running mate, who is the serving Deputy Governor of the state, Dr Hadiza Balarabe over their victory at the polls.

In a statement personally signed by the ADC Gubernatorial candidate, Senator Caleb Zagi, he said the emergence of the two astute leaders with remarkable track records would indeed usher in more golden windows of opportunities towards the socioeconomic and political prosperity in Kaduna State.

Senator Caleb Zagi also enjoined other candidates of the various political



Uba Sani

parties that contested the March 18th gubernatorial election in Kaduna State to demonstrate the spirit of sportsmanship by accepting the outcome of the election and join hands with the Governor-Elect, Senator Uba Sani for the Restoration of peace, unity and societal development.

The ADC Gubernatorial candidate further appealed to the good people of Kaduna to embrace peace and eschew politics of bitterness, adding that Senator Uba Sani possess the capacity and passion for a better Kaduna state.

According to the ADC

Restoration, Sultan Felicitates Muslims Ahead Fasting

While also lauding the independent national Electoral Commission (INEC), security agencies, traditional and religious leaders as well as the general public for the maturity and civilized conduct exhibited during the electioneering period, the ADC Gubernatorial candidate who is an indigene of Kagarko Local Government Area in the Southern part of Kaduna State, reiterated the need for prayers, support and loyalty for the new APC administration to succeed in Kaduna state and the country in general.

Senator Caleb Zagi who contested the election alongside the Kaduna State Governor-Elect, Senator Uba Sani, however, thanked the good people of the state for confidence reposed on him and his party before, during and after the



Sultan of Sokoto

Ramadan: Sultan Felicitates Muslims Ahead Fasting

**Says Search for Crescent Tonight*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, under the leadership of its President-General and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alh. Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar felicitates with the entire Muslim Ummah on the auspicious occasion of the forthcoming Ramadan fasting exercise. In a statement, the council prayed that Allah spares the life of every Muslim to witness, participate fully in and benefit maximally from the noble act of worship.

The President-General enjoined the Nigerian Muslim Ummah to search for the crescent of Ramadan, immediately after sunset on Wednesday, which is

equivalent to 22nd March, 2023.

It explains that if the crescent is sighted by Muslims of impeccable character on the said evening, then His Eminence shall declare Thursday, 23rd March, 2023 as the first day of Ramadan.

The statement add that If, however, the crescent is not sighted that day, then, Friday, 24th March, 2023 shall automatically become the first day of Ramadan.

It said that in addition to the established and traditional Islamic leaders in each locality, members of the National Moon-Sighting Committee can be contacted to report any credible and positive sighting of the crescent of Ramadan 1444 AH

Abia: Announce Obingwa LGA Results Now, Obidients Task INEC

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Abia Obidients have criticised the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) over the electoral umpire's inconsistency regarding Abia governorship election.

In a statement jointly signed by Comrade Chetachi Ikpe and Ndubueze Obiakwata, Coordinator, Peter Obi

Grassroots Movement (POGM), Abia State and Chairman, Obidients Across Parties Alliance (OAPA) respectively, accused INEC of double standards and not being consistent with its inconsistencies.

"Abia Obidients categorically demand that INEC must strive to avoid playing double standards by not being consistent with its inconsistencies regarding the electoral

umpire's bizarre decision to suspend the announcement of Governorship results from Obingwa LGA".

It would be recalled that INEC earlier today suspended the collation of results in the said LGA for investigation and interrogation.

The groups urged INEC to declare the results and advised aggrieved members to seek legal redress.

"Using the commission's position on the presidential election as a precedent, we urge INEC to immediately announce the Obingwa LGA Governorship election result and proceed to announce the winner of the election. It is disheartening when INEC appears to have different set of rules for different political parties and personalities. That is very unhealthy for Nigerian democracy".

INEC Declares Sule Winner Of Nasarawa Gubernatorial Election

By: SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has declared Nasarawa State Governor, Audu Alhaji Sule, winner of the gubernatorial election in the state. INEC Returning Officer for the election, Professor Tanko Ishaya made the declaration at the State

Collation Centre in Lafia, the state Capital on Monday morning.

Ishaya said Sule of the All Progressives Congress (APC) polled 347,209 votes to emerge as winner of the election held on Saturday March 18, 2023. His closest rival, David Ombugadu of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) polled 283,016 votes.

INEC Declares APC's Uba Sani Winner Of Kaduna Guber Polls



By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has declared Senator Uba Sani of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), as the winner of the Saturday governorship election in Kaduna State.

Declaring the result, the State Collation Officer for Gubernatorial Election (SCOGE), Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis said, the number of registered voters in the state are 4,335,208, accredited voters are 1,581,662, valid votes cast are 1,546,747 invalid votes cast are 19,114 and total votes cast are 1,565,861.

Professor Bilbis said, Senator Uba Sani of the APC polled 730,002 votes. He said, Hon. Mohammed Isa Ashiru of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) scored a total of 719,196 votes.

According to him, "Senator Uba Sani having scored the highest number of valid votes and met the requirements of the law, is hereby declared the winner and returned elected."

He gave the total votes scored by the political parties in the states as follows:

APC: 730,002, LP: 58,283, NNPP: 21,405 and PDP: 719,196.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) Candidate, Hon. Mohammed Isa Ashiru Kudan won in 13 local government areas of Kaura, Sanga, Kajuru, Makarfi, Jaba, Jema'a, Zangon Kataf, Soba, Chikun, Kagarko, Lere, Kachia and Kudan.

The APC gubernatorial candidate, Sen. Uba Sani won in 10 local government areas of Giwa, Ikara, Kauru, Sabon Gari, Kubau, Zaria, Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Igabi and Birnin-Gwari.

The results as collated by INEC from the 23 local government areas are as follows:

Kaura LGA

APC: 7,748

LP: 12,950

NNPP: 618

PDP: 15,108

Giwa LGA

APC: 30,773

LP: 221

NNPP: 547

PDP: 28,869

Sanga LGA

APC: 12,338

LP: 2,135

NNPP: 457

PDP: 13,119

Kajuru LGA

APC: 8,271

LP: 1,773

NNPP: 982

PDP: 23,125

Jaba LGA

APC: 7,564

LP: 2,871

NNPP: 174

PDP: 14,616

Makarfi LGA

APC: 25,670

LP: 278

NNPP: 532

PDP: 26,128

Ikara LGA

APC: 29,066

LP: 692

NNPP: 550

PDP: 28,612

Jema'a LGA

APC: 19,920

LP: 6,017

NNPP: 543

PDP: 28,963

Zangon Kataf

APC: 11,448

LP: 7,377

NNPP: 534

PDP: 33,185

Kauru LGA

APC: 26,915

PDP: 26,342

LP: 3,461

NNPP: 455

Soba LGA

APC: 27,235

PDP: 30,874

LP: 457

NNPP: 335

Sabon Gari LGA

APC: 44,406

PDP: 33,553

LP: 972

NNPP: 2706

Kubau LGA

APC: 39,855

PDP: 26,627

LP: 604

NNPP: 102

Zaria LGA

APC: 78,659

PDP: 47,091

LP: 672

NNPP: 2,567

Kaduna South LGA

APC: 67,170

PDP: 42,604

LP: 2,292

NNPP: 1,048

Kaduna North LGA

APC: 65,782

PDP: 33,120

LP: 1,042

NNPP: 4,307

Chikun LGA

APC: 19,979

PDP: 89,946

LP: 4,770

NNPP: 477

Igabi LGA

APC: 74,974

PDP: 40,681

LP: 1,178

NNPP: 1,117

Kagarko LGA

APC: 18,830

PDP: 19,991

LP: 1,530

NNPP: 221

Kachia LGA

APC: 23,849

PDP: 27,490

LP: 1,726

NNPP: 470

Lere LGA

APC: 45,823

PDP: 46,363

LP: 4,321

NNPP: 1,515

Birnin Gwari

APC: 20,627

PDP: 19,954

LP: 37

NNPP: 726

Kudan LGA

APC: 21,076

PDP: 23,272

LP: 887

NNPP: 670

Sen Gershom Bassey Expressed Sadness Over PDP's Defeat In Cross River

By; VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

Chairman, Cross River State National Assembly Caucus, Sen. Gershom H. Bassey representing Cross River South Senatorial District has expressed sadness over the defeat suffered by candidates of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the state.

Describing the unfortunate defeat situation as sad, he said, "today I am sad for my party, the PDP in Cross River State. I am particularly sad about our losses in the House of Assembly election and I sympathize with the good men and women who contested those elections for us."

Bassey further stated, "take heart and better luck next time. For the very few that won, congratulations, adding that PDP's unbroken run of winning every Governorship election since the return of democracy in 1999 is gone".

Also gone, he said, "are over 22 House of Assembly seats.

The PDP has suffered the most spectacular and humiliating rejection by Cross Riverians in its over 24-year history. It is now time for very sober reflection".

According to him, "what this election has critically demonstrated is that we, the political leaders, must always listen to those that we aspire to lead, especially in this new age of BVAS and improving electoral processes."

"Cross Riverians are a proud and dignified people. We are also our brothers' keepers and so we abhor imposition, bigotry, jingoism, hate speech and even colonialism. So, the idea

that elections can be won by spewing ethnic sentiment and promoting division is alien to our culture and vexatious to the spirit of every Cross Riverian. The idea that our State can be annexed as the personal property of puppeteers is a joke and will always be resisted by voters".

As a result, "I congratulate the vast majority of the Cross River State electorate who are not card carrying members of any political party and who stood for equity, justice and fairness in this election."

"You, the electorate, have settled all the arguments, postulations, theorizing and calculations. You said it loud and clear that having waited patiently for 16 years without complaint but lovingly supporting their brothers in other Senatorial Districts, it is the turn of the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State to produce a Governor. You, the electorate, have emphatically said that one good turn deserves another and endorsed "BACK TO SOUTH".

The principle of rotation and zoning in Cross River State has been, by your singular action, established forever. End of discussion. The matter is now settled, he noted".

He used the opportunity to congratulate the APC and its candidates, led by Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu. "Sweet" Prince, on behalf of the entire people of the Southern Senatorial District of our State, from where you hail and whom I represent in the 9th Assembly, we are proud of you. God bless you and your family. Your Excellency, lead our beloved Cross River State well. Make us proud".

Kwara Gov Leads Victorious APC Candidates On Thank-you-visit To Emir Of Ilorin

***I'm proud of your success at the polls, Emir tells Gov**

By; **BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRaman AbdulRazaq yesterday, led a delegation of victorious APC candidates to the palace of Emir of Ilorin, Dr. Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, on a thank-you-visit for his continued support and prayers which he said accounted for the success and peaceful conduct of the last Saturday elections in the state.

He said the ruling APC owes the monarch and other traditional rulers absolute respect and appreciation for their fatherly roles.

He pledged to continue to give the traditional council in the state the honour and support that they deserve.

"This is a unique and wonderful day for us. We are here to show respect for the traditional institution, the main institution in Kwara state, for your support and your prayers," he said.

The Governor was accompanied on the visit

by Deputy Governor Kayode Alabi; Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly Rt. Hon. Yakubu Salihu Danladi; Senator Sadiq Umar (Kwara North); Kwara Central Senator-elect and Turaki Ilorin Mallam Saliu Mustapha; House of Representatives members-elect; House of Assembly members-elect; cabinet members; Mutawali Ilorin Dr Alimi AbdulRazaq; and State APC Chairman Prince Sunday Fagbemi; among others.

They were received by the Emir alongside all the first class royal fathers across the state.

"From my first term, which is gradually coming to an end, we have seen the very important roles that the traditional rulers played, and we truly appreciate that. First of all, the peace and security we have. Without the peaceful environment that you create, we will not have any progress or sleep with both of our eyes closed. Your synergy with the security agencies has made things easy for us," he added.

"We are all here today to show our respect to the institution, and that is how it is supposed to be. We represent you and we will not disappoint you."

He said the government will continue to consult the monarch and community heads on the needs of their respective areas for improved service delivery.

He appreciated the patience and understanding of all royal fathers in the state amid scarce resources, and promised that the government would also pay greater attention to their welfare.

"We also understand that you need nothing more than respect for your offices, and that respect we will continue to give you," he said.

Emir of Ilorin Dr. Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, for his part, commended the conduct of the elections, saying the peace and safety witnessed during the exercise testified that God answered his prayers. He congratulated the Governor and other candidates of the party that emerged victorious at

the polls, and prayed God to give them success.

"I am happy that we are all here today. We were all afraid before the elections, and we begged God and God answered our prayers. We are very happy it is our son, who is the Governor again. And I am proud to claim your success, and I wish you more of it," he said.

"Your work is very simple because you are a very simple man too. You are a working Governor. I said it once that you use your car to inspect projects in the city and all parts of the state. You are very hard working. You are also straightforward, and you are a man to be trusted. You shall see our own total support by the grace of God.

"We send you out from Kwara state. You have brought honour to us without any blame. Nobody has complained to us about your character and your mode of work, which is unique and very effective. May God allow you to continue to succeed. May you live long without sickness; may God crown all your efforts with successes."

Six Bag 156yrs Jail Term Over Drug Trafficking In Ogun, Lagos

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

Six drug traffickers have been sentenced to 156 years imprisonment by Federal High Courts in Ogun and Lagos states for offences bordering on drug dealing, conspiracy and transportation of illicit substances.

The convicts were said to have been arrested during a separate operations by operatives of the National Drug Law and Endorsement Agency (NDLEA) and arraigned before the courts.

Worse hit is a 27-year-old drug dealer, Ahmed Abdulsabur who was arrested in 2022 by NDLEA operatives and prosecuted in charge number FHC/AB/20C/2022 at the Federal High Court, Abeokuta, presided over by Hon. Justice Joyce Obehi Abdulmalik.

Delivering her judgment on the six counts charge brought against Ahmed, Justice Abdulmalik convicted and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment on each count, bringing the total number of his in jail term to 60.

In a similar ruling, Justice Abdulmalik also sentenced another dealer, Olumide Elegbede, 32, to 20 years jail term; 10 years for each of the two counts charge brought against him in charge number: FHC/AB/128C/21. The judge ruled that the years of imprisonment in both cases will run concurrently.

At the Federal High Court in Lagos, where the quartet of: Okechukwu Umeh; Lanre Adebayo; Adigun Adeshina and Emmanuel Omijeh were

arraigned on three counts in charge number FHC/L/87c/2023, the trial judge, Justice Akintayo Aluko on Thursday 16th March convicted and sentenced each of them to five years on count one; seven years each on counts two and three.

This brings the total number of years for each of them to 19 years jail term and the four of them to 76 years imprisonment.

While the judge ruled that the sentences should run concurrently, he also gave the four convicts the option of paying N20 million in lieu of the jail terms.

This is in addition to granting the application by the NDLEA for the final forfeiture of a white colour Ford bus with registration number: PHC 315 ZT, used in conveying 532.8 kilograms of Loud variant of cannabis on the day of their arrest, Sunday 22nd January 2023 along Lagos / Ibadan expressway.

The court also granted the final forfeiture of N3 million offered as bribe by the convicts to NDLEA officers.

The drugs concealed with 'take away' food packs in 19 big cartons were seized in the white Ford bus heading to Port Harcourt, Rivers state along Lagos-Ibadan expressway at 2:35am on Sunday 22nd Jan.

The convicts: Okechukwu Umen, 41; Lanre Adebayo Ismaila, 47; Adeshina Adigun Fatai, 50; and Emmanuel Omijeh, 42, were arrested in connection with the seizure and three million Naira (N3,000,000) offered as bribe kept as part of the exhibits for their prosecution.

"Worse hit is a 27-year-old drug dealer, Ahmed Abdulsabur who was arrested in 2022 by NDLEA operatives and prosecuted in charge number FHC/AB/20C/2022 at the Federal High Court, Abeokuta, presided over by Hon. Justice Joyce Obehi Abdulmalik."



L-R: Mutawalli of Ilorin Dr Alimi Abdulrazaq; Turaki of Ilorin and Senator-elect Mallam Saliu Mustapha; Senator Sadiq Umar; Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly Rt Hon. Yakubu Salihu Danlandi; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; Emir of Ilorin Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari; Deputy Governor Mr Kayode Alabi; Etsu Patigi Alhaji Ibrahim Umar Bologi II; and Olofa of Offa HRM Oba Muftau Muhammed Gbadamosi; during a courtesy visit by newly elected public officers to the Emir of Ilorin's Palace, in Ilorin, yesterday.

Kaduna Governor-Elect Vows To Carry Out People Democratic Directives

**Promises to carry all along*

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor-Elect, Senator Uba Sani in the March 18 governorship elections, has pledged to carry out the people democratic directives with focus and on relating dedication to govern for all, for peace and prosperity of the state.

Senator Sani who contested on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), made the remarks in his acceptance speech in Kaduna on Monday, after he was announced winner of the polls, at an event, held Yar'Adua Hall, in Kaduna.

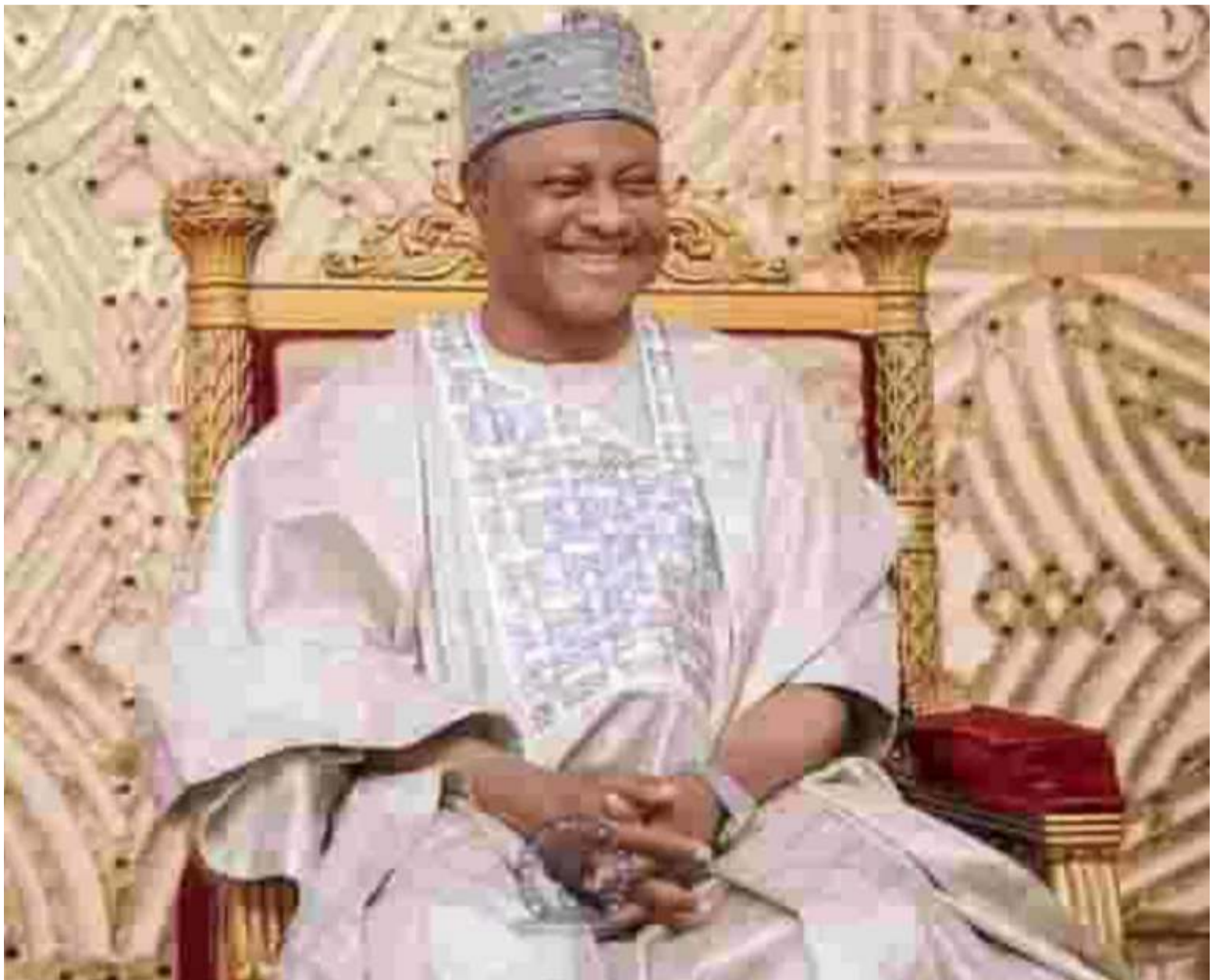
He appreciated people of the state for giving them the mandate to lead, himself and Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe.

According to him, "we accept this privilege with heavy responsibility. We shall carry out the people democratic directives with focus and on relating dedication, we shall govern for all for peace and prosperity of the state."

While appreciating the efforts of APC leaders at all levels for their tireless efforts and commitment, he said, they are indebted to traditional, community and religious leaders who helped with the atmosphere for peace.

He also thanked the President elect, Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his consistent support and President Muhammadu Buhari for the message of endorsement of his campaign.

"I and my running mate Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe appreciate you all", he said.



For Quenching Gamboru Market Fire, Zulum Rewards 149 firemen with N14.9m

**Orders recruitment of 38 volunteer-firemen*



By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum on Sunday, paid a 'thank you' visit to headquarters of the Borno State Fire Service in Maiduguri. The visit was in recognition of swift response by firemen who quenched a major fire outbreak at Gamboru Market in Maiduguri, preventing destruction from escalating to

the magnitude witnessed two weeks ago at the Maiduguri Monday market.

Zulum told the firemen he was impressed with their gallantry and for that, he approved the release of N14.9 million as grants to about 149 firemen operating under both the federal and state fire services.

"I am here purposely to convey my deep appreciation to all of you for the great work you have been doing. Yesterday

(Saturday) we had another fire disaster at Gamboru market and I was informed of your efforts towards quenching the fire. This goes to show how committed you are and we want to once again extend our appreciation to you", Zulum said.

The beneficiaries comprised of 60 firemen working with Borno State Government, 49 working with the Federal Fire Service, as well as 38 volunteer-fire fighters.

Zulum directed that each of the 149 fire men be given N100,000 and a bag of rice, as part of appreciation from Borno State Government.

Meanwhile, Governor Zulum during his visit, directed the employment of 38 volunteer-firemen into the Borno State Fire Service as permanent staff.

The volunteers, 20 of them with the Maiduguri International Hotel and 18 with Borno State Fire Service were offering

supportive services without receiving salaries which permanent staff are entitled to.

The governor also directed the management of Borno State Fire Service to immediately send to his office all of their requirements that will ensure the optimal performance of firemen in prevention and responses to fire incidents.

Zulum extended similar gesture to the Federal Fire Service, asking them to submit requirements in order to get some intervention from the state government.



Election Victory: Governor Inuwa On 'Thank You' Visits To Kwami, Funakaye, Nafada, Dukku LGAs

*Restates Commitment To Build On First Term Achievements

*As Traditional Rulers, Community Leaders, Others Pledge Unflinching Support To Gombe Governor

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In an apparent show of gratitude to Almighty God and the people, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has embarked on a "thank you" tour of all the local government areas to appreciate the electorate for giving him and his party a resounding victory at the just concluded elections.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, the Governor was earlier in Kwami, Funakaye, Nafada and Dukku LGAs.

In Malam Sidi, the headquarters of Kwami LGA, the Governor's motorcade was received amidst wild jubilation by teeming youths, women and other support groups to express their joy over the governor's victory at the polls.

Addressing the crowd in Malam Sidi, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya thanked them for their abiding faith in the All Progressives Congress, APC which ultimately led to the victorious outing of the party at the national and sub-national levels.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya observed that in spite of the setback experienced during the Presidential and National Assembly elections, the APC in the state was able to retrace its steps and forge a common front which led to the overwhelming victory of the party in the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections.

He assured the people of Kwami that his administration will remain resolute towards consolidating on major breakthroughs so far achieved by his government in the first half of his social contract with the people of the state.

In Bajoga, the headquarters of Funakaye LGA, Governor Inuwa Yahaya reiterated his administration's

commitment to expand the frontiers of socio-economic and infrastructural development for the benefit of the people.

He commended the people of Funakaye APC which led to its resounding victory in the just concluded elections.

While calling for unity and understanding among the people of Funakaye, Governor Inuwa appealed to them to intensify prayers for the success of the APC administration at both national and state levels especially as the month of Ramadan draws near.

In Nafada, security details had their hands full controlling the mammoth crowd who defied the scorching sun to catch a glimpse of a political victor.

The Governor told the overjoyed crowd that the APC remains proud of their outstanding contribution to the victorious emergence of the party.

Like in Kwami and Funakaye, he assured the people of Nafada that his administration will not develop a cold feet towards the provision of incentives that promote sustainable economic development in the state.

Speaking to a large pool of jubilant crowd in Dukku, Governor Inuwa expressed gratitude to the people of the area for standing tall when the APC needed their support and solidarity.

He assured the people of Dukku LGA that his administration will not relent in fostering policies and programmes that will promote an all-inclusive growth for the overall benefit of the people.

In their separate remarks, the Emirs of Dukku, Haruna Rashid; Nafada, Muhammadu Dadum Hamza; Funakaye, Yakubu Mohammed Kwairanga and the Senior District Head of Kwami, Aminu Haruna Abdullahi as well as elder stateman,



Ambassador Yerima Abdullahi congratulated Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for emerging victorious and encouraged him to remain steadfast in his pro poor agenda of bringing development to the doorsteps of the people and putting the state on the path of sustainable growth.

The Governor was accompanied on the visit by the State Deputy

Governor, Dr Manassah Daniel Jatau, the Secretary to the Gombe State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, the Chief of Staff Government House, Abubakar Inuwa Kari, the DG campaign, Barr. Zubair Muhammad Umar, party chieftain, Dr Jamilu Ishiyaku Gwamna and other top Government functionaries and APC stalwarts.



Wailare Congratulates Abba Kabir Yusuf On Kano Election Victory



Composite photo of Wailare (left) and Abba

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

People's Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain from Dambatta/Makoda Federal Constituency, Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare who contested for Dambatta/Makoda House of Representatives under PDP platform during the 25th February election, has issued a congratulatory message to the Kano State governor elect, Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf and his deputy, Comrade Aminu Abdulsalam for their recent victory at the just concluded gubernatorial election.

In a statement he personally signed and issued to newsmen in Kano, Dr Saleh Musa Wailare described the victory as a great progress for Nigeria's democracy and Kano State governance, adding that election is a channel to climbing ladder of success, where leaders are voted by electorate for democratic dividends.

"I am of the opinion that the 18th March governorship polls was peaceful in Kano State and the people that voted were also given what they needed, therefore, from our own side, we would always become partners in progress to transform our state through democratic dispensation". The statement read.

Dr. Wailare commended the Kwankwaa'iyya Movement leader, Engineer Dr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso for his role in the progress of Nigeria's democracy, and thanked Dr. Ali Haruna Makoda, the New Nigeria People's Party's (NNPP) Director Campaign for their commitment, determination and selfless service towards the success of the party in Kano State.

He also called on the people of Kano State to give maximum support and cooperation to the Abba Kabir-led administration in order to bring progress to the state.

ABU VC Launches Tractors At Division Of Agricultural Colleges

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Three brand new tractors with implements procured under the 2022 capital development project have been launched for teaching and research at the Division of Agricultural Colleges (DAC), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala.

A statement issued by the Public Affairs Directorate of the university, said this brings to five, the total number of tractors (Massey Ferguson – 375) acquired for the Division. Two tractors were first procured in 2021 when the Division marked the centenary anniversary of the Samaru College of Agriculture.

Speaking at the tractors' launch, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, expressed delight that the heavy-duty vehicles would be used for

teaching, research and other purposes at the Division's colleges.

"This is quite commendable. Prof. Musa Mahadi has done superlatively well as Director".

"His work is very outstanding; and I wish other Directors would follow suit," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Prof. Bala also expressed joy that all the things the Director had been doing at the Division were the results of his own initiatives as a leader, stressing that one had to strategize very well to get things done.

The Vice-Chancellor, who commended members of the DAC management team for their strong support towards the development of the Division, prayed to God to reward the Director abundantly for the great job he was doing.

In his remarks the

Director, Division of Agricultural Colleges, Prof. Musa Abdullahi Mahadi explained that he and his team had since responded to the Vice-Chancellor's clarion call on the need to work hard for the improvement of teaching, learning, IGR and visibility globally. Prof. Mahadi expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for his unflinching support towards the development of the Division and assured him of their determination to continue to improve the system in the best interest of the University as a whole.

The Division's Deputy Director, Dr. Abdullahi Namakka, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of management, staff and students of the Division, said they would ever remain grateful to the Vice-Chancellor for his support.

The Vice-Chancellor test-

drove one of the tractors to formally launch the heavy-duty vehicles and expressed satisfaction with their condition.

Some of the dignitaries at the event included Ag. Director, Physical Planning and Municipal Services, Arc. Mohammed Suleiman; Division Secretary, Malam M.D. Suleiman; Provost, Samaru College of Agriculture, Prof. E.M.S. Imodagbe; and Deputy Provost, Samaru College of Agriculture, Dr. L.A. Folorunso.

Others were Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Malam Auwal Mohammed Yusuf; Division Finance Officer, Malam Mustapha Mahmud; Division Resident Internal Auditor, Malam Abdullahi Musa; Division Librarian, Dr. Hassan Usman; and Division Head of Security, Malam Sanusi Adamu.



Katsina Guber Polls WS Money Induced, Aimed At Destroying Democracy - PDP

**Rejects outcome*

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Katsina State has rejected the Governorship and state Assembly elections conducted at the weekend.

The PDP described the elections as money endorsement, intimidation, harassment and blackmail aimed at destroying democracy.

The Party made its stand on the elections

at a jointly organized Press Conference in Katsina metropolis, by its Gubernatorial candidate, Senator Garba Yakubu Lado Danmarke, Chairman Campaign Council, Senator Umar Tsauri, Director General Atiku and Lado campaign council, Dr Mustapha Mohammed Inuwa and the state Chairman of the Party, Alhaji Lawal magaji Danbachi.

They assured of challenging the "unacceptable elections" results before

Court of law for Justice.

"There was poor turn out in the state and civil servants were forced to work for APC while the government directed all the local government council's chairmen in the state to ensure that APC wins elections no matter what," Director General of Atiku and Lado campaign council, Dr Mustapha Mohammed Inuwa emphasized.

The elections according to Dr

Mohammed Inuwa was done to destroy democracy and it would encourage the PDP to continue with the struggle and wax stronger.

Senator Garba Yakubu Lado Danmarke who described the elections as a disgrace and disappointing, thanked the Campaign Council and the party's supporters in the state for their advice and support, assuring to continue working for PDP until it succeeds.

YPP Rejects Akwa Ibom Election Results, Alleges Intimidation

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Young Progressives Party (YPP) in Akwa Ibom State has rejected the results of last Saturday's governorship/state assembly elections in the state, alleging massive rigging, and described it as a ruse on the intelligence of the electorate.

YPP also alleged that the conduct of the polls was bloodletting exercise executed by agents of Governor Udom Emmanuel-led administration and officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in favour of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Addressing a press conference in Uyo on Monday, State Secretary of YPP, Ambassador Kelvin Umoh explained that his Party refused to sign the results sheet of the governorship election where Pastor Umo Eno was declared winner by INEC because it did not reflect the collective will of the electorate in the State.

Umoh, whose text of the Press Conference was tagged: "Not The Will Of The Electorate In Akwa Ibom State" stated that reports from YPP agents, voters and independent observers as collaborated by credible intelligence have pointed to evidence that the elections were rigged against the will of electorate who had desired the opportunity to elect and usher in the right leadership in next dispensation.

YPP State Secretary also alleged that faked security personnel who dressed in police, military and para-military uniforms were used against YPP agents and supporters in polling units and registration area centres across the state.

His text read in parts, "On Saturday, March 18, 2023, the electorate in Akwa Ibom State witnessed a spectacle of well-orchestrated rigging scheme and bloodletting brazenly executed during the Gubernatorial/State House of Assembly polls by agents of Governor Udom Emmanuel-led administration and officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in favour of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

"At the collation and announcement of the Gubernatorial election result on Sunday, March 19, 2023 by INEC, we, as a Party, did not append our signature on the result sheet because it doesn't reflect the will of the electorate in Akwa Ibom State.



YPP State Secretary addressing a press conference in Uyo.

"Reports from party agents, voters and independent observers as collaborated by credible intelligence, were categorical that the conduct of the Gubernatorial/State House of Assembly elections was a mere ruse on the intelligence of the electorate who had earnestly desired to use the opportunity to usher in the right leadership in the next dispensation for the State.

"To pull the wool over the eyes of poll observers and members of the public, the rigging syndicate of the state administration and INEC officials selected a few locations to allow the conduct to run a bit fairly – mainly in most parts of Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District and Uyo Senatorial District while Eket Senatorial District was shambolic, as most of the polling units' results were pre-written.

"Worse still, the PDP state administration also deployed hired thugs who were dressed in Police, military and Para-military uniforms to kill, molest, maim and chase away YPP's Party Agents and supporters in the Polling units and Registration Area Centres (RACs) across the State.

"Instances abound like the case in Ibiono Ibom where PDP armed militia killed some of our supporters including Mr

Abraham Bassey Ekpenyong at the INEC office. This dastardly act was carried out by a team of police men from Government House, Uyo led by Danjuma Saleh who moved in a convoy of six white hilux pickup trucks.

"In Atan Offot, Uyo, a YPP Local Government Agent was beaten mercilessly by thugs, about 15 in number, led by Mr Ime Uwah, SSA to Governor Udom Emmanuel who personally had a gun with him.

"Mr Ime Uwah's gang also went around polling units in Atan Offot to chase away YPP Agents and key supporters while carting away electoral materials and

results from these units – inflated them and announced in favour of the PDP. This carting away was done even in the presence of foreign observers.

"Furthermore, three of our supporters were killed at Etim Ekpo and several others in other LGAs across the state. Even at Onna LGA, where Governor Udom Emmanuel hails from, thugs in police and military uniforms led by his Chief protocol officer, Mr Edmond Ufang, intimidated and maimed our supporters freely. In fact, any person identified as a supporter of YPP was decreed as a persona non grata, deserving elimination" YPP State Secretary stated.

Revealing further, he said, "Aside these ugly scenes, the fact is that fake result sheets as against the originals pre-signed by the REC were used in collating results in most units across the state. We have official reports that the same dastardly acts played out in other areas of the State including but not limited to all LGAs in Eket senatorial district, and some local government areas in the state like Ini, Ukanafun, Oruk Anam, Etim Ekpo, Ika, Abak, Essien Udim, Ikot Ekpene, Itu, Etinan, and Uruan.

"Also worth mentioning is the massive hijacking of electoral materials in these LGAs by the

PDP agents in collusion with INEC staff and security personnel in these areas. For instance, materials in Ini LGA were hijacked to Dr Glory Edet's house; that of Ika to Barr Utibe Nwoko's house; that of Ikot Abasi to Engr. Uwem Okoko's house; Eket to Hon Francis Archibong's house; Oron to Senator Akon Eyakenyi's house, etc.

"On another plank, the state government and the PDP agents were seen brazenly and openly paying people N10,000 to buy their votes. Credible intelligence suggest that the state government and the PDP agents paid about N1.3 Million per unit across the 4,353 units in the state, \$5,000 to each ward across the 329 wards in the state as part of their voters buying strategy". Umoh positioned that the YPP gubernatorial candidate on the state, Senator Bassey Albert Akpan, the preferred choice of the people is never in doubt and will be legally pursued to secure justice.

He also called on the Department of State Services (DSS), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Foreign Missions, International Observers and relevant bodies to stand up against the malfeasance by INEC and the PDP in the last Gubernatorial/State House of Assembly elections in the state.

"To pull the wool over the eyes of poll observers and members of the public, the rigging syndicate of the state administration and INEC officials selected a few locations to allow the conduct to run a bit fairly – mainly in most parts of Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District and Uyo Senatorial District while Eket Senatorial District was shambolic, as most of the polling units' results were pre-written."

Focus On Education, Security Other Germane Areas, Engr Alao Tasks Makinde

**Congratulates him on re-election*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Asiwaju of Irokoland and Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), in Oyo State, Engr Oyedele Alao on Monday, tasked Governor Seyi Makinde "to work harder" in his second term. Congratulating Gov Makinde in a message personally signed by him on his reelection, the APC Chieftain said doing this will make Oyo State a pride among other states in the country in order to earn the respect of all

The APC Chieftain equally charged Governor Makinde to see the renewal of his mandate as a call for him to give good governance and deliver more dividends of democracy to the people of Oyo state,

Engr Alao stressed that Governor Makinde victory was the wishes of the people of the state and a reflection of the trust they have in the governor,



Gov Makinde

adding that it is now

"important for the governor to focus more attention on areas that are germane such as education, security, health, grading of feeder roads, creation of jobs for the youths and state of the environment".

"I want to sincerely congratulate Governor Seyi Makinde on his reelection as the governor

of our dear state. The victory is nothing but what the people want at the present moment and a reflection of their confidence on the governor to pilot the affairs of the state for another four years" he said.

The APC Chieftain added, "with the election all over and victory coming the way of Governor

Makinde, it is an opportunity for him to work harder and give the best to Oyo State in terms of good governance and delivery of dividends of democracy to the people to make the state one of the best if not the best in the country."

Engr Alao emphasized that he would constantly engage in constructive criticism to put Gov Makinde administration on its toes, and that "with election come and gone, the governor must have a large heart to accommodate all and see himself as governor of all irrespective of political affiliation".

Praying for a successful tenure for the governor and enjoined all to support him in their respective capacity in order to achieve the best for the state, Engr Alao noted that the task of moving the state forward requires the support of every stakeholder, adding that the time has come for politics to take the back seat in the interest of the state.

Alleged Defamation, Inciting Statements:

Oyo SDP Guber Candidate Demands N5bn from Party's Chairman

**May head for court*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State governorship candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in the last election, Barrister Michael Lana on Monday, demanded N5 billion damages from the state chairman of the party, Mr. Michael Okunlade, for defamation and inciting statements. Barrister Lana in a letter dated March 20 by his counsel, Ola Adeosun, and addressed to Okunlade, threatens to drag the SDP state Chairman to court if he failed to meet his demands of retraction of the offensive statements to be published in a national daily newspaper, the internet and prominent social media platforms within three days of receiving the letter.

According to Barrister Lana, the SDP state Chairman defamed his character in an interview he granted a national newspaper by accusing him of collecting money from Governor Seyi Makinde, in order to support him for his reelection bid.

Barrister Lana said in the

interview which circulated in an online newspaper based in Ibadan, on the internet spaces around the world and on various social media platforms, Hon Okunlade "described him as a rogue lacking in integrity", stating that he knew that the assertion was false.

In the letter titled, "Publication and Circulation of Defamatory and Inciting Statements against Mr. Michael Folorunsho Lana. Demand for retraction and payment of Compensation", Barrister Lana stated further that apart from misinforming the general public most especially the mass of young lawyers and younger generation of politicians who see him as a role model in terms of integrity in the interview, he painted him as a corrupt and irresponsible person that cannot be trusted by anybody.

Barrister Lana stressed, "it is important for Okunlade to know that in passing out information on anybody such must be factual, credible and truthful, noting that hence he must pay for his indiscretions".

APC Guber Candidate, Emerged Winner Of 2023 Gubernatorial Election In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The governorship candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon. Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru has emerged winner of 2023 governorship election in Ebonyi State as he defeated his closest rival, Chief Ifeanyi Chukwuma Odii of PDP who came second and the APGA candidate, Prof. Ifeanyichukwu Odoh who came third in the governorship election.

Announcing the result at INEC office in Abakaliki, the state Returning Officer in Ebonyi State 2023 General elections, Prof. Charles Igwe declared Rt. Hon. Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru as the winner of the governorship having scored a total of 199,131 while the candidate of PDP who came second scored 80,191, while third position went to the APGA candidate who also scored 52,189



Nwifuru

On her part, the Resident Electoral Commissioner in Ebonyi State, Mrs .Onyekachi Paulin Ugochi said that the have no interest nor biased in the election as an umpire but

conducted free and fair election in the state. Also, the representative of APGA refused to sign the result, describing it as a scam and not a true reflection of the outcome of the election.

The total number of registered voters is 159,7646 and accredited voters is 350,346 while total valid vote is 242,554 while rejected vote is 7324 while the total valid vote is 349,941.

Kano Lifts Dawn To Dusk Curfew

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Kano State Government has lifted the dawn to dusk curfew imposed on the state with a view to avoiding breakdown of law and order, following tension generated from the announcement of the results of the governorship and state Assembly elections.

The state Commissioner for Information and Internal Affairs, Malam Muhammad Garba, made

the announcement, lifting the curfew in a statement issued Monday night.

He said the decision to lift the curfew was after careful review of the situation and the relative calm throughout the state, where the commissioner called on commercial banks, public servants and the people in the state to come out and continue their normal businesses as normalcy returned to the state after the governorship election declaration.

Kwarans Voted For Progress - Gov Abdulrazaq

By **BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has said that the overwhelming victory that the All Progressives Congress (APC) recorded in the Saturday polls underscores the desire of the citizens to continue along the path of positive progress Kwara has recorded over the past three years.

"This victory is truly humbling, and we give all glory to God who has made this happen. It speaks to our people's

understanding of our history, their appreciation of the progress made between yesterday and today, and their commitment to a greater tomorrow. It reflects the wishes of Kwarans at home and in diaspora to sustain the gains of the past three and half years. It means they appreciate our modest efforts to improve the lot of our state," the Governor said in a statement.

"My profound appreciation goes to all the stakeholders for the truly pan-Kwara mandate: young or old, men and women, traditional and

religious institutions, civil servants, private sector players, thoughts leaders, political leaders, market men and women, artisans, the media, students, and our young ones who energised our communities with that sweet, creative chant of Maa se lo.

"For me, the victory is a call to consolidate on and further spread the gains of the past three and half years and do much more for the people. I pledge to recommit myself to this. Together, we will build a Kwara whose politics will be anchored on giving equitable opportunities to

all, expanding the state's economic base, and delivering dividends of democracy to the citizenry in an atmosphere of peace and respect for the dignity of the human person.

"I dedicate this election victory to God and to the people of our state — in the north, south, and central. They have shown once again that power resides with the people. Finally, I commend the peaceful conduct of the election, and especially congratulate the security agencies, the electoral umpire, and the political elites for jointly making Kwara polls the most peaceful in Nigeria."

el-Rufai Commends Kaduna Residents Over Peaceful polls

By **FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**

Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai of Kaduna State has expressed appreciation to the people of the state for the largely peaceful 2023 elections and for voting for the All Progressives Congress (APC) at both the presidential and gubernatorial polls.

A statement signed by

Special Adviser on Media and Communication, Mr Muyiwa Adekeye, yesterday, said that the governor is especially grateful to the people for voting for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as president-elect and Governor-elect Uba Sani. The statement quoted el-Rufai as expressing optimism, "these results have created an atmosphere that enhances

the progress of our country and our dear Kaduna State."

According to Adekeye, the governor "wishes the leaders that have been re-elected or freshly elected in this 2023 cycle, every success in accelerating the uplift of our country and society and in improving the wellbeing and life chances of all our people." "With 69 days left to complete the eight-year

mandate the people of Kaduna State have kindly granted him, Malam Nasir el-Rufai wishes to convey his profound appreciation for this privilege of service," the statement added.

The governor promised to devote "the few weeks to 29 May 2023 to the continued discharge of his duties and to supporting the transition arrangements for the next government of Kaduna State."

Lagos SWAN Congratulates Governor Sanwo-Olu, Deputy On Re-election

By **AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos**

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Lagos State chapter, led by its chairman, Mrs. Olatutu Oladunni has congratulated the Governor Elect of Lagos State, His Excellency, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-olu alongside his deputy, Dr Obafemi Kadiri Hamzat on their re-election to Office for second term.

Oladunni who is also the first female chairman of Lagos SWAN since 1964 said, this is indeed a well deserved victory for Lagos State Government, citizens of Lagos and

entire sporting family.

"Following the just concluded Governorship election held on March 18th 2023 nationwide, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has proven again that A good term of governance deserves another " as he won the election with a wide margin to defeat the opposition parties respectively," she said.

The SWAN Chairman said, "it is no doubt a lot of impressive transformation has taken place in the sports sector in lagos and as we have Mr Governor retaining his seat, ot will be a continuation of work in progress as we look forward to see more of the

brilliant work in sports.

"The integrating bond between Lagos SWAN and Lagos State Government has continued to grow stronger and hereby, remains unbreakable, as His Excellency Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's sporting spirit begins to open larger opportunities for sports sector in Lagos State.

"Having done two series of sporting advocacy tour for His Excellency Gov. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu. The Lagos State chapter has used the opportunity to felicitate with the new Governor Elect alongside his deputy, Dr Obafemi

Kadiri Hamzat as Lagosians celebrate them specially for the victory," she added.

Oladunni said the new mandate given by Lagosians to Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is simply a proof to positive call and also the achievements recorded in Lagos across boards.

She said, "as the entire members of Lagos SWAN celebrate His Excellency's re-election victory. We urge Mr Governor to continue to remain focused more than ever as this we believe will take sports sector to another rising level of greater excellence."

Sanwo-Olu Increases Lagos Workers' Salary With 20%



Babajide Sanwo-Olu

By **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The welfare package of Lagos State workforce has received a leap following the approval of a 20 per cent increment by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for workers in the mainstream civil service in the state.

The governor in addition, has concluded all arrangements to ensure that the staff start receiving their new salary arrears beginning from the month, March, 2023.

Our correspondent gathered that the move is to improve welfare and wellbeing of public servants and boost their morale towards re-dedicating themselves to a better service delivery in Lagos State.

The announcement came hours after the governor was declared winner by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as winner of the election which he polled over 700,000 votes to edge out other candidates

Sanwo-Olu's approval was confirmed by the Head of Service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola, through a circular with R e l . N o :

CIR/HOS/23/Vol.1/023 , on Monday.

According to the circular, This is to notify for general information that Mr. Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in his determination to improve the welfare and wellbeing of Public Servants in Lagos State has graciously approved an increase in Salaries for Officers in the Mainstream Public Service, Local Governments & Local Council Development Areas as well as the State Universal Basic Education Board by 20% with effect from 14 January, 2023.

"Furthermore, kindly note that the arrears for the month of January, 2023 will be paid along with Salaries for the month of March, 2023, while the arrears for the month of February, 2023 will be paid together with the salaries of April, 2023.

"This action further demonstrates this Administration's commitment to Staff welfare. Public Servants are thus joined to show more commitment and dedication in the delivery of qualitative service to the citizens of the state.

Unforgettable Hospitality In Kaolack, Senegal

By ; MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI

To many Nigerian Muslim faithful, Kaolack, a region about 230 kilometers outside Dakar, capital of Senegal, is a place of pilgrimage for learning, understanding and associating with the Tijaniyya sect of Islam popularised by Sheikh Ibrahim Niasse. Sheikh Niasse fondly called Sheikh al-Islam is a man of many firsts, including being the first West African, black man to lead prayers in the revered Al-Azhar Mosque in Egypt as well as serving as the first Vice President of the Muslim World League, an international Islamic NGO based and founded in Makkah, Saudi Arabia in 1962 by King Faisal Abdulaziz ibn Al Saud.

I was visiting Dakar for the first time to experience and report the third edition of the Sahara Conference of the Basketball Africa League (BAL). The BAL in its third year is an initiative of the National Basketball Association (NBA) Africa to promote basketball talent across the continent. Kwara Falcons, champions of the premier basketball league in Nigeria is one of the six teams battling in Dakar to clinch four slots for the BAL playoff finals scheduled for Kigali, Rwanda between 21 and 27 May, later this year.

It is Friday and I craved to say my Jumuat prayers at the Sheikh Niasse mosque in Kaolack. Earlier on Thursday, I did book transportation online Senegal Dem Dikk, public transportation from Dakar to all other major regions of the country. 7am on Friday, seated in an air-conditioned coach, we set out for Kaolack driving through other major cities including, Fatick and Gandiaye. Less than 30 minutes to arriving Kaolack, I was struggling with the language barrier while asking fellow passengers where would be my best stop in order to easily access the Sheikh Niasse mosque popularly called the Medina Baye Niasse. An elderly man in his mid-sixties spoke to me in English relieving my anxiety. Abdoulaye Mohamed who apparently has visited many parts of Nigeria asked me, "where are you from my friend? When I replied Nigeria, he simply mentioned he has visited many Nigerian states including Lagos, Abuja, Sokoto, Kano and Kaduna for religious



R-L: Writer with Sheikh Tijani Niasse

activities. "Are you going to Baye Niasse?" he asked. I told him, I am visiting for the first time to experience Kaolack, Pa Abdoulaye offered to be my host for the entirety of my stay in Kaolack.

We arrived Kaolack, hot and sandy city at about 10:30am

after over three hours smooth drive from Dakar and headed straight to the family home of Sheikh Mahmum Niasse, one of the children of Sheikh Ibrahim Niasse, where I was given free, decent accommodation and food. Sheikh Tijani Niasse, paternal grandson of Sheikh



R-L : Writer with Sheikh Mouhamadou Mahy Cisse

Ibrahim Niasse became my guide showing me around the Baye Niasse mosque and Kaolack city which bares striking resemblance to northern Nigeria in terms of building and street structures. After the Jumuat prayers, we were guests of Sheikh Mouhamadou Mahy Cisse at his residence. Sheikh

Mahy, maternal grandson of Sheikh Ibrahim Niasse is a globally revered scholar currently serving as the official spokesperson of Tijaniyyah and the Director of Studies at the African American Islamic Institute.

"The world needs peace and love which is the legacy of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) whom Allah has sent to all mankind to take people from darkness to light. The more we spread peace and love, the more we uphold the legacy of the Prophet (peace be upon him)," Sheikh Mahy admonished.

After Sheikh Mahy's admonition, it was time for lunch. Sheikh Mahy led more than forty persons gathered in his modestly furnished living room in eating from same bowls with bare hands showing love in practicality, irrespective of cadre and nationality.

I wondered about this profound hospitality accorded me and the simplicity of the Niasse family. A Nigerian student, Misbahudeen who has been living in the city for the past five years and speaks Wolof, the local Senegalese language fluently, confirmed that overwhelming hospitality towards strangers is not just associated with the Niasse family, but rather a prominent culture of Kaolack, expressed by both rich and the poor.



Memo To The Newly Elected Governors

By; MURTALA ADOGI MOHAMMED

Congratulations to all the brand new elected and re-elected Governors. Is not easy! The time to hit the ground running is NOW!

However, you need to know that, the work of a Governor begins with a transition period and if the primary responsibility of the Governor is to govern, that begs the question, HOW?

One thing you need to know is that campaigns are over, now it's time to think and answers some of these questions – such as.

1. How can I approach the job as a newly elected Governor?
2. How can I convert my campaign promises into Agenda & Results?
3. What is expected of me as a newly elected Governor as per things to do before the inauguration?
4. Want immediate decisions must be made?
5. What are the key things I need to do as per – policy development, governance, and communication tools?

In responding to some of these questions here are 7 Low Hanging fruits for a quick win...

1. Constitute a transition team with robust TOR, remember you only have two months to inauguration. As Governor-elect you will soon have full power and responsibility of the executive branch of the state. Constitutionally and practically – the statutory power of the Governor is often perceived by new Governors as more limited than they imagine.. The Notes developed by the transition committee will give you an insight into what is expected of you.

2. Constitute a technical team to handle the transition, you need a combination of technocrats and politicians. The ability of the Governor-elect to navigate the difficulties of governing will largely depend on the quality of work done by the transition team.

3. Begin to build and nurture relationships with other arms of government, to effectively



Murtala Adogi Mohammed

navigate the turbulent waters of governance, you need to have a strong working relationship with civil servants, legislatures, the press, and the public... Begin to do that today, through breakfast meetings and dinner.

4. On making appointments, the most important decisions a governor-elect will make during the transition will be selecting individuals to staff the Governor's office, central management agencies, and

executive council. Apart from individuals you also need a 'team' that will drive and coordinate the day-to-day running of the state. Competence, character, and commitment should be

paramount in engaging people to work with.

5. Follow the rules of the game, and look at the processes of your administration as important tools to accomplish your key objectives. Communicate your goals to the team members, your target, milestones, and results should be very clear to all. As a newly elected Governor, make sure you keep your priorities firmly focused.

6. Implementation of the 4 Years Strategic Plan – if you have one, good! If don't have to develop one within 6 months of your administration. Immediately upon taking office, the Governor-elect is expected to be a master of the intricacies of the state government. Plans and programmes are the lifeblood of the state government, including emergency response plans and tracking of people's complaints, and delivery of results.

7. Media Team and Press Relations, we are in the era of people surviving through 'cooking and sharing fake news', therefore as a Governor-elect, you need a robust media team. Engaging the electorates through social media and offline. Mistakes at the beginning of your tenure can lead to serious challenges. Using the full power of press relations is not all about daily updates on social media, but it is about the overall narrative of the governor's tenure....

In conclusion, you need to know that, the transition period of a new Governor has often been described as the most intense period after the campaign. Also, you need to know that...successful Governors are principles leaders who remain in touch with their constituents. Remember to shape your administration with leadership, management, results tracking, and communication tools.

The first 3 appointments, Chief of Staff, Spokesman, and SSG – will tell who you are, not as Governor, but as LEADER!

Murtala Adogi Mohammed PhD is the Founder/Executive Director

“1. How can I approach the job as a newly elected Governor?”

2. How can I convert my campaign promises into Agenda & Results?”

3. What is expected of me as a newly elected Governor as per things to do before the inauguration?”

4. Want immediate decisions must be made?”

5. What are the key things I need to do as per – policy development, governance, and communication tools?”

Restructuring: Buhari Writes His Name In Gold

By Law Mefor

In life, it is not the much said that matters but the much done of the much said. That's what President Muhammadu Buhari just demonstrated by signing some devolution of powers into law.

Restoration of federalism to Nigeria as agreed between the nation's founding fathers (Zik, Awo, Ahmadu Bello, et al) and colonial Britain is what the deafening clamor for restructuring is all about. The 1999 Constitution could be the worst in the nation's annals for imposing a unitary system in a federal environment, with 68 key items on the Federal List compared to a little over 30 flimsy and sundry items contained in the Concurrent List.

When the powers that confer socioeconomic autonomy to a federating unit as obtained in a true federation are considered, one would see that virtually all of them are concentrated and consolidated on the Exclusive List – Power/Electricity, State police, Ports, Railway, Solid minerals, Local government, State Assembly, Judiciary autonomy, and many more.

Under Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as President, most of these issues were addressed and passed in the last amendment, which he was to sign into law just before handing over, as is the case with Buhari at the moment. Jonathan refused to sign the amendments even though NASS had passed them and the concurrence affirmation by 24 State Houses of Assembly had also been passed. These were necessary devolution items needed in the constitutional alterations, which must be moved from the Exclusive List to the Concurrent List if Nigeria will be a federation indeed again. A reliable source said that Jonathan signed but used Tippex correction fluid to erase his signature for reasons best known to him.

During the Obasanjo years, no constitutional alteration bill succeeded. The one that would have seen the light of day, some lawmakers smuggled the 3rd term clause into it for the benefit

of the same Obasanjo. That single clandestine move killed the move to alter the 1999 Constitution to devolve powers to make the States truly federating units.

One had expected that the nation could have attained 100% restoration to true federalism between Obasanjo and Jonathan since the current constitutional arrangement disfavoured the south more. But the two Presidents from southern Nigeria divide frittered away their combined 14 years in power and couldn't even move a single devolution item from the Exclusive List to the Concurrent List. And it took a Buhari, who the odds never favoured to sign the first significant devolution of powers into law thus succeeding where others before him woefully failed and thus wrote his name in gold.

What just happened reminds one of a certain parable in the Bible. The two sons (Matt. 21:28-32) is about two brothers whose father tells them to go work in his vineyard. One tells his father that he will but doesn't do it. The other tells his father that he won't go but ends up working all day among the vines. Jesus then asks the question, "Which of the two did the will of his father?" The answer is clear: the one who worked, though initially refusing to do so.

This reminds us also that actions speak louder than words. Many Nigerian leaders make statements declaring they would restructure but never did when given the opportunity.

Though it is still a far cry as certain powers such as Fiscal federalism, State Police, Ports, Solid minerals, and some others are not part of what Buhari signed into law, the four items that passed are quite a milestone and will start the process for regional integration and creation of true economic hubs for regional and national development. There can't be a greater parting gift for a president whose administration brought so much hardship, escalated insecurity, and imposed debilitating poverty and most recently, a most controversial presidential

election denounced by both Nigerians and the international community.

This decision to devolve key powers to states is therefore redemptive to the President and suffering credibility.

Let us take a look at the alterations that have given the states some key powers as federating units. Buhari has signed 16 Constitution Amendment Bills; States can now generate, distribute electricity, and own railways and State assemblies/Judiciary now have financial autonomy; presidents and governors must appoint ministers and commissioners within 60 days among others.

With the Fifth Alteration Bill No. 33, Devolution of Powers (National Grid System), Nigeria's 36 states are allowed to generate, transmit, and distribute electricity in areas covered by the national grid. This is perhaps the most important.

Another granted right to the state governments is the power to establish their railway service – Fifth Alteration Bill No. 32, the Devolution of Powers, Railways. With this, the railway moves from the Exclusive Legislative List to the concurrent list. With this law, a zone like South-east can put in place railway network that will ring up the 5 South-east states.

Finally, changing prisons to



President Buhari

correctional service and re-designate correctional service in the Concurrent list is the fourth right signed away from the Exclusive List by the President. States can now set up their Prisons to keep offenders generated by them. This will lead to a drastic decongestion of federal prisons.

Summarily, these amendments are key devolutions and represent a major shift in the nation's federal structure. Since the two twin problems of Nigeria are leadership and structure, any fundamental alteration of the nation's structure is a solution to the nation's problems.

What is more, there is no separation of powers in the states for the reason that there is no autonomy of States' Houses

of Assembly and State Judiciary. This is now resolved with these signed Bills and State Assemblies can now stand up to the State governors who have been enjoying absolute powers and corrupted by it since 1999. Thank you, Mr. President, for the courage and the precedence. One can only hope that your successor will take it a notch higher by signing more key items away from the Exclusive List to the Concurrent List and fully restoring the nation to federalism and kick start true integration and development.

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Kenya and the Majengo Syndrome

By Jibrin Ibrahim

I JUST returned from a trip to Kenya and it is a fascinating country where people are passionate about politics but frustrated at the narrow field of key players. The same elite have been circulating for decades and making permutations about whose turn it is to rule while the people are distressed about the limited choice and offer on the table. The next general election is scheduled for 9th August, in a few days' time, and campaign is heating up.

Kenya is very similar to Nigeria in the sense that the political class has used power to become extremely wealthy, made politics an expensive game to block new entrants and fight each other during each election to determine the new boss of the political and national elite. As for the masses, who cares?

What struck me most about the country was my trip to a slum in the centre of Nairobi called Majengo. I was given an excellent social history and current dynamics tour of the slum by two great guides, Iddi and Rashid, a great admirer of Nigeria's legendary football star, Rashid Yekini. The squalor of the slum is striking with terrible drainage, lack of sanitation, drug and alcohol abuse with so many young people spending their lives drinking "illicit liquor" – it is shameful that the term is still in use in Kenya. Beside the community is the biggest secondhand clothing market and hub for East Africa.

The real story is that as with all slums around the world located in city centres, the gentrification moguls are after the high value land and are literally getting the masses burnt out, kicked out or bought out by the propertied classes. The stories are depressing, those who refuse to sell out suffer "mysterious" arson on the property which then has to be demolished for public health purposes and there goes the land on which high rise

developments are built. There is no major metropolitan city slum in the world without similar stories.

Majengo was established between 1900-1920 by settlers, mainly Muslim Bajuni from the coast between Mombasa and Lamu, brought in by the colonial administration to service the new capital city my guides told me. Since then, it has been stories of circles of displacements of the poorer previous inhabitants. The next group was returnees from the First World War campaign who settled there and made the area more cosmopolitan starting the process of the displacement of the earlier mainly Muslim inhabitants. Then there was the entry of the Somali when they started making money from various streams of revenue including piracy and commerce. Currently, the Chinese are coming into the country, linking up with the national bourgeoisie and developing high rise property that is changing the skyline.

The sad story, according to Iddi and Rashid who have spent the last fifty years in the area, every national government has promised a massive programme of urban regeneration for the area to get their votes, after the elections, a few estate blocks are built and the place is forgotten until the next one. The other side of the story of course is that there is a history of the availability of strong arms for hire in Majengo for election violence and as the next elections arrive in a few days, it might be harvest time for some people.

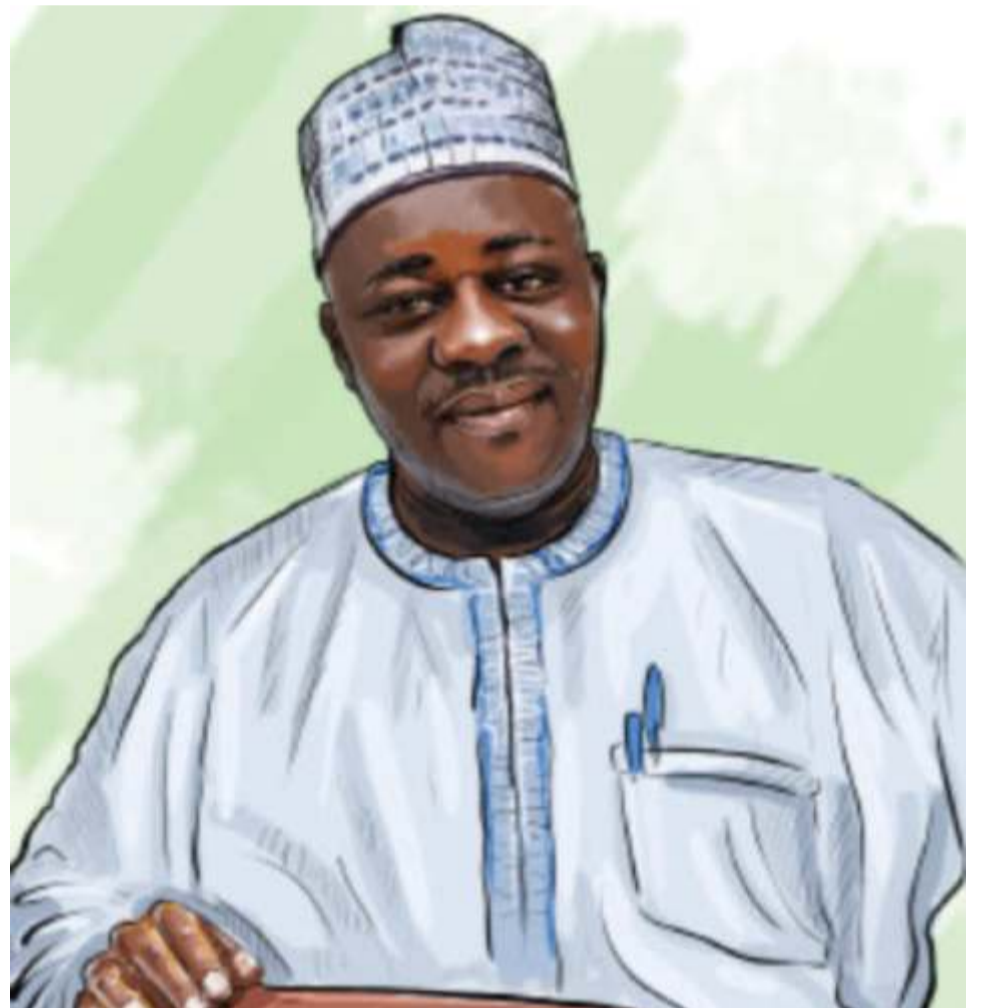
Kenya is a real tourist-oriented country. The National Museum requires at least four hours to go through the various exhibitions and collections. Both the National Archives and the Nairobi Gallery also have great exhibitions and artefacts on display. It was at the National Archives that I saw on display the stamp issued by the Nigerian

Government to celebrate the marriage of former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon to Victoria.

The Nairobi Game Reserve is virtually in the city and it was strange seeing lions, buffalos and rhinos living their lives just a few kilometers from the city centre. I did wonder whether lions have ever wondered into the city centre and was told that was ridiculous a thought as if the animals know they were left to exist to entertain tourists like myself. I did see a lion hunting down a gazelle for breakfast and the Nigerian in me wondered fleetingly why the bush meat is reserved solely for carnivorous animals

minus humans. Of course, that is silly thinking even if in Nigeria humans have hunted down and eaten most of the antelopes as bushmeat. My prayer however is that we should learn from the Kenyans, never eat bushmeat, in any case they are spreading dangerous diseases, reserve them as entertainment for the eyes of tourists and national visitors.

In 1991, after 26 years of single party rule, Kenya returned to multi-party democracy. On 9th August 2022, Kenya will be holding its 7th General Elections since the return of constitutional multi-party democracy. The big story is that the President, Kenyatta, has made an alliance with the historical opposition party leader Raila Odinga thus abandoning his Vice President, William Ruto who has suddenly discovered he is not part of the establishment and was excluded



for that reason so he has redefined himself as opposition and is contesting the elections as an "outsider", whatever that means. In Kenya's tradition, the two blocs contesting for the presidency are running neck to neck and we will know soon enough the outcome of the election.

The 2007 election was characterised by massive post-election violence that brought world leaders to mediate following massacre of over one thousand people. In the 2013 elections, the political environment around the elections was overshadowed by the impending trials at the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague. The key accused persons for the trial were Mr. Kenyatta and Mr. Ruto, the Jubilee Alliance presidential candidates. They both faced charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed

in the course of the post-electoral violence following the 2007 polls.

After a sustained attempt at prosecution by the ICC, the charges were dropped. The prosecution alleged that witnesses had been compromised or threatened thereby jeopardising the case. Today, the two are fighting each other. Kenyan politics remains bifurcated with voters split down the middle with a demarcation of about 50/50 for the two main voting blocks that are also ethnic alliances. I wish them the best of luck for the elections.

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

Challenges of a New African Ocean and Continent

By Owei Lakemfa

AS we sleep, nature is ever awake, working. Even if we snore, it cannot be as loud as the rumbling Mount Nyiragongo volcano in the Democratic Republic of Congo which this week, is threatening to blow out as it did on May 22, 2011. The tragic flood Freddy which is ripping through Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar claiming some 300 lives, is like a drop in the ocean compared to the new ocean nature is burrowing through the continent.

“The challenges of having a new ocean in Africa which would slice through the continent creating two distinct continents are quite enormous. It starts with the question; do we need a new ocean? If no, can we still prevent it? If yes, how do we prepare for it including the huge lands that will be yielded to it, the people that would be displaced, countries recreated, merged or new ones that would be born?” The East African Rift System (EARS) elongating from the Afar area of northern Ethiopia, splitting up countries like Kenya and Tanzania from parts of Africa has been found to be separating at seven millimetres per year.

The most obvious indication of the shifting tectonic plates, created a 35-mile-long rift in the Ethiopian desert in 2005. This was a most revolutionary and extra ordinary occurrence as the tectonic shift that normally took several hundred years, occurred in just a few days.

What if the African Continent broke apart?

Geologists point at tell tales of rapid shifts in the bowels of the continent such as the Victoria micro plate, the biggest of its kind on earth; tucked between each side of the rift, it has for two years now, been rotating anti-clock wise. There are also, several active volcanoes in the East African region which are contributing to the breakup of the continent. These include the Ol Doinyo Lengai 'Mountain of God' in Tanzania which rises to an elevation of 9,442 feet and has one of the fastest flowing lava on earth.

There are the volcano clusters in Ethiopia like the Aloo Dalapila and the Erta Ale volcano 'the mountain that smokes' which has been erupting for over a century. There are only five known volcanoes with lava lakes in the world, this is the most unique; it has two lava lakes, dating back from 1967.

Satellite measurements have also showed the slow birth of both a new ocean and a new continent in Africa. Geophysical Research Letters, the authoritative biweekly peer-reviewed geoscience journal published since 1974 said geologists have made two fundamental confirmations; a new ocean is being created in Africa, and the continent as we know it, will split into two.

Christopher Moore of the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom, in employing satellite radar to monitor the volcanic activity, said: “This is the only place on Earth where you can study how continental rift becomes an oceanic rift.” On Africa, he adds: “We can see that oceanic crust is starting to form, because it's distinctly different from continental crust in its composition and density.”

Cynthia Ebinger, a geophysicist at Tulane University in New Orleans, who is studying the phenomenon, revealed: “The hottest inhabited town on the Earth's surface is in the Afar. Daytime temperatures often go to 130 degrees Fahrenheit and they cool off to a balmy 95 degrees at night.”

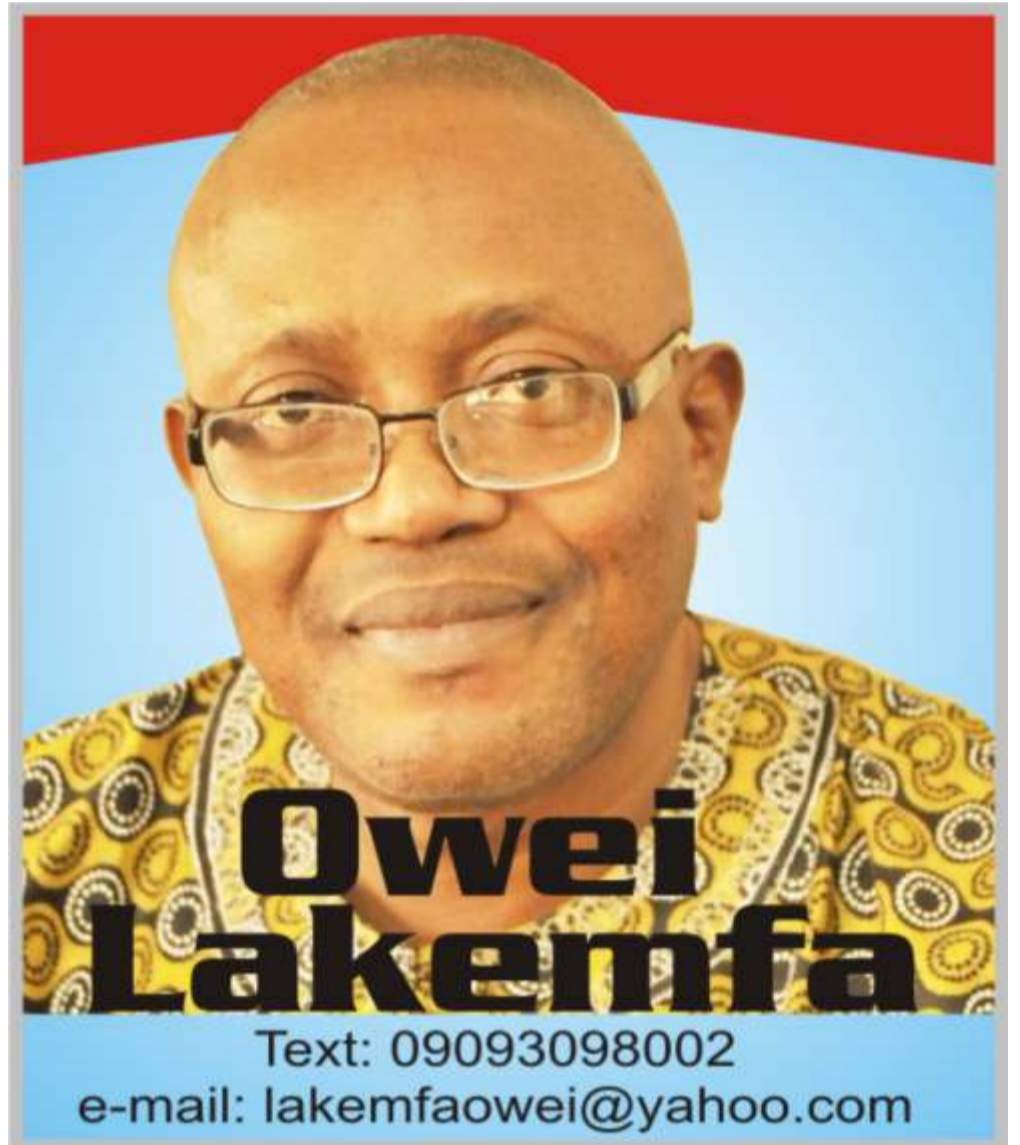
“The earth, about 240 million years ago, was a single supercontinent known as Pangaea before slowly splitting into seven continents. Now with Mother Africa which gave birth to the six other continents, pregnant again, an eighth continent will be born. The Arabian plate in the last thirty million years has been moving apart from Mother Africa leading to the creation of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.”

Ken Macdonald, a marine geophysicist and professor emeritus at the University of California, Santa Barbara, explains how the new ocean will get its waters: “The Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea will flood in over the Afar region and into the East African Rift Valley and become a new ocean, and that part of East Africa will become its own separate small continent.”

The challenges of having a new ocean in Africa which would slice through the continent creating two distinct continents are quite enormous. It starts with the question; do we need a new ocean? If no, can we still prevent it? If yes, how do we prepare for it including the huge lands that will be yielded to it, the people that would be displaced, countries recreated, merged or new ones that would be born?

Preparations for this future can start with tackling something as mundane as a name for the new ocean. Africa is bounded in the north by the Mediterranean Sea, the west by the Atlantic Ocean, the east by the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and in the south by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. But none of these bear its name.

Indian Ocean was named after India while the Atlantic Ocean, which until the 19th century, was called the Ethiopian Ocean, was finally called Atlantikôî pelágei or the “Sea of Atlas” named after the Greek god, Atlas. So, since the African Union, AU has not succeeded through diplomatic negotiations or the United Nations to properly rename either the Atlantic Ocean or Indian Ocean after Africa, maybe the new ocean that may arise in another five or ten million years



will be named the African Ocean. But should we wait for so long?

The earth, about 240 million years ago, was a single supercontinent known as Pangaea before slowly splitting into seven continents. Now with Mother Africa which gave birth to the six other continents, pregnant again, an eighth continent will be born. The Arabian plate in the last thirty million years has been moving apart from Mother Africa leading to the creation of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

“In casting a glance into that far future, there are issues like: would the twin continents remain as one or develop apart like North and South America? What would be the security implications and would trade tie them together as a common entity even if they have become like separated Siamese twins?”

Birth is usually welcome in Africa. In the case of a child, we tend to fix a special day for the naming ceremony during which we roll out the drums and celebrate. Can we do less if unto us a new continent is born? Should we be excited that our continent may become two?

Obviously, there are advantages such as landlocked Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi having their own coastlines. But the geologists say the

smaller of the emergent continents comprising Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti, the eastern parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique where the valley ends, may drift away from the rest of the continent.

Doubtlessly, with a new ocean, there will be far more maritime activities including shipping and fishing and a possible shorter route to other parts of the world. But is this an advantage Africa can take or we would sit back and allow foreigners take advantage and control the new routes and maritime business?

In casting a glance into that far future, there are issues like: would the twin continents remain as one or develop apart like North and South America? What would be the security implications and would trade tie them together as a common entity even if they have become like separated Siamese twins?

There are many advantages and challenges of Africa splitting into two separate continents with a new ocean between them. But do I have the right to peer into a future millions of years away? I think we really need to discuss that future as it may come earlier than humans think. For now, let us see how far we have gone with the AU Vision 2063.

Social Change Does Not Descend From Heaven

By Owei Lakemfa

SOcial change does not descend from Heaven. That was the basic message at an international conference on the “Challenge of Building an Alternative Political and Socio-Economic System”. Cuban Ambassador to Nigeria, Her Excellency Clara Margarita Pulido Escandell, gave the opening address at the July 16, 2022 virtual conference to mark the 17th Anniversary of the Nigeria-based Amilcar Cabral Ideological School-Movement (ACIS-M.)

Leading speakers from eight Latin American, North American and African countries, she submitted that the solution to biting world crises is the solidarity of the human race. Cuba at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 when other countries shut their borders, had sent out over 3,000 doctors, nurses and other health personnel to 28 countries to combat the pandemic. She said human beings need solidarity even if it comes at a high cost, adding that solidarity is what Cubans have: “In our gene, our blood and our hearts.”

Speaking of the pandemic for which the small island had produced five vaccine candidates with at least two in use, she said Cuba had vaccinated over 90 per cent of its entire population, including children. She described the current situation in Cuba as good because of the strive to improve life, including proposed new laws to expand family rights, and bad due to the effects of COVID-19 and a six-decade United States (US) blockade of the island country, a situation made worse by the piling of 240 extra sanctions on the country. In summarising her presentation, Ambassador Pulido said US propaganda trying to portray Cuba as a failed state is false, adding: “In Cuba, we have peace and the government is led by the population. Yes, it is the people leading the government.”

His Excellency David Vasquez Caraballo, the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, submitted that there

is the need to build a new international system in which countries would have the right to independence and sovereignty. He said there is a rearrangement of such political relations in Latin America which has swept through countries like Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia. On the realities in Venezuela, he said part of its problems was the Executive Order signed by then American President Barack Obama which designated Venezuela as

in one part can spread to another. He said there are troops from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Guinea-Bissau but that they are primarily there to impose an undemocratic President on the country. He said coups have been used against the PAIGC which was the ruling party in the country and that just on May 16, 2022, President Umaro Embalo, now the Chairman of ECOWAS, sacked the National Assembly to keep the PAIGC which controls

world we knew yesterday is not the world we know today and certainly would not be the world we will know tomorrow. He regretted that Ghana has become an American military satellite. Pratt said the Akufo government has also completely subjected the country to the dictates of the Western-controlled International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank regretting that the country now uses 128 per cent of its total revenue just to service debts.

to transform their colonial economies into independent economies.

Lefika Chetty of South Africa said the country is caught in “the crisis before crisis”, trapping it in stagnation partly as a result of state capture and corruption. The result, she said, is mass unemployment, high level of violence and xenophobic tendencies. The solution, Lefika said, is to create a peaceful, democratic system based on the needs of the people and the principles of social development rather than on profit, private gains and inequality. She noted that global capitalism, which is based on accumulation, has pushed humanity into catastrophic climate change that may make parts of the world uninhabitable.

Comrade Fatai of the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party of the US said the colonial masters in Africa demonised socialism which is a viable alternative to crippling capitalism, adding that the party's objective is to unite all of Africa along Pan-Africanist lines. Ambassador Brahim Buseif of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), also known as Western Sahara, in his solidarity message, thanked ACIS-M for being one of the founders and pillars of the Nigeria Movement for the Liberation of Western Sahara.

Dr Dipo Fashina, philosopher and former National President of Nigerian university academics, said what is crucial in liberating the continent is to tackle the ideological roots of liberalism and neoliberalism so as to arm the African continent with the necessary tools for liberation.

Comrade Abiodun Aremu, the ACIS-M leader, said: “We desire a society that should displace the present unjust order, where the few super-rich reigns in looted wealth, while the majority wallow in sub-human conditions.”

Citing the examples of Cuba and Venezuela, he added: “Our common realities should be our uniting factors in Africa to struggle and recover our sovereignties that the various rulers in Africa have surrendered to the US and Eurocentric neo-colonial domination.”



constituting an immediate and real threat to the US. Venezuela, he said, has been a victim of sweeping American sanctions, experienced mercenary terror and attacks on its power system but that the unity and commitment of the people led to it overcoming these hostile actions to the extent that in 2021, it actually experienced good growth.

Comrade Imani Moja, representing the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), after whose founding leader, Amilcar Cabra, the ACIS is named, said people must recognise that the world is a global village, as fires

it, out of power.

The media, he said, has also not been spared. He cited the case of Radio Capital which he said was attacked in broad daylight. He also lamented that Africa does not have its own independent sources of information forcing the continent to rely on the European and American news networks. Imani argued that just as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is co-ordinating the military forces in Europe, so does Africa need a similar co-ordinating force. Kwesi Pratt Jnr, the Convener of the Socialist Movement of Ghana, argued that the world is being recalibrated, saying the

The country, he said, had been to these institutions 18 times with the same results of mass impoverishment. He cited the 1982/83 imposition of punishing IMF policies on Ghana which resulted in mass sack, privatisation of public corporations and a crumbling economy. Such policies, he said, did not work in Ghana and would not work in any African country.

Pratt lamented that despite Ghana being the sixth largest producer of gold in the world, it remains very poor and, in fact, depends on foreign countries for its food needs. He said the time has come for African countries

Kwara Falcons Gifts ABC Last Minute Win, Lose 5 Consecutive Games At Bal

By; MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI in Dakar

Nigeria Premier Basketball League champions, Kwara Falcons gifted fellow Basketball Africa League (BAL) debutants, ABC Fighters of Cote D'Ivoire a last minute win in their 5th game at the ongoing BAL Sahara Conference in Dakar, Senegal.

At one minute, thirty seconds, Kwara Falcons

led ABC Fighters by 7 point, then 76 - 69 points in favour of Falcons, but at full time, ABC won 79 - 76.

Although, the Falcons trailed ABC by 54 to 61 points in the third quarter, the Nigeria champions fought back in the last quarter to overturn the score until the last two minutes of the game.

Coach Baba Jibril of the Kwara Falcons could not hide his disappointment

after the loss, but quick to admit the game could have been better managed during the closing minutes.

"I am very disappointed that we came close to registering our first win today but only to be defeated at the closing minutes. I can assure you that we will be back next year for a better performance," Coach Jibril stated.

Five defeats for the

Falcons meant the team is out of the BAL playoff finals scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda between 21 - 27 May this year.

Recall in previous games, the Falcons lost to REG of Rwanda 48 to 64; another loss to Stade Malien of Mali by 74 to 78 points. The Falcons lost 75 - 85 to US Monastir of Tunisia and 68 - 75 to AS Douanes of Senegal.



NFF Explains Situation In Super Eagles' Technical Crew, Says Nobody Sacked

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), has issued a statement decrying media reports that it sacked two members of the Super Eagles' technical crew, Messrs Finidi George and Ike Shorounmu.

The statement reads, "As part of cost-cutting measures instituted at the beginning of the new administration, we established a rotation policy among the assistant coaches, based on the high number, which was agreed with all of them. The last

time that the team had a programme, Mr. Finidi George was the person who travelled for the friendly match in Portugal. This rotation policy is only for matches. When there is a tournament, all of them will be with the team.

"He knew at that time that the next trip would be that of Mr. Usman Abdallah. Abdallah is simply taking his turn to be in the camp for the program of Super Eagles Vs Djurtus of Guinea Bissau, and Mr. George will be around for the next program.

"The other person who could have been

contending, Mr. Salisu Yusuf, has been sent to the U23 team. There was no victimization, sleight of hand or any disrespect meant to our illustrious ex-international players.

"The case of goalkeepers' trainer, Ike Shorounmu is somewhat peculiar, as the former Nigeria goalkeeper showed a clear lack of desire to be in camp for the matches against Guinea Bissau.

"We do not want to go into any details because we have the utmost respect for all our ex-internationals, including Mr. Shorounmu. It was only when we got the clear

signal that he was unwilling to come, and the Head Coach was in a quandary, that he (Coach Peseiro) requested for the services of Olatunji Baruwa, who he had seen at work during the U20 AFCON in Egypt, to help do the work of training the goalkeepers.

"We agree there are a number of challenges concerning contracts of coaches of National Teams that we need to speedily resolve. The NFF is working on these and the issues will soon be in the past."



Late Ismaila Mabo

FIFA President, Infantino, Rains Encomiums On Late Ismaila Mabo

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

President of world football-governing body, FIFA, Mr. Gianni Infantino has described the former Super Falcons' Head Coach, Ismaila Mabo who died recently as "one of the best coaches of his generation."

In a letter of condolence that he personally signed and addressed to President of NFF, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau on 20th March 2023, Infantino expressed, on behalf of the international football community, FIFA's deepest sympathy to the NFF, family, friends and loved ones on the passing of the titan.

"I would like to express my sincerest and heartfelt condolences on the passing of the former women's national team coach, Mabo Ismaila. Words seem inadequate to express the sadness we feel for this loss. Former

international player with regular appearances in the senior national team, he notably defended the colours of Mighty Jets FC in the late 1960s and 1970s.

"As a coach, Mabo Ismaila led the senior women national team, the Super Falcons, to the quarter finals of the FIFA Women's World Cup in 1999, to two Olympic Football Tournaments in 2000 and 2004, as well as to the 1998 and 2000 women's Africa Cup of Nations titles.

"Considered as one of the best coaches of his generation, inspiration to younger generations of coaches, having contributed to the growth of women's football in the country and around the world, his legacy and achievements, and in particular his personality, his loyalty and his human qualities will not be forgotten and he will be truly missed."

**NFF Explains Situation
In Super Eagles'
Technical Crew, Says
Nobody Sacked**

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PDP Rejects Kaduna Election Result, Sets To Reclaim Mandate

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Kaduna has rejected the gubernatorial election result declared by the Independent National Electoral Commission yesterday.

The Chairman of the party, Hon Felix Hassan Hyat while briefing newsmen in Kaduna, said they are rejecting the result declared by INEC because it is questionable.

He said, "If you recall the press conference of 20th March, in which I demanded the use of

authentic results from the INEC Server (IREV) as the only accepted results for declaration of governorship in our state.

"It was necessary because we have sensed lack of transparency from INEC Officials which was glaring that justice will not be done." He said.

Explaining further, the PDP chairman said their fears were confirmed when the State Gubernatorial Returning officer, Prof. Lawal Sulaiman Bilbis used the questionable results to declare Sen. Uba Sani of APC as elected with 730,002 votes as against

719,196 votes allocated to their candidate Rt. Hon. Mohammed Isah Ashiru of the PDP.

"Hence, the PDP rejects this result and the declaration of Sen. Uba Sani as winner of the Gubernatorial Elections of 18/03/2023 in our dear Kaduna State," Hyat said.

While assuring the supporters of the PDP that they will not leave any stone unturned in the quest to reclaim their mandate, Hyat assured that necessary action in accordance with the law have commenced to fight the cause to its logical conclusion.



Kaduna PDP Chairman (middle) briefing the press.

Police Arrests 2 Suspects For Stealing Truck Containing US Embassy Car

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Police operatives in Lagos have arrested two suspected thieves over allegedly stealing of a truck containing a car belonging to the United States of America (USA) Embassy. It was gathered that the suspects were arrested while negotiating to sell the whole truck and its content for N5million.

As reliably learnt, the truck was driven away by the suspects from where it was parked.

Our correspondent gathered that the suspects identified as Toheeb Jimoh, 26, Habeeb Ishola, 35 were apprehended following intelligence and diligent investigation.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer SP Benjamin Hundeyin



The suspects and the exhibit

confirmed the arrest in a release made available to journalists on Tuesday.

He said truck is presently parked at the Lagos State Command Headquarters, Ikeja.

"Got report that a truck conveying a brand new Nissan Rogue belonging to the US Embassy was driven away from where it was parked

"We deployed our intelligence assets and after diligent investigation, the truck was recovered and two suspects were arrested.

"They were arrested while negotiating to sell the whole truck and its content for N5million.

"The truck is presently at the State Headquarters, Ikeja", Hundeyin stated.